



10 DOWNING STREET

31st January 1980

Dear Peter,

Address to the 1922 Committee - Thursday 31st January 1980
at 6 pm in Committee Room 14

Edward Du Cann, who will be in the Chair at tonight's meeting, had a word with me in the Lobby last evening.

He offered these thoughts for your speech, which I pass on for what they are worth:-

1. Some of our new Members are a bit anxious when they receive letters of complaint about Government policy and this is weakening their resolve. Though all Members of Parliament ought to be sensitive to public opinion, the truth is that there is no realistic alternative to the policies on which the Government has embarked and we are determined to see these policies through.
2. There was a failure to explain adequately the reasons for the increase in gas prices.
3. There is a growing feeling in the country and among important sections of the Parliamentary Party that the Employment Bill, in its present form, will not be adequate. In that connection, I remind you of what Jim Prior said during the Second Reading Debate on the Employment Bill on 17th December 1979.

"We are continuing with our review of the general law on trade union immunities. Last Thursday the House of Lords gave its judgement in the case of Express Newspapers v. McShane. This case raised issues of central importance to our review. We are now considering their Lordships judgement carefully. We shall take whatever action seems necessary in the light of that judgement and bring it before the House in due course."

In this connection I refer to my separate letter, and will be sending over to you as soon as possible Hansard for the Committee Stage, when according to John MacGregor, Jim Prior went further than he had done on 17th December.

4. The Party has been subject to very considerable criticism over the so-called cuts. In fact, our November White Paper on public spending for 1980-81 showed that planned spending for the coming financial year would, in total, be very slightly higher than the total for the current year. We have had criticism, without real cuts. If we are going to have the criticism we may as well have real cuts. Further reductions in planned public spending for the coming year are essential if we are to reduce the PSBR and get interest rates down.

Generally you should know that there is some unease on our back benches (Angus has come in for particular criticism). That unease is in no way directed at the Prime Minister. Her standing and reputation in the Parliamentary Party have never been higher. She has been ~~absolutely~~ absolutely marvellous about being in the House and there is a genuine feeling of warmth and affection for her. Her performances at Question Time have been outstanding.

I confirm that I will come to Central Office at 5.30 pm today.

Yes
14

Ian Gow MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

The Rt Hon the Lord Thorneycroft CH

P. m.

1922

Edited as above.
January 1950.

E. du C.

I. C.

1. SEPARATE - E du C in Parliament
may go just before end of

Parliament

2. APPROVED AT END OF PROCEEDINGS
HERE AND IN CONSTITUTIONS.

i) GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

ii) A. M. - UNCONVINCED

APPEARED before 1922
fraction.

of G AS

iii) P. m. we put it

across body.

to, VIII, up TO

INDIVIDUAL MINDS

2. cinema office should be
bought it.

12. RESEARCH DEPT.

Can get in to write
letters for the Committee
P.T. to come to
Parliamentary body.

THESE ARE BAD SECTIONS.

1. CUTS Have not really
done any cuts - we get
the steel but we have
not made the cuts.

(1) STEEL - 7 1/2% WASHED.

DEAR

BILL DOES NOT DEAL

WITH PROBLEM.

MAKE

(i) ~~EMANATE FROM~~ FUNDS
LIABLE

(ii) BLACKING.

Expect all give full support.

(2) BOYLE

ANALOGUE - Eff as

it is

TALK TO OFFICERS

(3) ALLOWANCE FOR OPPOSITION
- reasonable for it to be.