

McCRRINDLE, R.P.

1st October, 1980

Many thanks for your letter of
30th September, with which you
enclosed the article which you had
written on 26th of last month.

I am grateful to you for having sent this.

Let us have a word about this, when
next we meet.

Ian Gow

Robert A. McCrindle, Esq., M.P.

b.c.c. The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, M.P.

ROBERT A. McCRINDLE, M.P. 4.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30/9/1910,

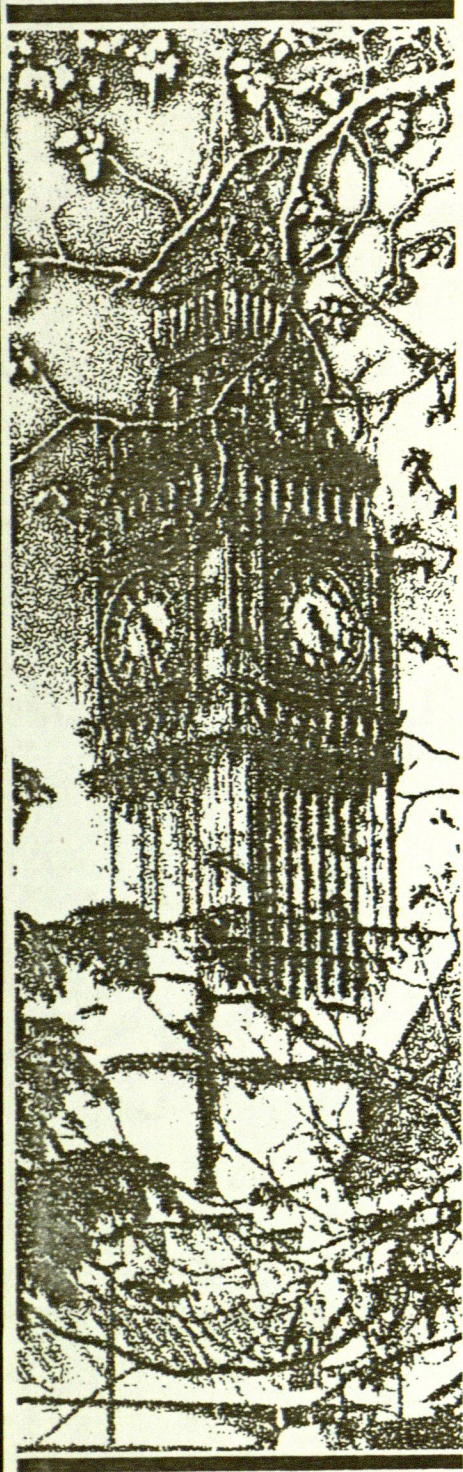
Dear Jan,

The attached message to my constituents represents my position and I thought you should have a copy. My concern is marginal as I hope I have made clear by the first and last paragraphs but none the less sincerely felt.

Yours sincerely

Bob McCrindle

News from Westminster



The policies being pursued by Mrs. Thatcher and the Government continue to carry the broad support of most who voted her into office. I do find that the faith still placed in the leadership of the Prime Minister is impressive, although some people fear that if she were to fail, the results could be catastrophic for the country and the Party. In these circumstances, I have let the Prime Minister know that I continue to support her broad economic strategy; that I am against U-turns, largely because there is no viable alternative; but I have urged a less rigid approach in achieving our objectives. If we are to carry public opinion with us during the next crucial year, we must not require hardships to be borne which are not central to the strategy.

All of us will have our experiences of where government policy is hurting most, but my worries are in the field of social services and private industry. I cannot believe that we should go on reducing our provision on home helps and provision for the mentally handicapped, for example, and the further enforced local authority economies (which in general I support) must be applied more flexibly if real hardship is to be prevented. We must also stop penalising authorities who have squeezed their spending to the bone, and whose only way of cutting further is to reduce services drastically. The reaction of people to these actions will inhibit support for the Government.

In private industry, I am all in favour of a tight policy to produce greater efficiency; certainly the nationalised industries should be subject to strong cash limits. I hope, however, that where a company or industry gets into difficulties because of the recession or government policies, we shall not automatically let them go to the wall. That would destroy British industry's base for recovery when the recession is over. Again, I am pressing for flexibility in applying a policy which I basically support.

The dynamic leadership of Margaret Thatcher has provided the cold douche that individuals needed to bring them into the 1980's. Now they are looking for some evidence that the policy is working, and it is my belief that a more flexible application of policy will encourage them to maintain support for what Mrs. Thatcher is trying to do.

ROBERT A. MCCRINDLE

26th September, 1980

by
ROBERT
McCRINDLE, M.P.