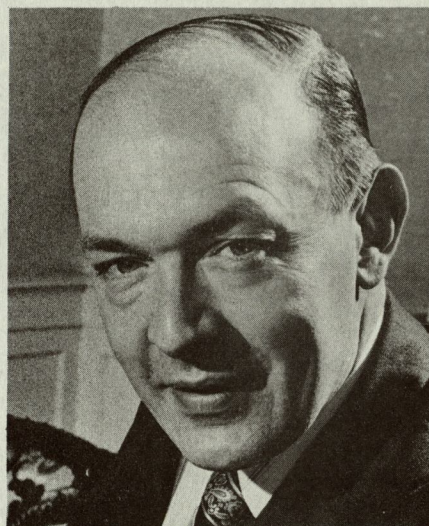


TEDDY TAYLOR

The CONSERVATIVE ROOMS , 30 Clincart Road,
Mount Florida . Telephone: 632- 4244

GENERAL ELECTION 3rd May 1979



77, Newlands Road,
Glasgow, G.43.

5th May, 1979.

Rt. Hon Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister.

Dear Margaret,

I am using the last few sheets of our campaign notepaper to write and offer you every good wish for a wonderful and successful term of office as Prime Minister and to let you know how grateful and touched I was that you took the time to phone our home and speak to Sheila as you did. I am only sorry that I will not be in the new Parliament to support you in the work which has to be done.

However, the disappointment in Cathcart was compensated for by the fact that we had the big increase in Scottish Conservative representation after so many years of decline. There are a number of very able new members - people like John Mackay, Ian Lang and Peter Fraser - and some like Bill Walker who are loyal, devoted and completely conscientious. I don't think that there is any one of the new intake who will not help to improve the image of the Party in Scotland by sheer hard work and contact with Scottish life, industry commerce and agriculture.

I thought it might just be of some help when you have a moment to receive a few thoughts on the Scottish scene and the election result.

The biggest disappointment was that we made no impact on the Labour vote in the West of Scotland and Central Scotland. These are the areas of Scotland (unlike the East and North East) where there is a mass of declining industry/

Your Voice in Westminster

Published by: John Young, J.P., 30 Clincart Road, Glasgow G42. Tel: 632 4244

Printed by: D. Henderson, 203 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44.

TEDDY TAYLOR

The CONSERVATIVE ROOMS , 30 Clincart Road ,
Mount Florida . Telephone: 632- 4244



GENERAL ELECTION 3rd May 1979

Industry and many firms and industries dependent on state support. The Labour Party ran a furious campaign to imply that there would be a jobs collapse if the Conservatives were to be elected and cut off aids and there was also the implication that we didn't care about Scotland. We tried to counter it with the fact that Labour policies hadn't worked, that the answer was to create the conditions in which new firms would emerge and that Conservative policies had taken account of our special problems by, for example, retaining the SDA. But we didn't succeed.

This basic problem could be the beginning of a Labour campaign in opposition because irrespective of who won the election there were big troubles ahead. The shipyards, apart from the naval ones, are running out of work by the end of this year and orders will be very difficult to get. I can see little prospect of avoiding closures, which will become the focus of political discontent, but there could be some merit in making some gesture. My recommendation would be that an early statement be made expressing horror at the shipbuilding "inheritance". Reference could be made to the "cover up" of the non-publication of the Corporate Plan by the previous government which although not naming Yards did point to the inevitability of closures. On the positive side, there could be a decision to save a Yard by getting one of the naval contracts built by a Yard other than Yarrows. In former years frigates were built at Fairfields, Browns and Stephens (all now in Govan Shipbuilders) as well as Yarrows. If something like this is not done, Labour could run a simple campaign on the basis that Labour kept the shipyards open and the Conservatives closed them down!

I would also suggest that our policies on selling council houses should be implemented in such a way that there appeared on be recognition of the Scottish dimension. The policy actually didn't help much in the West of Scotland because the majority/

Your Voice in Westminster

Published by: John Young, J.P., 30 Clincart Road, Glasgow G42. Tel: 632 4244

Printed by: D. Henderson, 203 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44.

TEDDY TAYLOR

The CONSERVATIVE ROOMS , 30 Clincart Road ,
Mount Florida . Telephone: 632- 4244

GENERAL ELECTION 3rd May 1979



majority living in the perimeter or more difficult schemes considered that it might make it more difficult for them to get a transfer to a more residential scheme. If we are going to change the face of Scottish housing, I think that it is vital that we sell some houses and flats in the more difficult areas. Otherwise they will become massive ghettos. To achieve this, it might be desirable to consider offering these houses at mortgage payments which would work out at less than present rent payments. Michael Heseltine indicated that he thought that the minimum mortgage payments should be the current rent, but there could be a case for not placing any such restriction on Scotland.

On the Party side I think that there is a case for strengthening the Press Department by having someone responsible for preparing propaganda and getting it across to the media. The Department is excellent at distributing news provided by M.P.s but either hasn't the resources or will to identify issues in Scotland and prepare suggested initiatives, statements or speeches by the politicians.

Two final points. I think that a genuine breakthrough was made in getting the Pakistani community in Glasgow to offer advice to all the immigrants to vote Conservative. It would be a shame if this was allowed to die. They are a hard working, prosperous and respectable group and they had many of their number working actively in the campaign. There could be a case for considering one of their acknowledged leaders for an honour. I think that such a gesture would make them feel that their contribution to the community and to race relations had been recognised.

The same considerations may apply to the Jewish community in the West of Scotland. They are very conscious of honours and many anxious to receive them. I have had repeated representations that there is no titled Jew in the West of Scotland and it is suggested that the "vacancy" caused by the death of the late Sir/

Your Voice in Westminster

Published by: John Young, J.P., 30 Clincart Road, Glasgow G42. Tel: 632 4244

Printed by: D. Henderson, 203 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44.

TEDDY TAYLOR

The CONSERVATIVE ROOMS , 30 Clincart Road,
Mount Florida . Telephone: 632- 4244



GENERAL ELECTION 3rd May 1979

Sir Maurice Bloch has not been "filled". The obvious name here is that of Isidore Walton who apart from being a Deputy Treasurer of the Party is Chairman of almost all the Jewish charities (Jewish Old Folks Home, Jewish Lads Brigade, etc.), a trustee and donor to many worthy bodies (Scottish Opera, Merchants House, Heart Foundation etc.) as well as having contributed £1m to hospitals and universities through his charitable foundation, the Walton Trust.

I hope that all this advice will be of some help and thought it right to send you a note now together with a promise that I won't be following it up with others.

I hope that you will have a great meeting in Perth next Saturday. I have decided not to come for the simple reason that it should be an occasion for rejoicing at your victory and for giving support and encouragement to the new team. Were I to be there I think that it could just be a distraction and minor embarrassment. The Scottish Press and media have made quite a big thing over my departure - in the main very kindly - and although the interest will have waned considerably by next weekend, there's just a possibility that a photographer or reporter might just try to bring in to a picture or story the human interest aspect of the "sad man" when all attention should be paid to the optimism and hope of a new Prime Minister and a new team. However, I thought I had better mention this to you.

On the same issue, I think that it might be wise for me to slip out quietly from the position of Vice Chairman of the Party when you propose to make changes. There are many excellent Scottish Conservative M.P.s who could fill the gap and there could be a case for appointing one of the new younger or energetic Members.

Naturally/

Your Voice in Westminster

Published by: John Young, J.P., 30 Clincart Road, Glasgow G42. Tel: 632 4244

Printed by: D. Henderson, 203 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44.

TEDDY TAYLOR

The CONSERVATIVE ROOMS , 30 Clincart Road,
Mount Florida . Telephone: 632- 4244



GENERAL ELECTION 3rd May 1979

Naturally I am sad at what happened in Cathcart. I am afraid that the areas has been deteriorating sharply like many inner city areas, and the Labour Party made a massive and determined onslaught on it bringing in troops from all around. However, apart from the consolation of having a Conservative Government and more Scottish Tories, I am looking forward to getting a normal job, being at home with the family at a time when they are all so young, and making a fresh start in a new field of activity.

It was very good of you to have put me in the Shadow Cabinet and supported me so completely. I think that the Party is now more united than it has been for some time and that it will be possible to continue the advance in representation from Scotland.

Sincere apologies for sending such an impossibly long letter and again my best wishes and thanks together with those of Sheila and our family.

Yours,

Teddy

P.S. Please don't reply - an acknowledgement from the office to confirm it's arrival will be fine. T.

Your Voice in Westminster

Published by: John Young, J.P., 30 Clincart Road, Glasgow G42. Tel: 632 4244

Printed by: D. Henderson, 203 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44.