

PRIME MINISTER

After you had a talk to John Ashworth, we commissioned ACARD to produce a quick paper on the problems faced by inventors. Here is the response - you may prefer to set this aside for Christmas reading.

I think it is a good paper. ACARD were asked to look at obstacles and opportunities in the present system. They have brought together much useful information in a readable paper.

If you are content with the paper as a working document, we should now ask Departments to respond to you on the specific recommendations made. We should perhaps allow them to have until the end of February for this. In the meantime, you might wish to consider publication of the report. I should certainly like to arrange for it to be circulated to your guests <sup>for</sup> the "Entrepreneurs/Innovators" party in January.

- (1) Agree that Departments should be asked to reply to the recommendations?
- (2) Agree that ACARD should publish the paper?

*Please draw attention  
A Treasury to para 25 - MJD  
and Chancellor in particular  
and A Industry - to para 15 (yet  
another criticism of NEDC. Please  
reconsider in whole. Please  
as NEDC advised. Please  
have brief report by  
middle of January  
=)*

19 December 1980