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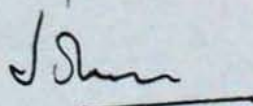
Dear Alfred,

I am not quite sure how Terry is planning to wind up his contributions to Wilfred Street, but the conclusion I have reached, and I think that it is shared by him, is that we should not try to take our discussions any further. First, despite your receptive posture and encouragement, our ideas seem to be falling on fairly stony ground, and second I do not think that the relationship between the CPS and the Conservative Party machine is likely to make the ground less stony in future.

At various times you have mentioned the possibility of a (safe?) seat for me. While I naturally appreciate the trouble and interest you have shown, I am now assuming that this is a dead issue. At my age anything less than a fairly safe seat and a high probability of some ministerial appointment seems hardly worth going for - though I realise that it is a lot to ask. Neither of these things was likely unless, at the very least, we were able to make our ideas stick in the Conservative Party. I no longer think it is possible to do this and part of the result, of course, is that I have even less confidence in the ability of the Conservatives to solve the country's problems than I had at the start of our discussions.

Many thanks for your personal help and encouragement to the three of us, and I hope that we shall be able to maintain contact in case the mood or the situation changes.

Yours sincerely,



John A. Hoskyns

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