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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 First time since 1983.

without Wilke White as
Leader.

Pay an eloquent tribute to
him for his untiring wisdom &
loyalty

How magnificently John Birt
has carried out the task of leader

And what a blow we owe to
Boris Deane perhaps



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THE PRIME MINISTER

The team ^{of all front bench} work has been excellent.

2. Fully aware of immense work
everyone has put in.

18 Bills already passed

So many people have stayed late
hours including some of our longest
standing peers to demonstrate their
support both for our front bench team
and for the direction and success of
govt policies.



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3. Bills have their origin
with Mandates.

The Mandate was drafted with
careless attention, specifically designed to
repeal the policies, to deal with some
long standing problems like relief, and
to extend opportunity - like the education
Bill.

This was against the background
of a transformation of our country



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fortunes

because we have struck

unsuccessfully to our policies

however great the contemporary

ambitions - because we

believed they were right.

They turned out to be right

for our country & people

Thank goodness we didn't finish

we should have been returned if we had



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THE PRIME MINISTER

4 You would I know like me
to say a word particularly about
2 Bills.

The Community Charge
(Local Govt. Finance Bill)

It was in 1974 - the October when
Ted was leader of our Party and we
pledged ourselves to get rid of rates

We were not returned until 1979
and had other things to attend to



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immediately. By 1983, we had not
reached agreement in the party - considered
should replace rather but we know
better than to have a resolution in England
and we could not let them go on
riding as fast in the left wing authorities.
so a introduction RATE. CAPPING.

[Note - conventions in land force
have broken down with the
new military left.]

Scotland by law had to have



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A revaluation and did.

And we had the biggest rebellion
among our Associates we have ever
known. We went down to 13% in the
Polls. - 20%.

By that time we had done a good
deal more work on a substitute bill
last and the way of joining up had
authored through the rel support grant.

We introduced and Parliament
passed through all its stages



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the Community's charge for Scotland
before the last election.

So we were in a good
position to know what to submit
the manifesto for E.C.W.

Quote - p. 63.

Never have we been clearer
on more detailed about the slope and
purpose of the Bill.



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local authority expenditure is paid
for in 3 ways

Transport — 50%

Business — 25%

Relief Community Charge — 25%

Most local authority services are
in respect of people — not properties

education 50% of cost

Social services 11%

Police force 16%



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Reasonable to have a personal net
a property tax.

① Tax is averaged so that

for same services
at same level of efficiency.

same community charge is levied

② Ready receiver all over England

(2) If a local resident does not have
the ability to pay the standard charge
- generous rebate - otherwise 9m (35m
local)



(6)

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- ③ People benefiting mostly of all
widows
single people
- ④ Yes some people will pay who have
never paid before
- policies are based on
equity and fairness
not on savings and losses
- needed to broader the base
- ⑤ Bill contains
a fundamental change of
not dependent on
expenditure - not on
- but on and for a standard
sense



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⑥ It is not governments
which face the community's
charge
but local councils.

⑦ Answerable to all electors
no longer a separation
between those who demand
& those who foot the bill

⑧ - Preedy - L.M. stand up to cut
expenditure



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(9) Those who spend most do not necessarily

give best service

(10) Release of united business relates to lower costs.

REVISION FUNCTION

So the improvements in the
Scottish Bill made during its passage
have been repeated fully in the
Bill now before you.

Yes of course we expect



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Your Lordships to carry out
a revision function

But in return - may I ask
Your Lordships to recall that the
fundamental structure and details
of that Bill was before the electorate
and it was that which was
endorsed by them. A Bill which
in other words had already gone through
Your Lordships' revision function



15,

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S Education Bill

6 pages in manifesto.

Particular reference to schools

Some other countries run system well

Some authorities not.

→ Ending system - schools to opt
Out - all over England

State independent school

→ ILGA - p. 10 - open for inner
Cities



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LEA - spends 52% more per pupil
than outer London

- of deprived areas

45% more than Manchester

83% more than Plymouth

Exam achievements

86% only 96 LEA

on O level A level

CSE Grade 1

Manchester - Budget opt out
- or any school opt out



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Note - Poly lectures for to
Special Poly Grant Budgeting.
as free-standing
Corporate bodies.

These things again - for Inver
Chair.

6 House Bill -

7 Return of Personal Responsibility -
- Civil responsibility - Non choice in
- Richardson housing.
- have independent units

Political



N.L.W.

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PRIME MINISTER

I assume that, as in previous years, you will want to speak to the Conservative Peers from manuscript notes. We have set aside the whole of Monday afternoon for speechwriting. Some of the material in your Perth speech would seem to be what is required.

The Lords' Hansard Report, covering their debate on the Second Reading of the Community Charge is in the folder.

N.L.W.

N. L. WICKS

13 May 1988



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23rd May, 1988

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 18th May, and for your kind words. I am glad you think that my meeting with the Peers was useful. I, for my part, certainly found it so.

Thank you also for your kind invitation to the Cocktail Party which the Association of Conservative Peers is holding on Wednesday, 13th July. Sadly, I cannot accept because I already have a string of engagements on that evening. I am most grateful to you, though, for asking me.

Yours

Raymond

The Rt Hon Lord Boyd-Carpenter DL