

PERSONA



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

29th December 1981

My dear Prime Minister,

You have been far too generous to the Gow family this Christmas; I hope that you realise how deeply grateful and appreciative we all are. Thank you again and again.

The Crown Derby coffee cups and saucers are really superb; we will not use them often - only on very special occasions - but when we do so we will think, particularly, of the immensely kind donor.

It's been quite a year; and although the economic clouds should begin to lift slowly, we both know that the most severe political struggles, within and without our Party, lie ahead.

I want to say some things in this letter which you would not allow me to say to you direct.

We have been told that familiarity breeds contempt. My experience over the past 2½ years has been the opposite. The longer I serve you, the greater is my regard and respect.

You have been a giant among pygmies. Your diagnosis of an national malaise and your prescription for national recovery are both more perceptive and more far-sighted than any of your contemporaries.

While others seek to thwart it, your determination deserves to succeed.

Whether even that aim resolves will be sufficient, we do not know. But those who are close to you understand that all who lead us is fighting a battle as heroic as any we have fought in the past.

I was so pleased when you said in September that you would like me to see you through to the end. It's easy to be a friend when things are not too bad; but if the going gets really rough, as it may, then I really do want to be at your side.

I hope that it does not sound true to say that you have been the inspiration of the Government and of the Party - but that is the plain truth.

I know that you will be unrelenting in 1962, as in later years, in the struggle to restore honest money and



sound finance and that you will not be deceived into thinking
that the "gang of 25" are representative either of Party or of
nation.

Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and kindness to
Jane, to the boys and to me; for being such a marvellous
boss; and above all thank you for leading the British people
with such honesty and dauntless courage.

With love,

Tom.