

P.P.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

1. The BBC tried to find a critical Tory backbencher to comment this morning on the unemployment figures.
2. As it happened, they got William Waldegrave, on the "Today" Programme. Despite his pedigree, he was excellent, and I have written to tell him so.
3. Herewith three Statements issued by backbenchers yesterday. Madel and Needham are both Officers of our Employment Committee.
4. I dined last night with Alan Clark. We both agreed that it is of very great importance to keep J.P. on board. Alan and I saw the BBC 9.00 p.m. news last evening. J.P. was very good, and there was no divergence, whatever, between his comments and yours.
5. The cohesion and unity of the Administration over the coming very difficult two years is of paramount importance, despite our doubts about J.P., he would be much more dangerous without than within.

28th August, 1980

Ian Gow