



Conservative Central Office

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Pine Minister ②
MBA 24/7

The Prime Minister - for information

With Compliments

*1 with the Prime Minister
with the Chairman
H.P.R.*

Return to Stephen



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From:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP

NT/AM

July 1987

RE: AMA

There is dissatisfaction amongst Conservatives on the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA). It is possible that we may not control the AMA for some time to come. There are some similar feelings within the Association of County Councils (ACC) although we could regain control of the ACC after 1989.

It has been suggested that Conservatives are wasting their time in the AMA and that Conservative controlled authorities are wasting their money contributing to it. Westminster has already announced its intention to withdraw.

Conservative councillors do not have an organisation to compare with Labour's Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). That is funded, with about £600,000 a year, by Labour controlled authorities and trade unions and employs 19 people. Labour is also helped by the Association of London Authorities of London Labour authorities.

There are a number of options:-

- 1) Remain with the status quo.
- 2) Form an Association of Conservative Authorities. This would embrace members from the AMA, ACC and the Association of District Councils (ADC). The advantage is that it could provide an official channel of communication between local and central government. The disadvantage is that Conservatives closely involved with the ADC and ACC would be very opposed to such a move.
- 3) Encourage the setting up of a 'Local Government Research Institute' (LGRI) funded only by Conservative authorities, designed to parallel Labour's LGIU.
- 4) Enlarge the Local Government section within Central Office to enable us to provide a fuller briefing service.

I would be grateful if you could let me know your views on the AMA before we decide whether to examine these proposals.

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP.

cc. The Prime Minister