

PERSONAL

21st May, 1981

Thank you very much for having sent over the draft article which you had in mind to write for the Sunday Telegraph.

The Prime Minister would prefer this not to be written - and for reasons which you will understand.

IAN GOW

Jock Bruce-Gardyne, Esq. M.P.
House of Commons

PRIME MINISTER

1. Herewith draft piece which Jock Bruce-Gardyne has in mind to write for the Sunday Telegraph.
2. Although I agree with Jock, and although we have no veto over what he writes, my inclination is against.
3. What do you think, please?

15th May 1981



IAN GOW



Please do not
 write this. People will
 only say that others
 have managed - why
 can't I?

And they will
 think I have
 put back 40
 bits.

It's good news that they've found a use for Chevening at last. The Foreign Secretary and Lady Carrington will act the part of chatelains to the manner born.

But as they relax amidst the comforts of the late Lord Stanhope's stately home I hope they may spare an occasional thought for the Thatchers. Economical housekeeping is very much the text for this Government, and no one practices it more with more determination than the Prime Minister herself. But did you know that we ~~think~~ the taxpayers do not even provide ^{them} with a staff for the private flat at No 10? That the Queen's first Minister is expected to make time to cook the family supper?

~~It is no doubt she is very good at it. But this is really the best way to run a bucket shop.~~

~~It is sure she is very good at it.~~

Now economical housekeeping is very much the text for this Government, and no one sets a better example than the Prime Minister herself. But to ~~deny~~ deny her the ~~work~~ help which she needs to concentrate on a round-the-clock job - the help which is rightly taken for granted by any British representative abroad - is not good economics. It's just plain daft.