

Garel-Jones

11/11

6th November 1981

Thank you so much for your letter of 4th November with which you enclosed a copy of a letter of the previous date which you had sent to your constituent Mr A Windsor.

I am most grateful to you for having kept me informed.

Would you come and have a drink with the Prime Minister in her room at the House at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th November?

Ian Gow  
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Tristan Garel-Jones Esq MP

4/11/1941

My dear Ian,

Although I have only received one letter from my constituency expressing misgivings about the pamphlet I thought you should see it.

The writer is a loyal stalwart and his views may well be held by others.

Since I sent you some of my 'fan' mail I thought you should see this too!

Yrs  
Iris

TRISTAN GAREL-JONES, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd November 1981

*Dear Tony*

Thank you very much for your letter and I really was most grateful to you for taking the trouble to write - above all because your loyalty both to the Party and to me are beyond question. The first thing that I have to say is that I think I am right in saying that there is no backbencher in the House of Commons with a higher voting record than my own. What this means is that I have voted for this Government more often than anybody else. I make no apology for that - indeed I am proud of it!

Secondly, I think it is worth saying that two of the authors of the pamphlet are now members of Mrs. Thatcher's Government. One of them was appointed after Downing Street had received an advance copy of the document. Of course this does not mean that the Prime Minister necessarily agrees with every single word! What it does mean is that she is a Tory leader in the best sense of the word. Her behaviour towards all of us has been impeccable - and I am certainly under no illusion that she deserves nothing less from us.

One of the penalties of being a Member of Parliament is that whatever you say that is not a direct quotation from your Party's manifesto will inevitably be used by some people to try to make mischief. On the other hand, the only thing a backbencher has to offer is his best opinion and judgement in the light of his own experience. It is our duty to offer this to our Party. In doing so, we have made it clear that it is our intention to secure the return of a successful Conservative Government at the next election lead by Mrs. Thatcher.

I hope it will be of some comfort to you to know that every single letter I have received both from members of the Party and members of the public in Watford has expressed support for the pamphlet and for many of the policy suggestions contained in it. Of course I do not take that as a signal of general approbation - there will be many in the Party who feel as you do and who (perhaps out of loyalty) have held back from writing to me as you have done. I take your letter as a sign not only of your continued loyalty to the Party and friendship to me but also as an opportunity to reassure you that the loyalty is shared and the friendship reciprocated.

*Yr  
Tristan*

Anthony G. Windsor Esq.,  
38 Langley Way,  
Watford,  
Herts

*P.S. Do ring & come over here  
for tea one day for a fuller talk.*

38 Langley Way,  
Watford,  
Herts.  
WD1 3EG

T. Garell Jones, Esq., M.P.,  
The House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London,  
SW1

27th October 1981

Dear Tristan,

I feel I must write to you on the most unhealthy debate that is currently taking place within the Party.

I was very pleased to receive an early copy of your, and your colleagues, paper "Changing Gear". I am no economist, neither am I a politician and I would not presume therefore to criticise it on either of those grounds. Given a perfect world (*ceteris paribus* as they say) I am sure much, if not all, of it is good common sense. However we do not have a perfect world, even though Mrs. Thatcher is striving hard to create one, in our island at least, and it is no good pretending that we do. We just cannot afford the luxuries which you and your fellow M.P.s propose. My feeling, therefore, is that although much of the document is interesting, I find the necessity to publish it difficult to establish. Even had publication not coincided with Mr. Heath's divisive week of speech-making, which I believe was an unfortunate coincidence, the release for publication at a time of considerable pressure on the Government was unhelpful at best. Surely a private circulation amongst Party Leaders would have been sufficient.

As it is it would seem that publication has done nothing but lead your supporters to believe that you are no longer giving Mrs. Thatcher the full backing for her policies which you promised at the time of your election.

As you know, both Sue and I have been among your strongest supporters in Watford and we remain firm in the belief that the policies of Mrs. Thatcher, however unpopular they may be, are the policies which give this country the best chance of survival. We, in common with many others to whom we have talked, are finding it more and more difficult to defend you as our Member of Parliament, especially when almost all your reported actions in the papers and on television seem to ally you with such as Sir Ian Gilmour and Norman St. John Stevas.

contd.....

I really do feel that you are doing both yourself and the Party a tremendous dis-service by taking this line and strongly urge that you do all in your power to make your full support for Mrs. Thatcher absolutely plain for all to see. Failure will, I am sure, leave many of your active workers and a good number of your electors a most disappointed group of people and such people do not win elections.

Yours very sincerely,

Anthony G. Windsor

Anthony G. Windsor

TRISTAN GAREL - JONES, M.P.

Garel Jones



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

(F)

I am,

Just for yr. background  
information.

No reply

Yr ever

Tristan

—

3 Harford Drive  
Watford WD1 3DQ.  
13 October 81

Dear Tristram,

Thank you for the copy of  
Changing Year and for the very  
nice dedication in it. I have read  
the pamphlet with great interest  
and find much with which I agree,  
if only the Party were sensible  
enough to see that it is not so much  
an attack upon Mrs Thatcher and  
her policies but a well reasoned and  
constructive criticism, then we  
would have no fear of losing the

next general election as now seems possible.

It is a great pity that your publication should have coincided with Ted Heath's recent speeches causing the two events to be taken together and diverting attention away from the pamphlet which is so deserving of careful consideration; one can only hope that it will receive attention where it matters within the Parliamentary Party.

I think that the attacks, reported in yesterday's Telegraph, upon your group



1. - Stanbrooks and George  
Liner are despicable and show  
neither they nor their advisers  
have appreciated properly what  
are attempting to do.  
I can believe that there will be  
people of a like mind to those two  
of the Association, Geoff Greenstreet  
had his hackles up after only a  
brief look at his copy, and should  
the time come when you need practical  
or moral support I will be only  
too pleased to give it.

● My best wishes to you, Cathie  
and the family

Yours

John Ford.

TRISTAN GAREL-JONES, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your letter which I was very encouraged to have.

You are quite right - we were very unlucky that Mr. Heath chose to make 5 speeches in the same week as we launched the pamphlet. Fortunately, Mr Thatcher and the power-that-be have taken a proper (Conservative) attitude - witness that fact that two of the authors have been given junior posts in the administration.

For my part I can only say that I think I have voted for this Government more often than any other back-bencher! - not only do I make no apology for that but I propose to try to continue to keep up that record.

So for the Watford Conservative Association

have behaved impeccably. To my surprise the majority seem to agree with most of the pamphlet, but even those who do not have shown the kind of tolerant attitude which is the Party's real strength.

The point that I have made to Geoff Greenstreet which I think he understands is this; the allegiances which bind Conservatives together - family, patriotism, order - run much deeper than any transitory arguments about the PSBR. These are things which we share with many of our fellow citizens and that is where the true link between our Party and the British people lies.

There is one other allegiance that is important to Conservatives and that is loyalty to the Party leader. Throughout all these debates we must remain unwavering in that and we must preserve the highest standards of chivalrous behaviour towards each other inside the Party. Failure to uphold these standards is one of things that has destroyed the Labour Party. The Prime Minister has certainly upheld these standards in her approach to us and we owe her nothing less in return.

Yours ever  
Triton

Garel-Jones

15th October, 1981

Mr. Ian Gow is at the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool this week, and so I am writing to thank you for your letter of 13th October addressed to him, with which you enclosed an original letter dated 6th October which you had received from your Constituent. That original letter I now return, having kept a photocopy for Mr. Gow's file.

I know that Mr. Gow will bring to the attention of the Prime Minister the great concern felt by Dr. Collins.

I enclose an extract from a letter which has been sent to Members of Parliament writing on behalf of their Constituents on this subject, which gives the Government's view on the Brandt Report. I hope that this will be helpful to you.

MISS MARGARET FINLEY  
Secretary to Ian Gow

Tristan Garel-Jones, Esq. M.P.  
House of Commons