

PRIME MINISTER

This letter from David Watkins is the first response to your offer yesterday to see Members about factory closures in their constituencies. He wants to talk about Consett and the RHP ball-bearing factory, among other things.

This is obviously a genuine request, to be taken seriously. It is also a useful beginning to what may prove a rather time-consuming process.

How do you feel inclined to play these meetings? Do you want to have an Industry Minister (such as Norman Tebbit) with you for at least the more important ones? Do you want to hold them at No.10 during the day, or to try and fit them in over at the House during the evening?

In this particular case, are you content for us to get in touch with Mr. Watkins and fix a meeting as soon as we can find a place in the diary, making it clear to him that we shall expect him to come on his own? ✓

Yes. ✓
Norman Tebbit:

MS

At the House -
about 20 minutes before
voting.
MS.

13 February 1981