

Needham



mf

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER.

I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN  
TO NEEDHAM THAT  
INFLATION HAS BEEN  
DESTROYING JOBS, MAKING  
SOME OF THE POOR POORER  
AND PREVENTING US FROM  
MAKING THE POOR RICHER  
FOR YEARS.

Tom.  
17/12/1981

FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP



Government Chief Whip  
12 Downing Street, London SW1

15th December 1981

Thank you for your letter of 8th December, which I did not receive until the 10th December. I am grateful to you for letting me know what view you would take on any further action by the Government on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent proposals on unemployment and supplementary benefits.

Richard Needham Esq., MP  
House of Commons

RICHARD NEEDHAM, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th December 1981

(postmark 9/12, received 10/12)

*Dear Richard,*

I must apologise for messing Bob Boscowan about and telling him on Sunday night that I could not make my mind up on what to do but that I thought I would probably abstain this evening.

However I have decided as the Motion is so broad, and as my opposition to the Chancellor's proposals mainly stems from his failure to up-rate unemployment benefit and short-term supplementary benefit, it would be wrong for me not to support the Government. I made it absolutely clear two years ago, at the only time I have abstained during this Parliament, that I could not support any government which made the plight of the long-term poor poorer and this is exactly what these proposals unfortunately do. Therefore I must tell you now that when these proposals come before the House either as an Order or as part of the Budget package and how ever they are presented I shall have to vote against them.

*Yours  
Richard*

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling, MP,  
House of Commons,  
London, S.W.1.