



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

October 1985

2CH3
Await
DHSS response

Dear Norman,

DRUG MISUSE: CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE DEBATE

In the light of your letter of 24 September, David Mellor has spoken to Barney Hayhoe and Ray Whitney in the last couple of days about his reply to the motion on drug misuse on 9 October.

David must be able to give a convincing account of the Government's policies and show that we continue to give high priority to tackling the drug problem. You will have seen that the Prime Minister has strongly endorsed this view. Following the precedent of Ken Clarke's speech last year and the Prime Minister's recent comments, our supporters and the public at large will undoubtedly expect new measures to be announced or at least to be foreshadowed in clear terms. We are in no doubt that a crucial element in this must be an indication that the Government will make more help available to drug misusers and that it will be maintaining its efforts in the prevention field by continuing (subject to evaluation) the education and information campaign launched earlier this year.

With this in mind David sent to Barney Hayhoe the attached draft passage for inclusion in his Conference speech. As you will see, David does not seek to pre-empt detailed announcements by DHSS Ministers, but simply to state that more will be done. I gather from David that, in the absence of any decision so far on the relevant PES bids, neither Barney nor Ray felt able to agree that David should give an indication on these lines. I really do feel that the kind of phraseology David has proposed is the minimum he could say while maintaining the Government's credibility. Expectations have been raised and must be fulfilled. Since time is short, I hope that you can find some way to allow David to make the necessary announcements.

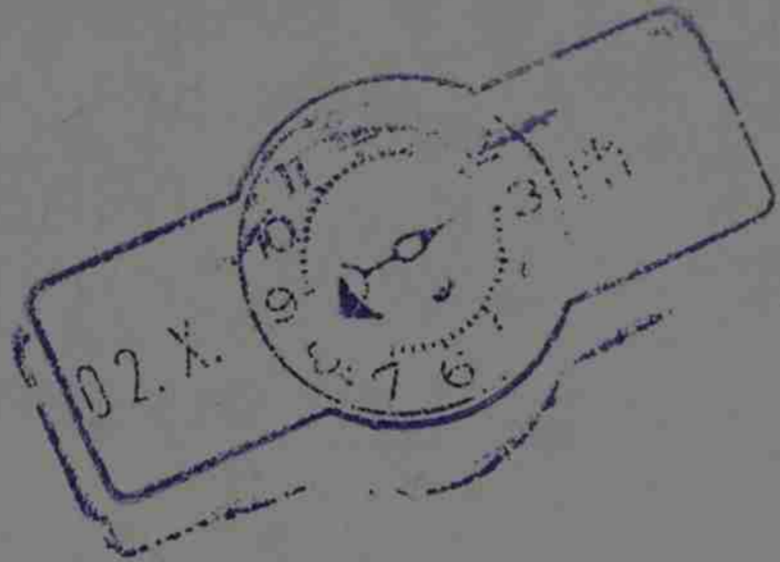
I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, Keith Joseph, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Tebbit, Tom King and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,

Doyle

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler, M.P.

Home Apps: Drucks Pt 2



E R.

EXTRACT FROM MR MELLOR'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE SPEECH

We want to build upon the success of the central funding initiative. Over 120 local schemes have benefitted from the £11.5 million already available. Now more will get help. A further very substantial sum of money will be made available for drug projects, and Barney Hayhoe will announce details shortly.

We shall also be funding a further major publicity campaign over the next 12 months designed to alert youngsters to the dangers of drug misuse.

