

HARRIS



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23rd June, 1987

Dear Ralph,

Thank you so much for your message of congratulation following our success in the General Election. It was good of you to write in the way you did and I want you to know how much I appreciated it.

We will now be able to continue with our work in government knowing that we have the support of the British people, together with renewed international confidence in Britain.

Yours

Ronald

Lord Harris of High Cross

R13



Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher:

as from: 2 Lord North Street,
Westminster, SW1.
11th June 1987.

Dear Margaret

As I sit in my study at home trying to work - with the result still some hours off - my thoughts are tormented with a single doubt. If you should be cheated of an outstandingly deserved, personal triumph, it will be due above all to a single malignancy: the difficulty/impossibility of defending the incurable deficiencies of nationalised "free" health care against the reckless promises of Labour/Alliance make-belief that another 1 or 2 per cent on their budgets would provide a miracle cure.

Last week I departed to Canada (in place of Brian Griffiths) to address a Christian trade union seminar on "The Limits of the Welfare State". As a result of studying contemporary US and historical UK evidence, I found myself abandoning the panacea of reverse income tax and all that. Instead I preached to a receptive audience the danger that all unconditional benefits - in cash or kind - risked spreading dependency at the expense of self-help. My conclusion was that dependency can be as addictive as drugs or drink and no less destructive of human will and welfare. (The same lesson emerged from studying the growth of "unemployment" for my Aims of Industry pamphlet.)

When you have recovered from recent exertions, I'm going to ask you to glance at my Canadian lecture. My hope is that it might justify a brief session with Brian, David Willett(?) and me to see how best we might tackle the pseudo-compassion mongers as a major shared war aim over the next 4 or 5 years. I don't have a new panacea - only a determination that you (or others) should never again be exposed to the kind of (lethal) cross-examination with which David Dimbleby sought to prosecute you on television last night.

V Day: 4am

*CONGRATULATIONS on an
almost unbelievable victory. I hope we
can still meet.*

Regards as ever - to you both

Heath