

File

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a letter from Peter Rowland which I have thanked him for.

He asks if you would like to have a further word about tax reform. Would you like me to respond saying your diary in the autumn is chock-a-block, and it will just not be possible to arrange a meeting for now?

MEA

8 August, 1986.

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The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

7th August 1986

Dear *Margaret,*

I do hope your "French cabby's disease" has been eradicated without any lasting effects. In my case, it was the finger next to the little one which was threatened but fortunately it yielded to some electronic treatment and massage and I was able to avoid, what sounded a dangerous operation. All I need do now is to bend my fingers back from time to time to keep them flexible. I understand that it is in fact named after a Parisian cab-driver who was what may be termed an early "contracting party", and I re-christened it to make it easier to remember.

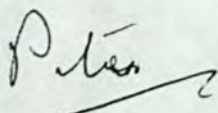
A side-light on S. Africa. The other day Clare's father mentioned a local problem of Marley's of enlarging their car parks sufficiently to accommodate all the vehicles of their black workers. I wonder how many of the African and Asian critics of apartheid share the same problem! N.B. His comments were made seriously but I would have to get chapter and verse if you wished to cite it.

The tax reforms you have introduced are certainly admirable but my proposed re-drafting was a wholly different point and one which could also be very important. The reactions of everyone in the very restricted group who considered it - including the head of the I.R.S. and John Isaac here - were excellent, with the possible exception of Arthur Cockfield. Ever since he went to Brussels I have been wondering whether I should not resurrect it; I still feel a way could be found round the Parliamentary time point.

Please let me know if you would like a further word on the subject. It would in any case be very nice to have a general chat if you can spare the time.

With best regards to you both.

Yours sincerely *mw*



Peter M B Rowland

P.S. I have just moved my office here from No. 11 Upper Brook Street.