

RR
From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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CONFIDENTIAL

8th February, 1979

Margaret

You will remember asking whether Arthur Cockfield could study the possibility of desirability of changing the tax year as a means of minimising PAYE refunds to strikers.

I am now enclosing his excellent note on the point, which I have discussed with the other addressees. We are all agreed that, for the narrow strike purpose, the game would certainly not be worth the candle.

You will see, however, from paragraph 8 that there may be, in the long-run, a case for making some change in order to meet the familiar complaint about the lunacy of our present system, which does not enable Parliament (or anyone else) to consider both sides of the Budget together.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

cc The Rt Hon. Sir Keith Joseph Bt., M.P.
Lord Cockfield
Nigel Lawson, Esq., M.P.
Peter Cropper, Esq.

Howe