

Versailles

CONFIDENTIAL

AND PERSONAL Prime Minister (2)

PRIME MINISTER

Alan Walters is preparing a speaking note for Versailles for you - in conjunction with Ken Cozzens.

1. Today I had lunch with Leonard Silk, the Chief Economic Columnist of the New York Times. He had seen a number of people in Europe and the Chancellor and Treasury people here.

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2. Silk made it perfectly clear that, in his opinion, one of the main aims of the Summit is for the European countries to tell Reagan to increase his tax rates. He had gathered that this was the policy from talking to a number of European countries and presumably, also from the Treasury. It was clear that the censure on President Reagan was being strongly promoted by the opposition to the President in the United States.

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3. Although Silk is a rather stupid man, I have every reason to believe that what he said was correct. You may well feel, and indeed I do, that we should not join the United States opposition in such a venture.

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*AW*

ALAN WALTERS

1 June 1982

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