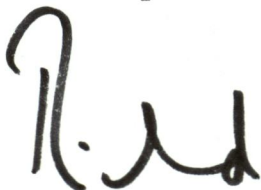


Principal Points arising from a Management Meeting in
Conservative Central Office at 9.15 am on Wednesday 12th December

1. (a) The Liberal bandwagon in South West Hertfordshire has not materialised to the degree which was anticipated.
 - (b) Our mutual aid has been better than expected.
 - (c) Our canvassers have been surprised at the relatively minor complaints about mortgage rates.
 - (d) But our vote will take some getting out and apparently we will be lucky to achieve a 60% poll.
 - (e) It must be remembered that our October 1974 majority was only 5,840. This figure rising to 16,300 in May with an 8.5% swing.
2. There was a brief discussion about the emergence of a new 'Centre' Party sparked off by Dick Taverne's presence at David Steel's By-Election meeting on Tuesday night. Predictably Dick Taverne was one of those who attended Roy Jenkins's pre-Dimbleby Lecture meeting arranged to discuss its implications and follow up. The Chief Whip reported no murmurings of support for a new Party amongst Conservative Back-benchers.
3. The Chairman, and Mr Du Cann both expressed disquiet at the lack of coordination between our European Members and the Government, a subject about which Mr Scott-Hopkins is also worried as you know. The problem is not alleviated by the appointment of a politically inexperienced European Chief Whip, Mr De Courcy Ling.
4. Mr Du Cann hinted that there was support in the Parliamentary Party for much of what was included in last Sunday's Sunday Times piece by Eltis together with the adjacent leading article. ?



Richard