

GLC Homestead

CAROLINE STEPHENS

John Stanley has produced two ideas for next Friday.

1. A visit to Hillingdon where the vigorous and effective Conservative Council has achieved a great deal in many spheres including the sale of council houses.

If the Prime Minister would like to visit one or two houses sold by the Council to tenants and say a few well chosen words about the desirability of people owning their own homes I am told it might receive minor national television news coverage taken in conjunction with the Homesteading schemes in Hendon.

But there can be no guarantee.

2. A visit to the Habinteg Housing Association scheme in Haringey. This was opened by Mr Heath, when Prime Minister and visited by John Stanley during the summer. The Association is linked with the Spastics Society and approximately 3/10 couples living there are severely handicapped. John Stanley was most impressed.

George Tremlett has also produced two ideas which are:-

1. The Brentford Dock Development.
The GLC are selling off private houses/flats in the 30,000 - 70,000 range where once it was intended to build Council Houses.
2. A visit to Spitalfields where there are seven different housing schemes ready to go. This is an area of deprivation with a heavy concentration of immigrants. George Tremlett believes that the Prime Minister could defuse some of the criticism from immigrant groups were she to go there. John Stanley expresses reservations.

Finally I should emphasise that the Prime Minister might now face demonstrations of one form or another wherever she goes. On that front Haringey, Brentford and Spitalfields all present problems, while Hillingdon, which we control, may be the safest bet.

You will also be aware that Friday is the date on which we are proposing to announce details of the RSG.

We do not want to get the Prime Minister involved in this issue, I imagine.

Richard Ryder

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