

Thomas TP



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

1. I HAD A WORD WITH
PETER THOMAS, AFTER HE
HAD READ YOUR LETTER ON
26th JUNE.

2. THERE IS NO WAY IN
WHICH HE WOULD ACCEPT
CONTRARY TO YOUR WISHES.

3. HIS BEHAVIOUR IS
IMPECCABLE.

T. a.

27/6/79.

Private & Confidential.



From The Rt. Hon. PETER THOMAS, Q.C., M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, SW1

Secretary's Tel. No. 219 4079

26th June 1979

My dear Margaret,

Thank you so much for your letter which Ian has just handed to me. I wholly accept your views on the undesirability of a by-election now and will let Nick know that I shall not take the job.

I was glad if you so consider the matter so sympathetically and I am most grateful

Yours ever
Peter

PRIME MINISTER

1. In the context of John Peyton and Peter Thomas, we have discussed the factors involved in having a By-Election shortly after a General Election.
2. There are the following precedents:-
 - (a) Freddie Erroll, John Morrison and Evelyn Emmett, all on 1st December 1964.
 - (b) Rab Butler, 31st January 1965.
 - (c) Aubrey Jones, 17th March 1965 (Prices and Incomes Board!)
 - (d) Quintin Hailsham and Elwyn Jones (20th June 1970 and 5th March 1974, respectively).
 - (e) Robert Carr, 18th December 1975.
 - (f) Harold Lever, June 1979.

29th June, 1979

IAN GOW