

1988



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Her Prime Minister, September 2nd

Thank you for allowing me time to talk with Penny about your proposal. I very much appreciate your great kindness to us and I have enjoyed the close and frank relationship particularly of those past two years. Being Chairman has been a great challenge, although never a comfortable seat. I have always relied upon and unfailingly received your support and friendship. It will be hard to move from this central position and I shall miss being at the Cabinet table and my ready access to you. I am however sure that once this initial sadness is over I shall enjoy Agriculture — especially working with that Team and I look forward to serving as Minister of State.

You were kind enough to say that you would write me a letter. That was a



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Most generous suggestion which I should like to accept.

Apart from producing an aide memoir for my successor - my last duty as chairman is to say to you as forcefully as I am able that you ought not to entertain thoughts of the kind you raised latterly with me. You are the key to our election victory and our only change is that you should cease to believe that.

Decent people don't find it easy to fight for themselves. They would be inferior characters if they did. They can battle with the enemies of their country and their principles but it comes hard when they need to fight on their own behalf. Sometimes therefore they need to be reassured that their own success is essential for the victory of the cause in which they must believe. Your work is not yet done and we need your confidence in your own leadership to complete it. There - I've taken advantage of my position for the last time. Yours ever Jim