



## 10 DOWNING STREET

21st October, 1980

Your Member of Parliament, Mr. Tim Sainsbury, has forwarded to the Prime Minister your letter to her dated 30th September.

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

You are quite right in saying that the nationalised industries, most of which are monopolies, have increased their prices in recent months more than has been the case in the private sector.

Indeed, in her speech at the Party Conference on 10th October, the Prime Minister referred to this. In case you did not hear the Prime Minister's speech on that occasion, I am enclosing a copy of the text.

You mention that you are a pensioner. The Retirement Pension is to be increased next month, by 16½%, which is more than the rate of inflation between November 1979 and November 1980.

Wherever possible, as the Prime Minister explained in her speech on 10th October, the Government is seeking to introduce competition into those sectors where, at present, the nationalised industries have a monopoly. Competition is the customer's friend, monopoly is the customer's enemy.

Thank you for having sent the text of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. Like you, that Prayer is also a favourite of the Prime Minister's.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tim Sainsbury.

Ian Gow, M.P.  
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Mrs. Leah Smart.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th October 1980

Ian Gow, Esq., M.P.,  
Parliamentary Private Secretary to  
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
10 Downing Street,  
London S.W.1

Dear Mr. Gow,

In Mr. Sainsbury's absence abroad  
I have received the enclosed letter  
from his constituent Mrs. Smart of  
4 Drive Lodge, The Drive, Hove, who  
has requested that it should be  
forwarded to The Prime Minister.

Mr. Sainsbury will not return to the  
office until the end of October but I  
should be grateful if you could let him  
have a copy of your reply to Mrs. Smart  
in due course.

Yours sincerely,

*Elizabeth Fleming*

Private Secretary  
Elizabeth Fleming (Miss)

TIM SAINSBURY MP

To  
The Prime Minister & Prime Lodge  
Mrs Thatcher The Drive Home.  
Sussex BN3 3PS.  
30 September 1980

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

As a very staunch Tory, I feel I have to write to you as The Prime Minister - I am very disillusioned in the last few months that I have decided not to vote again in any elections, either local or general. I was one who put you in, and have gone along with you so far but I find that you as the Government don't seem to be able to curb the Nationalist firms, who are admitting to the huge profits they have

2:  
made in the year gone, to put  
up their charges for services  
to the public - such as Gas,  
Electricity, Telephone, and  
no doubt Television Licences -  
And the Electricity too is not  
content with one increase a  
year, it has to have two, and  
last year charges went up  
3 times -

We OAP's have to use  
these services, we have to be  
warm, and cook, and be  
able to keep in touch with  
our families by telephone -  
As for the television, in spite  
of the trips they cheer out,  
we have to look at it some  
times for company - How is  
it you cannot make these  
firms keep the pace you are  
demanding of Councils etc?

3.

And wait for expensive projects, when you put the country on its feet. Surely your powers extend to this curb - remembering they have made a profit on us already. I am a widow of 75 yrs on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1980, I live in a rented flat, have an Army Pension from my Husband and the National Pension, and this I may add is Taxed -

I feel very strongly about the things I have mentioned, and for the reasons I have given -

I enclose a copy of St Francis of Assisi's prayer which I say every day before I go to Mass, but I don't know when you bothered to quote part

<sup>4</sup>  
of it - I felt sorry for  
you when the crowd out  
side Downing St. boomed  
at the death of it - but  
I do think of this incident  
a great deal, and wonder,

Yours Truly,  
Mrs) Leah Smart.

# PEACE

Lord, make me an instrument of  
Your Peace  
Where there is hatred . . . let me sow  
love.

Where there is injury . . . pardon.

Where there is doubt . . . faith.

Where there is despair . . . hope.

Where there is darkness . . . light.

Where there is sadness . . . joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek

To be consoled . . . as to console,

To be understood . . . as to  
understand,

To be loved . . . as to love,

*For*

It is in giving . . . that we receive,

It is in pardoning . . . that we are  
pardoned.

It is in dying . . . that we are born to  
Eternal Life.

Amen.

—ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

THE

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST. COLUMBAN

MAGERAMORE - WICKLOW.