

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Econ Pd



HOUSE OF LORDS,  
SW1A 0PW

24 August 1979

Dear Tom,

RMBM

Stock Exchange

The Lord Chancellor has seen a copy of your Secretary of State's letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer dated 16 August 1979 about the reference of the Stock Exchange to the Restrictive Practices Court.

The Lord Chancellor agrees with your Secretary of State's proposals contained in the letter. He has said that Mr Justice Mocatta should at the appropriate time be advised of what is happening, and this will be done by our officials here. Your Secretary of State may be interested in a further comment of the Lord Chancellor, since it bears on matters discussed between him and the Secretary of State earlier in the year. The Lord Chancellor has written:

"The whole mess only confirms me in my view that the Restrictive Practices Court should be abolished and replaced by legislation which makes all restrictive practices subject to the ordinary process of litigation, on the basis that agreements which give effect to them are prima facie contrary to public policy and may be the subject of actions for injunction, damages or relator actions."

No doubt this can be borne in mind in the discussions envisaged on the future of restrictive practices.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, Members of E Committee and Sir John Hunt.

*Yours sincerely*  
*I H Maxwell*

I H MAXWELL

T G Harris Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of State for Trade  
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27 AUG 1979

