

GRIFFITHS, A.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17th March 1981

Thank you so much for your letter, written after last evening's vote.

It was very good of you to have taken the trouble to write. I know that Geoffrey will be very glad to have a talk about this.

Ian Gow told me of his talk with you just before the vote.

Again, many thanks for having written.

Eldon Griffiths Esq MP

bcc Sir Geoffrey Howe
Michael Jopling



10 DOWNING STREET

17th March, 1981

Dear Eldon,

Thank you so much for your letter, written after last evening's vote.

It was very good of you to have taken the trouble to write.

I don't think Geoffrey would like this.

Of course you are right when you say that it would have been possible for Geoffrey to have raised the revenue required in other ways; however, he has to make his own judgement about this and I am convinced that he was right.

I know that Geoffrey will be very glad to have a talk with you about this.

Ian Gow told me of his talk with you just before the vote.

Again, many thanks for having written.

Eldon Griffiths, Esq., M.P.

Ernie Gifford 9.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11 June

R17/13

Dear Margaret

Words never count - even
half as much as deeds.

My 4 dead 4 tonight
is to vote against those who
want to spend more and tax
more. We said we would
not do this, except on defence
and police; but due to the
recession and Labour's debts,

The Government is doing both.

Gunsall, I can stomach

that — because there is no
other way.

But when there is another

way of raising the necessary revenue

~~is~~ ^{ie} the £500 million on a cut

from 20 p to 10 p on petrol, I

do not think it unreasonable to

ask the Chancellor to CONSIDER

it. He was wrong to refuse to



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

do so, not least because this
would have given the Government
the initiative. As it is, you
are bound to be faced with a whole
series of amendments from the
Conservative benches on the Finance
bill — prolonging the press and
political agony.

The most difficult thing I
have ever had to do in politics is
to go into a different lobby than

you, as our beloved leader. I
am desperately sorry; but I
believe that the "short sharp shock"
that will be delivered to the
big spenders tonight in the long run
will give more power to your
elbow.

Yours
truly

P.S. I had of course written to
Geoffrey Howe, setting out my
proposals in detail last Friday.