



10 DOWNING STREET

17th March, 1981

Thank you so much for your letter of
12th March.

It was very good of you to have taken
the trouble to write as you did and
your letter has been of very great encourage-
ment to me.

Thank you, too, for what you say in the last
paragraph of your letter. I have asked
Ian Gow to have a word with you about this.

John Stokes, Esq., M.P.

61
From: John Stokes M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th March 1981

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street.

Dear Prime Minister,

I hope you will not be too disturbed by all the furore in the media about critics of the budget from colleagues in our party. The media love rows and criticism and those of us who regularly support you and the government very rarely have their speeches reported. I am sure that my own working class constituency will be quite sensible and steady. I shall of course know more about this when I am there tomorrow, but I have not so far received a single protest about the budget.

Perhaps soon you would consider making a speech in a strongly patriotic tone stressing the essential unity and cohesion of the nation in spite of our political differences. I think this will strike a chord in people's hearts - particularly at a time when there is so much disgust at the civil service strike.

I hope you will never forget the widespread support you have in the backbenchers whatever other critics you may have.

On a personal note I would like to let you know that I have a little more time at my disposal now that I have sold my business so if there is anything I can do for you, the government or the party I hope you will not hesitate to let me know.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

John