

RIPPOON, G.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

8th December, 1980

Geoffrey Rippon sent me a manuscript letter
(difficult to read) on 2nd December.

I enclose the type written text, which I
have shown to the Prime Minister.

Ian Gow

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP.

cc: The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP.



10 DOWNING STREET

COPY LETTER DATED 2ND DECEMBER 1980 FROM THE RT. HON. GEOFFREY RIPPON, QC, MP
TO IAN GOW.

Dear Ian,

I hope you will believe that it is not simply a fondness for my own words that prompts me to send you the enclosed cuttings! I only do so because they indicate the attitude I have adopted towards economic and budgetary policy over a good many years. The views, therefore, which I have been expressing in recent months about an over-emphasis on monetary targets and statistics, and about the need for a public sector pay policy, in no way represents any fundamental disagreement with the Government's basic strategy.

I hope, therefore, in the coming months to give all the support in my power to any proposals for a re-deployment of public expenditure in ways which curb current consumption, and increase public capital investment without letting the P.S.B.R. go hang.

This is not, as I said in my recent letter to the Daily Telegraph, by any means an easy option, but I think it may point the way to a growing consensus in our ranks about what needs to be done.

I was amused by Frederick Mount's Political Commentary in last week's Spectator when he said about Geoffrey Howe's Statement that "the only person to express actual pleasure at its content was Mr. Rippon himself, which may or may not say something." I trust it may be taken to mean that - with some reservations still about the level of interest rates - I am a Government supporter, rather than a Government critic!

For your information (since otherwise it may be misunderstood if one is not careful) I have in mind trying to get the "One Nation" Group to direct their attention to the "options for the Chancellor" with a view not to mounting any attack on present policies, but to get the Party to face up to the need to take what may be difficult action to cut public expenditure or raise indirect taxes or charges if room is to be made for any increased expenditure elsewhere.

Yours ever,

GEOFFREY (signed).



2/12/60

Dear Ian,

I hope you will believe that it is not simply a fondness for my own words that prompts me to send you the enclosed cuttings! I only do so because they indicate the attitude I have adopted towards economic and budgetary policy over a good many years. The views, therefore, which I have been expressing in recent months about an over-emphasis on monetary targets and statistics and about the need for a further sectoral policy, in no way represent any fundamental disagreement with the Govt's basic strategy. I hope, therefore, in the coming months to give all the support in my power to any proposals for a re-employment of public expenditure in ways which curb

current consumption and increase public capital
investment without letting the P.S.B.R. go hang.
This is not, as I said in my recent letter
to the Daily Telegraph by any means an
easy job but I think it may point the
way to a growing consensus in our ranks
about what needs to be done.

I was amused by Frederick Mowbray's
Politics Commentary in last week's Spectator when
he said about Geoffrey Howe's declaration that
"the only lesson to be drawn is the pleasure of the
country as Mr. Puffin himself, which may or
may not say something". I know it
may be taken to mean this - with some
reservation still about the level of interest
rate, I am a full supporter rather than
a full critic!

For your information (since there may
be misapprehensions if one is not careful) I have in
mind trying to get the 'One Nation' group to direct their
attention to the "Options for the Chancellor" with a view
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the Party to face up to the need to take ~~what~~ ~~action~~
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John - Lester