

Prime Minister

PROMOTIONS FROM THE BACKBENCHES

1. That which you had predicted has occurred.
2. Bob Dunn, who is one of our very best backbenchers, holding a marginal seat, sound as a bell (though, sadly not very articulate in the House) came to see me this morning.
3. He reported that he, John Townend and Archie Mamilton (the only two to whom he had spoken so far) had learnt with disbelief, that you had appointed Garel-Jones as a Whip. Dunn points out that since September you have appointed four of the authors of "Changing Gear" to your Administration. (Waldegrave, Lang, Fraser, Garel-Jones). Your friends are saying that if they turn into your enemies they would have a better chance of promotion.
4. Dunn says that the Whips Office itself is now composed of eight whets and only three who are sound.
5. Dunn begs you to pay less attention to the Chief Whip so far as future appointments are concerned.

17th March 1982

IAN GOW