



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Please note  
the papers below,  
relating to your  
meeting with Tom  
King tomorrow.

MA  
11/1



10 DOWNING STREET

Michael

Please see the attached  
letter from Sir Leonard  
Neal (not yet acknowledged).

You may like to show  
this to the PM before  
her meeting with Tom  
King tomorrow.

David  
Burland

11/1



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Millbank Court  
24 John Islip Street  
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tel: 01-828 9528

The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for Employment  
Department of Employment  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
LONDON SW1H 9NF

10th January 1984

*Dear Mr. King*

Enclosed is a letter I have sent to the Financial Times today on an issue about which I am very worried, and if you wish to discuss the matter I would be happy to put myself at your convenience.

I have sent a copy of this correspondence to the Prime Minister.

*Sincerely  
Leonard*

Sir Leonard Neal CBE

enc.

*Dear Prime Minister*

*I dared to think you  
would be interested in the enclosed  
Kindest regards  
Leonard*



*Flat 68,*

*Millbank Court,*

*24 John Islip Street,  
London, SW1*

*Tel. 01-828 9528*

*Sir Leonard Neal, C.B.E., M.A., C.I.F.M.*

The Editor  
The Financial Times  
Bracken House  
Cannon Street  
LONDON E C 4

10th January 1984

Dear Sir

I read with sadness but not, I confess, without too much surprise the report by John Lloyd (F.T. 3.1.84) of the Government's apparent intention to dilute still further its electoral promises on trade union reforms. According to your industrial editor, Mr King is likely to make an agreement with the TUC by the end of January on a "voluntary code to govern the payment of the political levy by union members".

One had hoped that Ministers would have learned the lessons of the last thirty years and realised that "agreements" with the TUC are not worth the paper they are written on - if indeed they are written. Usually these "agreements" take the form of "understandings" or, in recent years, of "codes of practice" that the trade union militants receive and examine with joy, and either then ignore or wilfully misconstrue.

This has been the disgraceful experience in the country from Stafford Cripps onwards - through "agreements" to restrain excessive wage demands; the "solemn and binding agreement" with Mrs Castle; the "social contract" with Michael Foot that removed so many basic rights from individuals and companies and rose like a phoenix from its ashes every time the unions destroyed it.

So it has continued with every corporatist "agreement" between governments and the TUC, and so it has been with the so-called codes of behaviour including the TUC's own variety and Mr Prior's codes on picketing, as we have seen in the recent violence at the Stockport Messenger.

If the Government falls for the latest "agreement" with Mr Murray it will be a triumph of faith over experience on their part. Mr Murray will agree, of course, and may even sincerely believe he can deliver his side of the bargain, but if so, he will be gravely disappointed by the cynical opportunists among his cohorts.

Yours faithfully

Sir Leonard Neal