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John Vaizey made the same point to you

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

7 November 1980

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PERSONAL

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Dear Tim,

UNEMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, ETC.

The Chancellor thought - à propos your letter to me of 5 November - that the Prime Minister might be interested in some points from a letter he has received this week from Lord Vaizey. The relevant text runs:

"Surely, however, the government ought to seize a few initiatives? Above all, I would do something big and bold on the training front. The Manpower Services Commission is dreadful: set up to cope with $\frac{1}{2}$ million on the dole - it just can't cope. It argues that you can't train for stock - Germany and France do - and it provides these clapped-out "job creating" schemes that are theoretically unsound and hopelessly patronising. And the DES is almost as bad. If I were you I would take the DES higher and further education branches, and the UGC, and all the training at MSC and put it into a Department of Human Resources under some propogandist like Heseltine with somebody (e.g. somebody like me) who actually knows about it all to produce the plans. We could revolutionise skills in 2-3 years. "It is your duty to lose your ignorance!"

yours

John

A.J. WIGGINS