

MR SCHOLAR

22 April 1983

cc Mr Mount  
Mr Walters  
Mr Monckton

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT THE CUTLERS' FEAST

I enclose a draft outline of a speech for this occasion.

It is structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Our Record (to be inserted)
3. Industrial Policy Aspects (costs, steel, import controls)
4. The Challenge of Change

Everyone will have his own sharpened knife joke to launch this speech. Will it lead to the headline: 'Maggie the Knife'? In view of the graceless and poorly argued 'welcome' by Carr, the Master Cutler, I think that the Prime Minister should show him a glint of cold steel early on - hence my own suggestion. The whinging tone of Carr's address is, in my experience, characteristic of quite a lot of what I have had to listen to from industries in that area, which invariably try to fix the blame for their demise on Government action, or inaction.

I have structured the speech so that after discussing Our Record (CBI speech material to be inserted?) it deals with the more turgid industrial issues before heading finally in the more up-beat direction.

I will supply a historical passage for the introduction later today - an obscure history of the Cutlers' Company is on its way to me. I return the material supplied by the Departments consulted.

*OScott.*

AP NICHOLAS OWEN