

CONFIDENTIAL

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Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

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21st October 1985

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP
Secretary of State for Education
and Science
Elizabeth House
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NHM

2 Keith

TEACHERS PAY

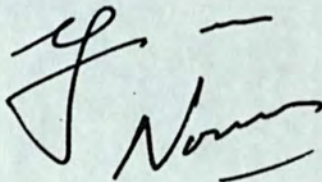
Following Cabinet on Tuesday (CC(85) 29th minute 1), you and colleagues will be discussing the need for and timing of further Ministerial statements on the teachers disputes. George Younger has commented on the urgency of the situation in Scotland in his minute of 18 October.

For England and Wales, the position taken by the Burnham Management Panel has worsened the situation; I have no doubt that it will serve to reinforce the view of the NUT, in particular, that they should continue their intransigence. They have continued with a policy of maximum disruption at minimum cost; and have seen their tactics rewarded by concession after concession. The final absurdity would be now to agree to a settlement for this year, with no more than the prospect of talks about conditions of service. I was very glad, therefore, to hear what you had to say on this at Conference.

But I think that the message you had to convey at Conference, could well need to be reinforced and strengthened by means of a statement to the House. Mrs Harrison has suggested, by her remarks to the press, that the only basis for a settlement is if the Government were to make more money available for this year. We should now make clear to Parliament that this will not happen. Further damaging attacks by teachers' unions on the schooling of children

will not be rewarded by further concessions, and their tactics will simply not run any further. If we cannot strengthen the hands of the moderates by focussing attention on the pay and career structure you made available in August, then we may strengthen their hand by showing the damage wrought, and futility, if their current tactics are continued.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Nigel Lawson, Members of E(PSP), George Younger, Nick Edwards, Tom King, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Tebbit', with a stylized initial 'N' and 'T'.

NORMAN TEBBIT

EDUCATION
TEACHERS PAY
PT 5

