



Jo
SLAAAH.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 June 1984

LIVERPOOL: COMMISSIONERS

I promised to write to you recording suggestions and comments at the Meeting of Ministers on Tuesday 19 June.

Your Secretary of State said he had discussed with the Prime Minister the concept of appointing as Commissioner, a senior Labour politician. He had come up with Joel Barnett, Roy Mason and Sir Jack Smart. Doubt was expressed about whether the first two could be persuaded to take the job on. It was also thought unwise to pitch Sir Jack Smart into Liverpool following the losing battle which he was fighting against the militants in Wakefield.

The Prime Minister suggested Mr Peter Newsam of the Commission for Racial Equality, though it was recognised that this would create a vacuum at the CRE. Mr Clarke suggested Sir John Page who came from the North West. Mr Heseltine expressed strong objections to him. Your Secretary of State (I think) suggested that Mr Leslie Young could be moved from the British Waterways Board although he had only just been appointed to it. He was thought to be a suitable candidate though there could be criticisms of an MDC takeover. The Lord President suggested Mr John Smith but doubts were expressed about his forcefulness. Other names to come up were Clive Thornton, Sir Edward Pickering and Bill Rodgers.

As supporting Commissioners Sir Keith Joseph suggested William Stubbs of ILEA to cover education and your Secretary of State suggested Harry Simpson to cover housing.

It was left that, if Ministers had any further suggestions they would put them direct to your Secretary of State. You will have seen, of course, that Mr Heseltine has since minuted the Prime Minister setting out what he sees as the requirements for Commissioners, though without identifying names.

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