

Peter Young outlined FCS' programme for the ensuing year. In particular, a supportive campaign for those local authorities who were cutting their expenditure and one highlighting those that were not. They intended to indicate areas of wastage and where effective economies could be made, and hoped to collaborate with Mr. Heseltine at the Department of the Environment. Peter Young referred to the many local Government Quangos which were obvious targets for economy, many being front organisations for the Left. Regarding expenditure on Student Unions, the Federation intended monitoring this carefully to ensure that what were essentially public funds, were spent on genuine student activities and not on campaigns which were directed against the Government. In the past, funds had been used to organise demonstrations in connection with the steel strike and H-Block protests. Such expenditure was a direct misappropriation of Student Union funds and could be a possible case for an ultra vires action.

John Bowis stressed that such actions should be brought by individuals as they could not be brought by the Party.

Dr. Boyson said that it would be possible to organise private support for individuals who brought actions in this way.

Peter Young said the Federation was greatly concerned by the involvement of people with left-wing views in the various youth organisations i.e. B.Y.C., N.Y.B., Parliamentary Youth Lobby. They believed that the funds should be reduced or eliminated and possibly replaced by funds raised from sources sympathetic to such organisations.

The Federation was preparing plans for the Freshers Fairs in the Autumn and was anxious to arrange support from the Cabinet Ministers as part of the campaign.

Dr. Boyson/Peter Young referred to a pro-nuclear campaign. A front organisation was being convened for this purpose - S.O.A.P.

Paul Lowery mentioned the campaign being run by the Left on Northern Ireland i.e. Troops Out.

Peter Young believed that it was essential that the Federation concentrated its efforts on emphasising the philosophical side of Conservatism.

Tim Janman, leader of the Education Policy Group of the Federation, outlined their intentions in the Polytechnic sector. They would conduct a survey of the number of courses available and the number of students involved. They were anxious to discover what happened to the students when they sought employment at the end of their course. The Federation was concerned about the effect merging the GCE and CSE would have on industry. They intend monitoring standards and believe that, ultimately, there should be a return to selection at a local level. In general, they believed schools should be improved. The Federation thought that, in some respects, the Government was failing to promote their education policies.

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Ian Patterson said that at the Teeside Polytechnic, there had been a discussion on the Finniston Report, and the relevance of courses at the Polytechnic to the recommendations of the report.

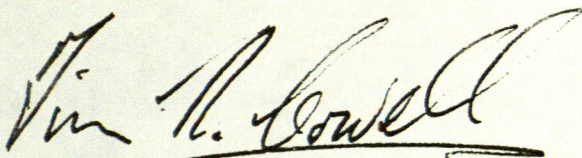
Peter Young dealt with Foreign Affairs. He believed the Government should encourage an ideological battle within the Soviet Union. To this end, additional funds should be made available to the BBC World Service for their broadcasts to Eastern Europe. Propoganda by the World Service was effective but a separate service providing debate and argument for the Soviet Union might be a useful innovation. He questioned the role of British Embassies and Consulates, believing that they could do more. On Afghanistan, he thought that a radio station would be of some value.

Chris Cozens returned to the question of ultra vires actions in Student Unions, and Tim Linacre referred to organisations such as S.C.A.R.P., which used public funds to further left wing causes with Universities and Polytechnics.

Peter Young/Paul Lowery expressed concern at the recent statement from EEC leaders, concerning PLO.

In conclusion, Peter Young expressed the view that there should be more denationalisation, further action on quangos and a further reduction on public expenditure.

The Federation hoped that the Prime Minister would agree to address the next National Conference.



Tim R. Cowell

Assistant Director - Youth

(P) Cowell.

Department of Community Affairs

21 July 1980

Richard Ryder Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Richard

On reading the copy of the letter I sent to you on Friday, I feel I have probably been less than detailed in the explanation of my new role.

Basically, my responsibility will be for Youth and Students, although I dare say you probably gathered this from other correspondence.

Yours sincerely,
T. R. Cowell

Tim R Cowell
Assistant Director - Youth

22nd July 1980

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of 17th July.

I am grateful to you for letting me have a record of the meeting which took place with the Prime Minister.

I very much look forward to seeing you next month. There is plenty to discuss.

With best wishes,

Richard Ryder
Political Office

Wim R Cowell Esq

Department of Community Affairs

17 July 1980

Richard Ryder Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Richard,

Enclosed is a copy of the notes made, following the meeting the Prime Minister had with the Federation of Conservative Students.

I do not think there are any items requiring action on your part, save possibly the visit of the Prime Minister to the FCS Annual Conference in 1981. I understand that the question of ultra vires actions has already been taken up with Dr. Boyson.

I am sure you will have heard all the details concerning the merging of Community Affairs Department with the Organisation Department. This is a very sad affair, but work must proceed, and my new role as the Assistant Director of the Organisation Department will be to see that the intentions of the Party Chairman are realised. There will be various matters that I will now have to refer to you for, and I look forward to discussing these with you when we meet during the recess.

I understand the Chairman of the Federation has already written to thank the Prime Minister for her courteous reception. I should like to take this opportunity of adding my own thanks to her, and all concerned with the arrangements.

*Kind regards,
Yours ever,
Tim*

Tim R Cowell
Assistant Director - Youth

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