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(original to
Houses)

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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

10 June 1986

R1116

Dear Prime Minister

REVIEW BODY ON ARMED FORCES PAY

As you know, Professor Sargent is shortly due to retire from the Review Body and you have already been kind enough to write to him in appreciation of his service. Our purpose in writing this joint letter is to ask whether consideration might be given to the possibility of proposing him for some public honour on his retirement. Although it is perhaps unusual for a member of a Review Body to be singled out in this way, we believe that there would be ample justification for this in the particular circumstances.

Dick Sargent has been a member of the Review Body from its inception in 1971 and has served longer than any other member in its history. He was also a member of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration from 1971-1975 and, we understand, has recently accepted appointment to the Pharmacists Review Panel. In extent and duration alone, therefore, his service is of an exceptional order and he has always played a very full part in the Review Body's affairs. In recent years, he has acted as deputy when the Chairman has had to be absent. Beyond the scale of his contribution, however, we would like to pay tribute to its consistent quality: as successive Chairmen, each of us has had reason to value its thoughtfulness and wisdom. The fact that we now write together may itself serve to testify to the high regard in which his advice and help has been held over a long period.

We venture to submit that some public recognition of the service he has rendered could well be appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Peter Matthews

David Orr

Harold Atcherley

SIR PETER MATTHEWS (Chairman)

SIR DAVID ORR (Chairman, 1982-85)

SIR HAROLD ATCHERLEY (Chairman, 1971-82)