

cc Mr. Gow
Mr. Scholar

PRIME MINISTER

Invergordon

We have had an approach this week from Mr. John Corrie, M.P. about Invergordon. He suggested that it would be helpful if a group of Scottish backbench MPs could call on you to discuss Invergordon. The purpose would be to show that the Government supporters were taking positive action over Invergordon, and thus avoid leaving the field free for the Government's opponents.

I explained to Mr. Corrie that you had a firm rule about your own involvement on closures, and that this was to limit yourself to meeting the constituency Member, leaving other deputations to see the Departmental Minister concerned. I further explained that you had made an exception over Invergordon because of the restrictions of Ministerial office on Mr. Gray, and that you had therefore seen him a second time with a local deputation.

Mr. Corrie accepted that you had become more involved than usual over this closure, but said that Mr. Gray had been behind their approach. He said that he understood that your programme was very tight, and suggested that a letter from you to him, commenting on the active interest of the Scottish backbench Members, might enable them to achieve the publicity they sought. I told Mr. Corrie that I would raise this with you, and that you would of course be ready to see them if they eventually felt that this would be the best solution.

I have since been in touch with Mr. Younger's office. He is not at all keen to suggest terms in which you might write to Mr. Corrie at present. I understand that he feels that the opposition is already difficult, and that this looks like an attempt by Mr. Gray to bring you even more publicly into the discussion.

Events may now move quite fast, with further discussion scheduled for Tuesday morning. I think that we should let matters

/ rest

rest for the present, but that you or Ian might seek to have a word with John Corrie when you next meet him in the House. Content?

M. A. PATTISON

19 March 1982