

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE



From the Secretary of State

Prime Minister.
I don't think we have
a job for Mr Lord here at
No 10, have we?

JWH
13x.

PRIME MINISTER

I spoke briefly to you in late July about the request which I had received from Rodney Lord, the economics correspondent on the Daily Telegraph. He approached me after talks with Peter Cropper and others about the possibility of joining me as a Special Adviser.

2. When he came to see me recently I did my best to dissuade him from taking on such a job on the basis that I was not entirely sure that we could make the fullest use of his talents. He is a highly intelligent, personable and a knowledgeable commentator on economic matters, but, having thought further about it, I am not sure that I could define a role which would keep him fully occupied. Nor does he have sufficient "political" sensitivity or experience to provide a worthwhile adjunct to my team of Ministers and PPSs.

3. I am therefore inclined to tell Rodney Lord that we cannot fit him in here, but before doing so I wanted to be sure that you could not use him at No 10, as you did raise this possibility in passing when I mentioned his name to you.

Also we can't use him here - but could
use Treasury use him to head the

Press Dept.?

not

JW

J. N.

Spoke to the Prime Minister. I told her
that the Chancellor had only just
appointed a new Head of his Press
Unit and it was unlikely we would
want to replace her with Mr Lord.
The Prime Minister agreed that this should
not be pursued. JWH 13x.

Department of Trade
10 October 1980