

COUNCIL OF CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS

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9 December 1980

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear 

SCOTT INQUIRY

The Council of Civil Service Unions have noted the remarks reported in the interview which you gave to the "Sunday Telegraph" on 7 December.

The Council would wish to know please if you are accurately reported in stating that the Chairman of the Committee currently examining index-linking in the public service, Sir Bernard Scott, was appointed because he "was not going to enjoy the benefit of an inflation proofed pension". I am sure you will understand that the Council are anxious to establish whether or not Sir Bernard Scott may be regarded as impartial in this respect.

Secondly, we are interested to know if it is true that you have asked Sir Bernard Scott's Inquiry to disregard its published Terms of Reference and to comment on issues on which, so far as is known, no evidence has been either sought or adduced ie. "to go further than his precise Terms of Reference and express views on the subject of index-linking".

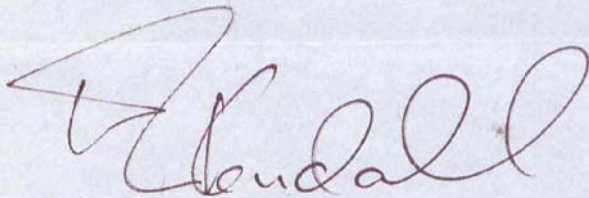
As I am sure you will appreciate, your comments on the accuracy, or otherwise, of what you are reported to have said will be extremely important so far as the credibility and impartiality of any report produced by the Scott Inquiry is concerned.

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I am sorry to say that, as Minister for the Civil Service, your reported comments can only add to the litany of unfair and discriminatory attacks upon employees for whom you have assumed direct responsibility.

On a previous occasion when we met, you said to me that you wished the Civil Service "to work better". I can only assure you that remarks of the kind ascribed to you are totally counter-productive so far as the morale and, consequently, the efficiency of all civil servants are concerned. I must, therefore, ask you to let us know if you were inaccurately reported or, alternatively, if this is not the case, to reassure all civil servants about the attitude of the Government towards their own employees.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. C. Cundall'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Secretary General