

PRIME MINISTER

Conference of the United Methodist Heritage Fellowship  
Wesley's Chapel, Saturday 17 October

You will remember that the Speaker wrote to you in October 1980 asking if you would say a few words at this Conference. Clive and I tried to persuade you to refuse it but you were adamant that you should accept. This decision was taken before we were aware of the Mexico dates. Your speech to the Party Conference is on Friday 16th (please remember that you will only return from Australia on 7th October) and you depart for Mexico on Tuesday 20th October which only gives you one working day.

You will be exhausted on your return from Blackpool on Friday 16th and with all the work that will have accumulated during that week, together with the briefs, I beseech you to reconsider this decision.

*Thinking  
would*      *Answer is  
I should*      *E.J.*  
*like to be released*  
*for it. if*      *it has not*  
*been announced*  
*no*

15 July 1981

1. MR. WHITMORE
2. PRIME MINISTER

I agree that you should turn down this invitation to speak. The early autumn of next year is going to be particularly busy and tiring. You get back from the CHGM only a week before you go to Blackpool. If you feel that you cannot turn the Speaker down totally (which is what I should prefer!), you could offer to put in an appearance over the week-end but without making a speech (on the M<sup>4</sup>Whitmore Foundation model).

Attd  
24.x.

The attached letter from the Speaker invites you to address a Conference of the United Methodist Heritage Fellowship of the USA at Wesley's Chapel on Friday 16 October 1981 on the subject of "Christian Heritage in Government".

You will be speaking in Blackpool at our Party Conference on Friday 16th so it would be impossible for you to accept on that date.

Despite your affiliation with the Methodist Church, I very much hope that you will agree to turn this down. You will remember this year you were extremely anxious to take on the commitment of opening the Motor Show and the SMMT dinner, but when the time came it was really a considerable burden following so soon after the Party Conference. If you accept to attend this Conference for the Speaker it will give you no break at all following three exhausting days in Blackpool. I appreciate that this will be attractive to you because it is (a) for the Methodists and (b) for the Speaker, but I do hope you will see your way to refusing it.

*ES.*

I am not invited to address it -  
only to open it. This would  
be short and I believe I should  
do it. *not*

24 October 1980