

23rd October, 1980

Thank you so much for a most excellent and enjoyable lunch on Tuesday.

As always, I value our talk greatly.

Thanks to you, I caught the train to Eastbourne.

You mentioned the soaring cost of running the European Parliament - £66 million in 1978/79; £112 million in 1979/80; and £150 million in 1980/81.

I have mentioned these figures to the Prime Minister, and her reaction was the same as yours.

You kindly suggested that you would arranged for me to meet the new South African Ambassador, and this I would like, very much, to do.

Thank you again for your very kind hospitality on Tuesday.

Ian Gow

Jim Spicer, Esq., M.P., M.E.P.

FROM: JIM SPICER M.P.

Group Admin



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

CONFIDENTIAL

BACKGROUND NOTE ON PREPARATIONS FOR DIRECT ELECTION TO EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT 1978

In the Autumn of 1978 a positive decision was made by the Chief Whip, with the agreement of the Leader of the Party, that there should be a hard-core of MPs with a dual mandate in the directly elected Parliament. The main points of this decision were established over a period of a month with the Chief Whip, Geoffrey Rippon, Charles Johnston, Douglas Hurd and myself.

Although the Leader of the Party did not wish to encourage the dual mandate for too many people, it was decided that the following key people should be given her support and that of the Chief Whip:

Geoffrey Rippon
Jim Scott-Hopkins
Derek Walker-Smith/or Charles Fletcher-Cooke
Michael Shaw
Jim Spicer

These five people were encouraged to apply for European seats, and the Chief Whip wrote to the Chairmen of the Euro-constituencies concerned explaining that their selection with a dual mandate would be in the best interests of the Party.


All these plans eventually came to nought, and on the eve of my own interview for Wessex I telephoned Jack Weatherill to say that in view of the collapse of these plans, and most particularly the loss of Geoffrey Rippon as the Leader of the Group, I did not wish to be selected and intended to withdraw my name from the list. I was told quite firmly that it was my duty to continue, and that my presence within the European Parliament was of vital importance to the Party.

PRIME MINISTER

Jim Spicer has sent to me a copy of his letter
dated 14th May to Jim Scott-Hopkins.

I thought that you would be interested to see
this.

16th May 1980


Ian Gow

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB
Det konservative folkeparti, DK
Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland
Centrum-Demokraterne, DK



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

Group
Admin

FROM: JIM SPICER, M.P., M.E.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

14th May 1980

LONDON

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When I spoke to you last November about the impossibility of a dual mandate Member (with firm commitments at Westminster) actually combining the duties of Chief Whip to the Group and liaison with the Whips Office back here, you agreed the case, but asked me to continue on the liaison side only.

I have been increasingly unhappy about liaison duty. Before direct elections it was a widely held view, most particularly by Humphrey and Jack Weatherill, that it would be vitally important to have one person with the dual mandate inside the Whips Office at Westminster. It was on this basis that I was pressed to stand for a European seat with the dual mandate. It is now quite clear to me that there is no real requirement for such a link, and that most matters could be dealt with more effectively on a direct basis between the Government Chief Whip and the Chief Whip of the Group.

Everyone at this end has been very kind, and Michael Jopling in particular has always extended a very warm welcome to me in the Whips Office. This has not disguised, at least from me, the slightly artificial role which I have had.

Given these facts, I have today told Michael that, after speaking to you, I would like to "phase out" from the end of July. However, I would very much like to continue to serve as the third Member on the National Union Committees. In my view we face a major upsurge of opposition to the Community, both in the House and in the Party itself. As you know, I have been around this course many times - firstly as Director of the Conservative Group for Europe, then as the Chairman, and also having had a major responsibility for the South of England during the 1970-1 campaign for our entry. It may just be that, given this previous experience, I can be

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of some help to both the Party and the cause of Europe by playing a part in whatever low key campaign is decided upon by the Chairman of the Party and the Government. This is what I would like to do, if I can be of some service.

Copy sent to The Rt Hon Michael Jopling, M.P.
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