



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

The key point is the p.s. on
page 2 of Terry's minute. The
6 O'clock News carried the Channel
4 statement saying that the
programme would contain nothing to
suggest that Cecil Parkinson had been
involved in illegal activities.

If you are content to go ahead
with the Sue Cameron interview
on Monday I will ensure that
Mark has the Oral Questions folder
(and the Bible Notes?)

to hand you in your room in the
House to provide some props for
verisimilitude.

Will go

ahead

Jm

3/xi

nd

PRIME MINISTER

No decision has yet been taken by Channel 4 to schedule this particular programme although Press speculation is that it could be shown sooner rather than later.

The programme is being produced by an independent company from Islington, Fulcrum Productions and has yet to be finished.

Should Channel 4 decide to transmit the programme they will need to have clearance from the IBA with a decision being taken by George Russell and Lord Chalfont. This will be their first editorial challenge since their appointments.

Our understanding is that the rumours implicating Cecil Parkinson began in the City following yesterday morning's story in The Scotsman which did not name names.

I have discussed this with Bernard and we both feel that you should go ahead with Monday's interview for a number of reasons:

1. If you pulled out now we would have to give them a reason, other than on diary grounds as they would offer to fit in with any date you said, and this would be seen as a piece of blackmail.
2. It would seem peculiar if you did not appear when there were interviews with the Speaker, the Leader of the House and Mr Kinnock about the workings of the House of Commons.
3. This film is being produced by an ITN team who are in no way associated with Fulcrum Productions.
4. Sue Cameron, who is the wife of Keith Hampson MP, is a responsible interviewer and is sympathetic

Whether or not to give interviews to Channel 4 in the future should be considered after Channel 4 has shown the programme - that is if they decide to or are allowed to - when the content can be judged.

Agree to go ahead on Monday?

T.J.P.

TERRY J PERKS
3 November 1989

PS. Since signing the above minute Channel 4 have issued a statement saying that Mr Parkinson does not feature in the programme being made on share dealing.

TJP

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Lennox Boyd

Supt Butler

CHANNEL 4 - PREVIEW OF TELEVISIONING PARLIAMENT

If Channel 4 are doing a programme quite good, I don't want to do this
not

You have agreed to be filmed and interviewed on Monday by Sue Cameron of Channel 4 about how you prepare for Question Time. This is to form part of a programme to go out on the eve of the Queen's Speech explaining to viewers how the House works and its procedures. Sue Cameron is to talk also to the Speaker, the Leader and Mr Kinnoch.

The following will take place:

1. Make-up girl will come to No 10 at 2.15 pm.
2. Filming of you and Mark Lennox-Boyd walking along corridor of No 10 and out through the front door.
3. Film of you getting into your car with Mark and driving down Downing Street on your way to the House.
4. Film of you and Mark looking over your Questions' folder in your room in the House. Some brief discussion between you and Mark taking place (film only - no sound).
5. Sue Cameron interviews you in your room at the House.

Her questions will be:

- How do you prepare for Question Time in the Commons - what amount of effort goes into it?
- How do you cope with the noise?
- Isn't a woman ^{at} a disadvantage presentationally, raising her voice to battle against the noise?

I have side-lined points Bernard made when he sent to you the original attached request on 5 October.

T.J.P.

TERRY J PERKS

1 November 1989

PRIME MINISTER

CHANNEL 4 - PREVIEW OF TELEVISIONING COMMONS

Sue Cameron, Keith Hampson MP's wife, has asked if you would contribute a short interview to a Channel 4 programme which will go out on the eve of the Queen's Speech and the introduction of television to the House. The purpose of the programme is to explain the working of the House and its procedures to viewers. She is talking to the Speaker and Leader and hopes to interview Kinnock.

She wants to ask you three questions:

- How do you prepare for Question Time in the Commons - what amount of effort goes into it?
- How do you cope with the noise?
- Isn't a woman a disadvantage presentationally, raising her voice to battle against the noise?

Before you say no could I argue the case for?:

- Sue Cameron is a responsible interviewer
- She is sympathetic }!?
- There is much to be said for explaining the effort that goes into preparing for Questions; that you have never transferred an ^{oral} question; that your method of preparation is an extremely good way of finding out what is going on deep down in the Government, making a British Prime Minister probably the best informed Head of Government in the world; and that Question Time, for all the noise and party political in-fighting, is an important bit of the constitution at which the leader of the Executive is held to account.

- There is even more to be said for explaining that the floor of the House is not merely a forum but a place where Ministers' resolve is tested; that part of the test is the tumult and the shouting which you have not allowed to get you down these last 10 years; and that you don't intend to allow it to do so now.
- And there is, in my view, everything to be said for discussing openly the problem that confronts every woman in a noisy House; if you raise your voice you are accused of being shrill or screeching whereas if a man raises his voice and bawls like a bull he is seen to be dominant and commanding.

Sue Cameron assures me she would take no more than 10 minutes and would like to record in the first week of November.

Agree, subject to a convenient date and time.

BERNARD INGHAM
October 5, 1989