

Friedman USA

# HOOVER INSTITUTION

ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE

Stanford, California 94305



July 2, 1981

*JFW to see  
P. J. here 4/2  
about night  
John*

*Martin*

PRIVATE

Lord Harris of High Cross  
The Institute of Economic Affairs  
2 Lord North Street  
Westminster  
London, SW1P 3LB, England

Dear Ralph:

I am enclosing an article by Paul Johnson from a recent Wall Street Journal that you may find interesting if you have not seen it. We here are finding what happens in Britain very hard to interpret and particularly the performance of Keith Joseph. I have always had the very highest of opinions of Sir Keith. But Paul Johnson here is very much less complimentary.

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In addition, I must confess that when Rose and I saw Sir Keith in San Francisco within the past month and had dinner with him and a group of businessmen from the Silicon Valley, we were rendered somewhat uneasy by his attitudes as well. He recognized of course the inconsistency between the policies that the Industry Ministry had been following and his own and Mrs. Thatcher's professed philosophy, but he seemed to treat it as somewhat of a joke rather than as a matter for very deep and serious concern. I realize that this is somewhat of a form of the British habit of understatement and we may be utterly misinterpreting his light treatment of it, but nonetheless I cannot deny that both of us were rather unsettled since in earlier meetings with Sir Keith, particularly at the time of the Mont Pelerin meeting last year, we got an altogether different and much more encouraging impression.

I write this for your own eyes only simply because you may be interested in learning such reactions, but also in the hope that you will enlighten me about what really is happening and about what the prospects are.

Cordially yours,

Milton Friedman  
Senior Research Fellow

F:v  
Enclosure