

Prime Minister

24/1
31/1
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24/3

TEAS FOR NEW MEMBERS

After the tea this Tuesday, -which we will make the last one before Christmas - you will have met about 30 of our new Conservative Members of Parliament.

There are about 60 more still to be invited.

I sense that you are a little bored with these afternoon tea parties!

In favour of carrying them on as at present, they are extremely economical on your time and fit in neatly with the existing block of time which you would need to spend at the House anyway.

However, we could change the routine and either ask the new Members in for a drink in your room at the House or to come for a drink at Number Ten. I fear that both these might take up more time, and if you were to hold the drinks at the House it would mean going back over there, as I don't think we could normally keep you at the House after PMQs until 6.00 or 6.30 p.m. But we could manage slightly larger numbers for drinks than tea. Personally, I think you should slog on with the tea arrangement (and I know that the Members appreciate it).

Would you like (a) to continue as at present,

✓ (b) invite Members to drinks at the House,
or

(c) invite Members to drinks at Number 10?

MICHAEL ALISON

12.12.83