

CHIEF WHIP

You mentioned to me that you would prefer that your Area Whips should not "mark the card" for me about colleagues whom I might especially cultivate as feeling left out in the cold.

I naturally accept this; but a problem of selection still presents itself for the programme of drinks, etc. which the Prime Minister wants to put in hand. For example, she has now allocated some specific dates for having small groups of backbenchers for drinks at Number Ten; and she is also proposing to have a few to lunch at Chequers between now and the Summer Recess, to join in with a party of industrialists, newspaper editors, etc.

Would you like to have a hand in selecting colleagues for these varied functions, or would you prefer to leave it to our own discretion here?

*The first Chequers lunch is likely to be
March 2, with 6 vacancies for MPs + wives.*

MA

MICHAEL ALISON
18.2.86