

PRIME MINISTER

STAR

I enclose in the folder for your signature a revised, warmer, letter to Lloyd Turner, ex-editor who wrote warmly to you.

As you may be aware, Lord Stevens has broken with the near pornographic Sunday Sport and sacked Turner's positively awful successor, Mike Gabbert. Gabbert is succeeded by Brian Hitchen, deputy editor, Sunday Express, whom you have met when he was on The Star.

When Hitchen has settled in - and when we see what he is making of The Star - I think you should see him.

Now that the News of the World has capitulated to Jeffrey Archer, you might care to see sometime David Montgomery, the NOW editor at the time, but now Editor of Today (which he has enormously improved both journalistically and politically).

I cannot recommend you yet to see Wendy Henry, present Editor of the News of the World, especially as her Sunday colour supplement last weekend invited the public to ring No 10 (giving the number) to have a chat with you. This caused major disruption and I have written to her telling her off for her thoughtlessness.



BERNARD INGHAM
30 October 1987

PRIME MINISTER

LETTER FROM LLOYD TURNER - EX DAILY STAR

We have not had a chance to discuss the attached. But you are obviously unhappy about replying.

Content I do so on your behalf?

Bye

BERNARD INGHAM

26 October 1987

*I thought we
needed a letter like*

*ref. relevant to the New
Discards etc.
and*

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PRIME MINISTER

You should see the attached letter from Lloyd Turner, ex-editor, The Star, who implies he left not because of the Jeffrey Archer case but because Lord Stevens chose to "enter into a partnership with porn merchants".

He somewhat disingenuously suggests that your infrequent meetings with him helped to move his political viewpoint from moderate Left to full-blooded support at the last election. Notwithstanding your persuasiveness, I don't think there is any doubt that The Star swung decisively behind you because of a change of ownership of Express Newspapers.

For the rest, the letter is an attack on Lord Stevens for taking The Star downmarket to such an extent that Mr Turner thinks it should no longer be registered as a newspaper.

I must say Mr Turner presents himself in an excessively virtuous light, even though I do agree The Star is now a pretty awful paper.

I hesitate to recommend you to reply personally but you may feel that you ought. If you do, I attach a draft for your signature.

Content to sign?

Or agree I should acknowledge Mr Turner's letter?



BERNARD INGHAM
20 October 1987