



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 1962

1. JOHN B.C.

DRAFT WORKING FOR MANIFESTO.

2. JOHN B.C.

S.D.P. WONT A CONFERENCE.

PART OF LEADS ACTION BY P.R.

COMPOSITION - ONE POWER TO INDUSTRY.

AT PRISON WE DON'T HAVE ONE OF OUR  
POWER BECAUSE COMPOSITION OF HOUSE AS  
PRISON EXPOSURE DISCUSSION.

3. P.A.

(a) Strongly object to any elected element - L.A.

L. Deep like setting up an all party  
Conference, which we don't know what to do  
or where it would take us.

(b) If we were to do it we would have to  
know our preferred choice.

4. SMALLER THINGS WE COULD DO.

191 RIGHT TO APPEAL OF OUR BOY

5. LANDSLIDE

NOS ENOUGH MINISTERS

have good Ministers  
to be made - later.

Education

Employment —

Industry —

(TREASURY)

Energy

Transport

6. IA D.F. COULD REASON MINISTERS AS  
LONGS DISPATCH BOX.

7. 19 IN ALL

7 WHIPS.

SPELMANSON - ENERGY - MANFIELD - LEADS.

EMPLOYMENT - GLENATHA

INDUSTRY

SYMONS BILL.

FINDEN DID EMPLOYMENT.

EDUCATION - DAVID SWINSON

19 OUT 107.

8. INCREASE SIGNIFICANT FOR LEADS MINISTERS  
IF THERE ARE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE, WE WILL  
BE VERY HAPPY TO CONSIDER THEM.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

9. CANDIDATE

Sometimes we are defeated: he

Late.

10. ANXIETY the calm part of the lecture late.

Sanct catina to look for opponents.

~~1944~~ 1944. Two YEARS TO END

1954 LIFE PEER

1963 POWELL TO RESOUND.

11. P.M. CHANGE IS CONSTANT.

---

Prison. Royal Time - Wand.



FROM  
LORD BOYD-CARPENTER

106 PARK STREET  
LONDON  
W1Y 4JL

TELEPHONE: 01-493 4272

307

Boyd-Carpenter

*22*

18th November 1982

*ms*

*My dear Prime Minister,*

I would like to tell you how grateful my colleagues from the ACP and I are to you for giving us so much of your time this afternoon and for being so very helpful about the problem about which we came to talk to you.

Having some idea of your burdens I do feel just a little bit guilty that we stayed so long but, as I am sure you will understand, we all found it so interesting and so helpful that there was a massive temptation so to do.

We certainly found the outcome also most encouraging. And, if you will allow me to say so, it was very cheering to see you looking so extremely well.

Thank you once again.

*Your truly*

*Lord Boyd-Carpenter*

The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
10 Downing Street,  
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PRIME MINISTER

cc: Mr. Gow

I attach:

- i. Lord Boyd-Carpenter's letter of 19 October setting out the agenda for tomorrow (Flag A);
- ii. Briefing from Lady Young's Office (Flag B);
- iii. Biographical notes on Peers (Flag C);
- iv. Lady Young's speech at the Party Conference (Flag D).

**CAROLINE STEPHENS**

17 November 1982

FROM  
LORD BOYD-CARPENTER

106 PARK STREET  
LONDON  
W1Y 4JL

TELEPHONE 01-493 4272

19th October 1982

*Dear Mr Stephens,*

I was very glad to get your telephone message this morning to the effect that the Prime Minister would be good enough to see representatives of the Association of Conservative Peers in her room at the House of Commons at 3.45 on Thursday 18th November.

As my earlier letter to the Prime Minister I think made clear, our wish is to discuss with her the question of what should be said about the House of Lords in the Party's Election Manifesto and/or in public speeches.

I attach a copy of a form of words which some of us have worked out and which will form the basis of our suggestions when we meet the Prime Minister. We may also seek to raise the question as to whether any "entrenchment" of the House against the possibility of "swamping" by the creation of large numbers of peers should not be the subject of early legislation.

In the light of my telephone conversation with Mr. Ian Gow, who suggested that a fairly small party could have a more useful discussion than a larger one, I am proposing to bring with me only the Officers of the ACP.

...

These are :

Viscount Eccles (President)  
The Earl of Lauderdale (Deputy Chairman)  
The Lord Orr-Ewing (Deputy Chairman)  
The Earl Cathcart (Treasurer)

I hope this will be agreeable to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely  
The Earl Cathcart

Miss Caroline Stephens,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON S.W.1.

The Conservative Party believes in the continued existence and effectiveness of a Second Chamber both from the point of view of the efficient working of Parliament and as a protection against the dangers of tyranny under a Single Chamber system.

It is the intention of the Conservative Party to convene an All-Party Conference to consider the role of a Second Chamber in the Constitution and to consider whether any changes in the House of Lords are desirable to assist in its efficient fulfillment of this role.



FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
AND THE CHIEF WHIP

16th November, 1982.

*Dear Caroline,*

MEETING WITH CONSERVATIVE PEERS -  
Thursday, 18th November, at 3.45 p.m.

In your letter to the Lord Privy Seal's Private Secretary of 19th October you requested briefing for this meeting.

The Lord Privy Seal has suggested that the briefing material should be divided into the following sections:

(1) A brief summary of the Government's current public position on House of Lords reform.

**FLAG B** (2) The three specific points which the Conservative Peers will raise.

(3) Some brief background material on the Government's consideration of the future of the House of Lords.

**FLAG C** (4) Some biographical notes on the Peers who will attend the meeting.

I am sure you will let me or Michael Townley in the Cabinet Office, to whom I am copying this brief, know if any further briefing is required.

*Yours ever*  
*Michael Pownall*

(M. POWNALL)

Miss Caroline Stephens.



I. A Brief Summary of the Government's current public position on House of Lords Reform

I attach a copy of the Lord Privy Seal's speech at the Conservative Party Conference in October. This expresses the latest Government view on the House of Lords. It can be summarised as follows:

(1) full defence of the principle of a Second Chamber both on constitutional and practical grounds. The Lords play an invaluable role in the legislative process and their debates are of a high quality. Rejection of Labour's proposals for abolition and Social Democrat complicated plan for wholesale constitutional reform.

(2) confirmation that there will be no legislation in this Parliament to reform or entrench the House of Lords. No apology for this because reform can only proceed on the basis of all-Party talks which in turn depend upon a measure of agreement on the type of reform which might take place. Constitutional reform will not on its own solve our problems. The Party should reflect on three key points:

- (i) do not under-estimate the value of the current House of Lords;
- (ii) do not under-estimate the dangers of two Chambers with competing claims to electoral support;
- (iii) do not under-estimate the difficulties inherent in trying to pass major constitutional legislation.

(3) confirmation that the message from the Party on the need for a stronger Second Chamber has been heard by the Government. In the crucial months ahead the Government will carefully consider proposals. Above all the House of Lords must be supported and defended.

II. The three specific points which the Conservative Peers will raise.

The Conservative Peers have already suggested in correspondence two draft passages on the House of Lords for the Manifesto.

The first of these passages is a strong defence of the continued existence and effectiveness of the Second Chamber. This is fully in line with Government policy. The Peers may stress that both Labour and Alliance Manifestos will contain important references to the House of Lords. They may suggest that the Government must respond in kind.

The second proposed passage for the Manifesto would commit the Government to convene an all-Party conference after the election to consider the role of the Second Chamber and whether any changes in the House of Lords are desirable. This is not, at least at the moment, Government policy. The Conservative Peers may describe it as not only electorally advantageous, but also the minimum commitment which the Government should put forward at this stage. In any event the Conservative Peers will express the hope that they should be consulted before any passage for the Manifesto is finally agreed. This would seem unexceptionable and the Peers would certainly welcome an assurance along these lines.

The Conservative Peers are likely to raise two further points as follows:-

(a) the possibility of action in this Parliament to entrench the House of Lords by preventing the "swamping" of the House by a massive creation of Peers.

The Government have publicly announced their decision not to come forward with "entrenchment" legislation this Parliament. The main reasons for this decision were: that it would bring the Lords to the front of the political stage and suggest that the Lords was in need of a legislative defence; that it was not clear that any entrenchment proposals could be fullproof; and that any proposal to entrench the unreformed House of Lords might be misunderstood.

(b) the Peers may stress the need for as many Ministers in the Lords as possible to maintain the effectiveness of the House. They may point out that, although Parliament is constantly busy, the following key Departments have no Ministers in the Lords:

Education  
Employment  
Energy  
Industry  
Treasury

/The

The absence of Employment and Energy Ministers has been particularly commented upon.

III. Some brief background material of the Government's consideration of the future of the House of Lords.

Following the Second Reading of Lord Alport's Constitutional Referendum Bill in 1980, which sought to provide for a referendum in the event of a Bill to abolish or diminish the powers of the Lords, a sub-Committee of the Home and Social Affairs Committee was set up to consider the whole question of entrenchment. This sub-Committee rejected any immediate legislation to entrench the existing House of Lords. But, following the Home Secretary's report to the Prime Minister last year, the sub-Committee was reconstituted to consider and report on possible options for reforming the composition and powers of the House of Lords. Its conclusions can be expected shortly.

In the meantime in a letter to me of 14th October, 1982, Robin Butler confirmed that at a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Lord Privy Seal in Brighton on 5th October, it was agreed that a paper should be prepared on possible reforms of the House of Lords for consideration by H Committee.

IV. Some biographical notes on the Peers who will attend the meeting

I understand that the following Officers of the Association of Conservative Peers will attend:

Viscount Eccles (President)  
 Lord Boyd-Carpenter (Chairman)  
 Earl of Lauderdale (Deputy Chairman)  
 Lord Orr-Ewing (Deputy Chairman)

I understand that Lord Cathcart will not be present.

Biographical notes are attached.

It is probably true to say that the Association of Conservative Peers (formerly the Independent Unionist Peers) is now a more influential and effective body than before. This is due in part to Lord Boyd-Carpenter's robust and active Chairmanship.

None of the four Peers are known to favour full reform of the powers and composition of the House. But they are all anxious to improve the image and effectiveness of the House, even if this means a commitment in the Manifesto to all-Party talks.

**BOYD-CARPENTER** (Life Baron, U.K.), John Archibald Boyd-Carpenter; cr. 1972, PC 1954.



Son of the late Sir Archibald Boyd-Carpenter, MP. B. June 2, 1908; ed. at Stowe and Balliol Coll. Oxford; Pres. Oxford Union 1930; Harmsworth Law Scholar 1932; Council of Legal Education's Prize for Constitutional Law 1933; m. June 25, 1937, Margaret, d. of the late Lt-Col. G. L. Hall, OBE (1s 2d). Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple 1934. Served with Scots Guards 1940-45. Major 1943. MP (Con.) for Kingston-upon-Thames, July 1945-March 1972. Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Oct. 1951; Minister of Transport & Civil Aviation, July 1954; of Pension & Nat. Insurance, Dec. 1955. Privy Councillor 1954. Chief Sec. to the Treasury & Paymaster-General, July 1962-Oct. 1964. Principal

Opposition Spokesman on Housing, Local Govt. 1964-66. Chrmn Public Accounts Cttee 1964-70. Chrmn Orion Insurance Co. & CLRP Investment Trust 1969-72. Director of other companies. Chrmn Civil Aviation Authority April 1972-March 1977. Chrmn Rugby Portland Cement Co. Dec. 1976-. High Steward of the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames 1973. Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London 1973. Chrmn Asscn of Independent Unionist Peers 1980-. Chrmn Carlton Club 1979-. Recreations: Swimming, tennis, walking. Raised to the peerage as Baron Boyd-Carpenter, of Crux Easton in the County of Southampton 1972. Address, *The Rt Hon. Lord Boyd-Carpenter, DL, 12 Eaton Terrace, SW1 (01-730 7765)*; *Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd, 106 Park Street, London, W1 (01-493 4272)*; Club: Carlton.

**LAUDERDALE** (17th Earl of, S.), Patrick Francis Maitland; cr. 1624; Viscount Lauderdale (S.) 1616; Viscount Maitland (S.) 1624; Lord Maitland (S.) 1590; Lord Thirlestane and Boltoun (S.) 1624; 12th Bt of Ravelrig (S.) 1680.



Son of Rev. The Hon. Sydney G. W. Maitland (son of 13th Earl) and brother of the 16th Earl, whom he succeeded Nov. 1968. B. March 17, 1911; ed. at Lancing College and Brasenose College, Oxford (BA Hons. 1933); m. July 20, 1936, Stanka, d. of Prof. Milivoje Lozanitch, Belgrade Univ., Yugoslavia (2s 2d). A newspaper correspondent: *The Times* (Balkans) 1939-41; *News Chronicle* war correspondent, Pacific 1941-43; Foreign Office 1943-45; Editor, *Fleet Street Letter Service*, 1945-59; MP (Con.) for Lanarkshire (Lanark Div.) 1951-59; Contested Caithness & Sutherland in 1964. Industrial and Economic Geography Consultant 1959-. Founder (and Chrmn 1955-61) Expanding Commonwealth Group of Members of Parliament. Chrmn Sub-Cttee F (Energy, Transport, Research) of House of Lords. European Communities Scrutiny Cttee 1974-78. Vice-Chrmn Independent Unionist Peers Cttee 1980-. A Conservative. Recreations: Conversation, travel. Heir, his son, Master of Lauderdale, Viscount Maitland, MA, b. Nov. 4, 1937. Address, *The Earl of Lauderdale, 12 St Vincent Street, Edinburgh (031-556 5692)*; *10 Ovington Square, London SW3 (01-589 7451)* and *House of Lords, SW1A 0PW (01-219 5452)*; Clubs: *New Club (Edinburgh)*, *RSAC (Glasgow)*.

**ECCLES** (1st Visc., U.K.), David McAdam Eccles; cr. 1964; 1st Baron 1962; P.C. 1951; K.C.V.O. 1953.



Son of the late William McAdam Eccles, F.R.C.S., M.S., and Anna, d. of the late E. B. Anstie of Devizes. B. Sept. 18, 1904; ed. at Winchester and at New Coll. Oxford; m. Oct. 10, 1929, Hon. Sybil Frances Dawson (d. June 1977) d. of the late Viscount Dawson of Penn (2s. 1d.). Joined Ministry of Economic Warfare Sept. 1939; Economic Adviser to H.M. Ambassadors at Madrid and Lisbon 1940-42; transferred to Ministry of Production 1942. Minister of Works 1951. Minister of Education 1954-57; Pres. of the Board of Trade Jan. 1957; Minister of Education 1959 to July 1962; Paymaster-General 1970-73. Chrmn. of the British Library 1973-78. Hon. F.R.I.B.A. 1955. P.C. 1951. K.C.V.O. 1953. Gran Cordon of the Liberator (Venezuela) 1974. Memb. for Chippenham from 1943 to July 1962. A Conservative. Heir, his son, Hon. John Dawson Eccles, b. 1931. Address, *The Rt. Hon. Viscount Eccles, 6 Barton Street, SW1 (01-222 1387)*; *Dean Farm, Chute, Andover (Chute Standen 210)*; Clubs: *Brooks's, Roxburghe*.

**ORR-EWING** (Life Baron, UK), Charles Ian Orr-Ewing; cr. 1971; 1st Bt 1963; OBE.



Son of Archibald Ian Orr-Ewing. B. Feb. 10, 1912; ed. at Harrow and Trinity Coll. Oxford, MA (Physics); m. Sept. 2, 1939, Joan, d. of W. G. McMinnies of Cheltenham (4s). Chartered Engineer and Company Director. Fellow Inst. of Electrical Engineers. BBC TV Service 1938-39 and 1946-49. RAFVR 1939-46. Chief Radar Officer SHAEF 1945. Pres. and Chrmn of Electronic Eng. Assn 1969-70. Parl. Priv. Sec. to Rt Hon. Sir Walter Monckton, Min. of Labour & National Service 1951-55. Gov. Imperial Coll. of Science 1951-57. Joint Sec. 1922 Cttee 1956. Parl. Under-Sec. of State for Air 1957-59. Parl. and Financial Sec. to Admiralty 1959. Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1959-63. 1922 Executive 1964-. Vice-Chrmn from 1966-70. Member Select Cttee on Science and Technology 1967-69. MP (Con.) for Hendon North 1950-70. Chrmn of Metrication Board 1972-77, Vice-Pres. & Founder Lords & Commons Ski Club. Chrmn Harrow Wanderers Cricket Club 1979-. Vice-Chrmn Independent Unionist Peers 1978-. A Conservative. Recreations: Cricket, skiing, tennis. Created a Baronet 1963. Raised to the peerage as Baron Orr-Ewing, of Little Berkhamsted in the County of Hertfordshire 1971. Heir to baronetcy, his son, Hon. Alistair Simon Orr-Ewing, b. June 10, 1940. Address, *The Lord Orr-Ewing, OBE, 9 Cheyne Gardens, London SW3 (01-730 3728)*; Clubs: *Boodle's, MCC*.

Boyd-Carpenter

22nd October 1982

Thank you so much for your letter of 20th October.

I confirm that the Prime Minister is looking forward to seeing you in her room at the House at 15.45 on Thursday, 18th November.

Thank you very much for your successful efforts in reducing the delegation from Executive to Officers.

The Prime Minister was most disappointed not to be able to get to Mr Harold Macmillan's Lecture on 19th October; I was there, and was sorry that we were not able to have a word.

It was a memorable occasion.

IAN GOW

Lord Boyd-Carpenter

bcc. The Baroness Young



LORD BOYD-CARPENTER

106 PARK STREET  
LONDON  
W1Y 4JL

TELEPHONE: 01-493 4272

20th October 1982

15.45.

My dear Ian,

The P.M. in her letter to me of the 14th October about arrangements for a meeting with representatives of the ACP Executive on Thursday 18th November asks me to let you have a note of those who would be coming.

I have already in fact given it to Caroline Stephens but for convenience I can confirm to you that David Eccles, Patrick Lauderdale, Ian Orr-Ewing and Alan Cathcart, who are the other Officers beside myself of the ACP, will be attending.

I was very sorry that both the P.M. and you missed Harold Macmillan's Lecture at the Carlton Club last night. It was absolutely magnificent.

Another guarantee against the Communists!

Your son  
Tolu

Ian Gow Esq., MP,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON S.W.1.

Boyd-Carpenter

(Pending)

14th October 1982

Thank you so much for your letter of 1st October.

You have spoken to Ian Gow on the telephone, and of course I would be pleased to see you and your colleagues.

I have asked Caroline Stephens to get into touch with you so that we can arrange a convenient date. I think that it would be easier for everyone if we were to have the meeting in my room at the House. I will ask Janet Young to be there as well.

Perhaps you would kindly let Ian Gow have a note of those who will be accompanying you.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter





FROM  
LORD BOYD-CARPENTER

106 PARK STREET  
LONDON  
W1Y 4JL

TELEPHONE: 01-493 4272

1st October 1982

R2

*Dear Prime Minister,*

The Executive of the Association of Conservative Peers had a meeting at the beginning of August with Janet Young on two points about which they were concerned :

- (1) The reference to be made in our Manifesto about policy in respect of the House of Lords
- (2) The possibility of action during the present Parliament to make "swamping" of the House by means of a massive creation of peers by a Labour Government impossible without further legislation.

In the course of discussion with Janet, it was thought that the Executive should seek an early opportunity after the Recess to come and see you in order to discuss these two related issues.

I am therefore writing to ask whether you would be so kind as to give us an opportunity to come and see you in the fairly near future.

...

I hope I don't need to say that in making this request I am very conscious of the pressure on your time and very concerned that one should not seek unreasonably to add to that pressure. But I am sure you will realise that this subject has very great importance to the members of my Executive as well as, I hope and believe, to the Party as a whole. I would therefore be most grateful if you could ask your office to let us have an appointment.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Janet Young.

*Your em  
Ter B-C*

The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON S.W.1.

cc: The Right Honourable Baroness Young