

## NEWS SERVICE

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Text of a letter from Mr Matthew Parris MP (Derbyshire West), and Mr Kenneth Carlisle MP (Lincoln), to the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP, Prime Minister, on Tuesday, 10th June 1980

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We write to you to express our concern over this year's increase in MP's pay. We know that the increase payable this week is inevitable, but we believe that the forthcoming Boyle recommendation should be deferred until the economy makes sustained progress.

A central issue facing the country this year is the level of pay increases. If the country is to prosper, pay increases must be restrained. We do not believe that Parliament can ask for this restraint if it awards its own members large increases, even though these increases may be merited. If Parliament is to lead, it must set an example. The Government cannot ask people generally to accept a cut in their standard of living, while MPs improve their own.

In our constituencies people by and large have shown restraint and good sense in accepting wage increases below the level of inflation. We have urged this and praised it. We do not believe that we would have any moral authority to continue this campaign if we awarded ourselves increases higher than the inflation rate.

END