



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Box

Tuesday 1/10

Dear Prime Minister

Many thanks for your kind invitation to the Education Seminar to-morrow. Unfortunately I am due to be on the sleeper tonight for Scotland and would disorganise too many people if I cancelled the trip.

I feel that education suffers from all the problems of being a nationalised industry - low quality, works more for the employees than the customer and is much too exposed to trade union disruption.

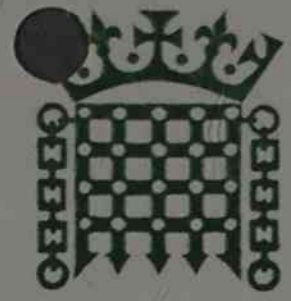
I was a great believer in the voucher scheme as a means of de-nationalising education. However, I can see how it suffers,

like other Big Bang solutions, from incalculable cost and consequences.

However, the tragedy to me is that the Government, having rejected vouchers, turned its back on the objectives of vouchers at the same time.

I believe that what is needed is a step by step approach which will allow schools to become independent of their L.E.A.'s whilst continuing to receive a major part of their finance from the public purse. One way to do this would be to give schools the right to become voluntarily aided.

Clearly, it would be initially the better schools that would choose independence from their L.E.A.s and the change would only work down slowly through the system. The advantage of this would be that the "sink" schools would not be suddenly annihilated but would have a second chance under the auspices of the L.E.A.



One of the first things the successful schools would want to do is expand and one can see much of the money for this coming from charitable sources, industry or as loans from banks.

Privatisation of education would well increase standards, choice and the amount spent per child, whilst, at the same time reducing the expenditure of public money.

Yours ever

Alexis

P.S. Forgive the handwriting but my secretary has gone home.