

BENNETT, D.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

9th April, 1981

Thank you for your letter of 13th March.

Of course I agree that it is quite proper for the Parliamentary Party to discuss alternative ways of raising the revenue which is required in order to finance the public expenditure on which the Cabinet has decided.

I will seek you out, because I would very much like to have a word with you about this.

Ian Gow

Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.

9. From: Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Confidential
Dear Jon

13th March, 1981

Even the most devoted and loyal Centurion is capable of feeling affronted. Only a short time ago those of us who felt unhappy about the expensive surrender to the miners over the Pits Closure issue were described as inflexible and incapable of appreciating the realities of the situation. Well and good. I was among those myself who appreciated the innate common sense of the compromise we had to reach and did not press my criticisms of the Minister for Energy, which I had voiced in the appropriate Party Committee upstairs when you were present..

However it is legitimate to doubt the precise ^{choice} range and scope of the proposals adopted to raise the money we need to match the expenditure by any particular method or methods without being accused of "lacking guts". Arguments as to how we should pay the bill are quite different from saying we should borrow rather than find what we need through the wide variety of fiscal options open to us.

Yours ever
Freddie

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