

ONSLAW, R.P.

24th July, 1981

Thank you so much for your letter of 23rd July.

It was good of you to have taken the trouble to write as you did - and I agree, of course, that we all need to give a message of hope to the country, and particularly to the young.

I will try to get this message across in Monday's Debate.

Thank you again for having written.

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House of Commons,
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P.S. I am so sorry that you were not able to come to have a drink here today.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23/7/81

Dear Prime Minister,

I listened with great interest, and agreement, to your speech to the 1922 Committee this evening.

If had there been a chance afterwards, I would have liked to offer one comment. I hope you will not mind my making it in this letter, as it may be of help to you in Monday's debate.

Our opponents, I believe, have no policy at present but the propagation of despair - despair about the economy, about unemployment, about education and housing, and about the likelihood of nuclear war. In so doing, they aim to exploit the fact that despairing people will do desperate things.

We must answer them, and with a message of hope.

We must give hope to the electors

who backed us in 1979, and whose support will be so essential at the next election. That is obvious, as is the need to keep up the hopes of our party workers.

More important, for the sake of our whole society, we must give hope to young people throughout the country. We must win the war against inflation - but we must also lift the spirit of the nation, by inspiring people to look forward to the years of economic peace that will follow when that war is won.

I am sure you know this. I am sure, too, that the whole party must unite in getting this message across to the people by this year's end: for where there is hope, there is life.

Yours sincerely,

Cranley Doherty
(CRANLEY DOWDING)