

PRIME MINISTER

c.c. Mr. Gow
Miss Porter
Mrs. Goodchild

You will remember that the Prime Minister of our Party has always given a dinner party for Members of the Government the evening before the State Opening of Parliament, at which The Queen's Speech is read out. Everyone then goes on to the United and Cecil Reception at the Carlton Club. The Labour Government, however, only ever gave a reception.

Do you wish for this dinner to take place? The date would be Wednesday 12 November. The main problem I foresee is that it is going to leave you very little time for your own speech in the Debate as you have the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday 10th, the dinner for The Queen Mother on Tuesday 11th, this dinner on the Wednesday and the State Opening itself on Thursday 13th.

Can I have your views please? A dinner would cost a lot of money. Do you consider a reception sufficient?

E.S.

I should prefer to keep the traditional dinner. It is the only time we are together. Could we do a buffet dinner this year? not.

*cc
The Goodchild*

21 August 1980