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K
Yes
PRIME MINISTER

- (i) Agree that you would like a discussion after Conference of the new team's plans?
(ii) With the Chancellor? (He won't welcome new plans, probably for higher spending in some cases, being discussed in the middle of the Survey. Very bad feeling if the Treasury is not there.)

4 September 1985

See who now
Now that you have appointed a new strong jobs team,

shouldn't you put in your diary a morning meeting with David and Ken to present to you (and the Chancellor?) proposals for carrying on the jobs strategy? A suitable time would be after Conference, which would leave them some 6 weeks to take the best ideas from DEMP files. and to develop

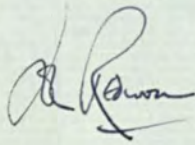
their own ideas.

Some ideas to discuss and follow up:

1. The success and possible extension of the Investigation Teams - around one quarter of all those claiming benefits in the areas tested so far ceased claiming them when they were asked some questions. If this turns out to be widespread in the South East, we could be talking of a register reduction of more than 100,000.
2. Consideration of a better mechanism for paying benefits, registering people as unemployed, and using the Unemployment Offices to track down fraud - the 27,500 people currently employed in the Unemployment Benefit Service do not seem to be deterring fake registration.
3. Development of training loans, progress monitoring on the 2-year YTS, and the Philip Goodhart training voucher scheme.

4. The Why Work? syndrome - discussion of what impact different levels of Family Credit, and different types of tax change, would have on the problem, and the jobs consequences.
5. The City Action Teams and Urban Land Programme - the progress being made in organising sales of large areas of public sector land to lower the price of land and thereby encourage more city development in the hard-pressed inner city areas.
6. Consideration of new low-cost schemes to reduce numbers on the count - possibly including increased support for self-employment and carefully targetted job subsidies.

These are just a few suggestions: David and Ken may well have other ideas. It is important to discuss all the options soon, since any proposals need to be in place by the turn of this year if they are to affect the registers before the next Election.


JOHN REDWOOD

David I am indebted
with many suggestions
more & more meetings. We
must make a list of requests
and deal with them together at the beginning
of next week - otherwise we shall achieve nothing.