

FROM Ian Gow

16.11.79

Prime Minister

Teddy Taylor

1. Herewith a letter dated 11th November from Richard Shepherd together with a reply for your signature, please.
2. I mentioned to you that I had spoken to Teddy Taylor on the telephone. Of course he was most disappointed that he had not been interviewed at Hertfordshire South West.
3. I spoke to Tony Royle. The position is that ~~entirely~~ separate lists of approved candidates are held by the London and Edinburgh Central Offices. At present, Teddy is only on the Scottish list.
4. Following my talk with Tony Royle, he has arranged to see Teddy. I hope that it may be possible thereafter for Tony to suggest to any English Association seeking a new candidate that they should at least give Teddy an interview.
5. However, we both know the difficulties about Teddy being chosen for an English constituency.

1a.

Shepherd TP

16th November 1979

Thank you very much for your letter of
11th November.

I do understand the reasons which prompted
you to write and, of course, we would all
like to see Teddy Taylor back in the House.
However, as you know, the choice of
candidates is a matter for the individual
constituency Associations.

Since you wrote, I understand that Teddy
has spoken to Tony Royle who is the
Vice-Chairman with responsibility for
candidates.

Richard Shepherd Esq MP

SHEILA

FROM: RICHARD SHEPHERD M.P.

041 632 1904

Richard



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th November, 1979.

Dear Prime Minister,

Whilst speaking with Teddy Taylor yesterday morning he told me that he had not been called for interview at SW Herbs this coming week. What particularly disturbed me, though, was that he only discovered that he was not being called for an interview when he phoned the Constabulary Agent on Friday morning as he had heard distinctly nothing since he had submitted his name. The Agent said that the Association had not written even an acknowledgement as they did not have his home address and it was not provided with his Central Office biographical details.

That in itself seems extraordinary but what really concerns me is that to the outside world, if known, it would seem a tremendous rebuff and could be damaging to Teddy.

I appreciate that it is the absolute prerogative of an Association to see and select whoever they wish but I would have thought it not unreasonable that they at least see a former member of the Shadow Cabinet who has worked hard and loyally for the Party. Unfortunately the reasons that could be conserved and the subsequent implications for Teddy could be harmful, especially as it is known that he put his name forward.

I know Teddy would be mortified if he knew I had trespassed on his friendship in this way, but I worked for him in October 1974 and I have only the highest regard for his qualities of kindness and loyalty. He is a good man who has been a great supporter of Mommy.

Forgive me for writing as I have. Yours,
Richard Shepherd