



Government Chief Whip  
12 Downing Street, London SW1

25 February 1981.

*Ian*

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from Charlie Morrison about CAP prices. There is concern among our back-benchers on the subject, and I have been asked to see the Officers of the Agriculture Committee about it.

*Ian Gow*  
*Minister*

Ian Gow Esq., M.P.



From: The Hon. Charles Morrison, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

19th February, 1981

*Handwritten signature*

One of the more remarkable and, luckily, helpful aspects of the present rather gloomy political situation is that in spite of their current difficulties farmers in my part of the country at any rate are protesting a good deal less than might have been expected. I believe that this is partly because they recognise that the position of their industry is no worse than that of many others, and better than many, and partly because they realise Peter Walker is doing his very best for them in extremely difficult circumstances.

However, it strikes me that in the near future the political attitude of farmers is likely to become even more delicate and must be treated with care, given that they still provide much of the foundation for Conservative Party support in many rural Conservative held constituencies. The NFU and COPA are asking for price increases of 15.3% in 1981. It seems that the Commission intends to make proposals for an average increase of about 7%. In other words, there is no conceivable chance that the farmers will get what they want in terms of price increases. In my judgement, they will be prepared to put up with an increase which is considerably less than what they asked for, but on one condition. This is that there should not be a revaluation of the Green Pound. If there was such a revaluation, not only would it have a serious effect on agriculture, but also it would add political insult to economic injury with dire consequences for the Conservative Party. I do hope, therefore, that you will use your influence, if needed, with colleagues in the Cabinet to oppose any revaluation of the Green Pound.

I am copying this letter to Peter Walker.

*Handwritten signature*

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

*Handwritten signature*





10 DOWNING STREET

26th February, 1981

Thank you for your letter of 25th February, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter dated 19th February, which you had received from Charlie Morrison.

I have shown Charlie's letter to the Prime Minister.

Ian Gow

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