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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215
GTN 215)5422
(Switchboard) 01-215 7877

9 June 1986

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1

NBM

Dear John

TVEI EXTENSION

David Young copied to me his letter of 30 May on the extension to TVEI. I have also seen a copy of Norman Tebbit's letter of 2 June.

I strongly support David's arguments for an extension at the level of £30,000 per school. There is little doubt that TVEI has made a major impact on those schools involved, in ways which are wholly consistent with the need for a more relevant and industrially-related curriculum. It has therefore been a very clear signal that we are prepared to back our priorities with financial support. The scheme also dovetails extremely well not only with the views expressed in "Better Schools", but with many of the initiatives my own Department has taken through the Industry/Education Unit.

The difference between £20,000 and £30,000 can only be one of political judgment and I share David's preference for the higher figure. If we go for £20,000, I think there is every possibility that we will be accused of asking authorities to achieve the same results as in the pilot stage with only a quarter of the resources, and that several authorities would prefer the opportunity for a political row to taking the support available. At the £30,000 level, however, while we could not expect to be free from criticism from those determined to take that line, I very much doubt whether they could credibly refuse to participate. And the majority of authorities would, I think, regard the £30,000 support as a very worthwhile contribution towards maintaining the impetus that TVEI has created.

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I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister,
Nicholas Edwards, Norman Tebbit, David Young, Kenneth Baker and
Malcolm Rifkind.

Yours,

Paul

PAUL CHANNON

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EDUCATION : TVEI : Part 2 .

