



~~Box~~
CORMACK.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Box

MJ

CONFIDENTIAL

I enclose correspondence with Patrick Cormack.
I understand that he is contemplating a letter
to the Times early next week which will be signed
by a number of our back-benchers.

MICHAEL JOPLING

9 October 1981

To: The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC MP
The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson, MP
Ian Gow Esq., MP



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

8 October 1981.

Dear Patrick,

I am most grateful for your letter telling me of your discontent with the economic situation. I am very anxious to be able to talk to you about this, and I shall be most grateful if you will hold up any public pronouncement until we have had a chat.

I shall be at Blackpool all next week, and perhaps we could have a talk there.

I hope you will forgive me for not signing this letter. Your letter arrived just as I was leaving the office for Yorkshire.

Yours,

Michael

Dictated by the Chief Whip
and signed in his absence

Patrick Cormack Esq., MP.

From: PATRICK CORMACK, F.S.A., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

5th October, 1981.

Ian Michael.

As you know I have been increasingly concerned about various aspects of Government policy for a long time now. When we had that long and helpful talk in March I told you that I would not be particularly vocal in my opposition for a few months more and I have scrupulously kept this promise - even to the extent of doing a speaking tour for the Party in the North East etc. I have not found it easy and in view of the recent Government changes, especially those in the Treasury, I feel that I can no longer maintain my silence.

I firmly believe that Ian Gilmour was right when he said that the Government is heading for the rocks but I do not think that it is too late for us to save ourselves and I shall be trying to indicate how I think we can do so in various speeches and articles in the coming weeks.

I might add that in doing so I shall have the strong support of almost all the key figures in my Association who for some time now have been urging me to speak out.

Naturally I hope that I shall have the chance of talking to you about these things before long but, having made my decision, I felt it only right to ensure that you were the first to know.

With all good wishes

Patrick Cormack

The Rt. Hon Michael Jopling, M.P.,
Chief Whip,
Whips Office,
House of Commons,
London S.W.1.

J. J. J.