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Recd CF
11/12/80

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

10th December 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

Since I wrote to you on November 20th about Edward Boyle, he has told me that there has been a deterioration in his health and that he needs considerable help to move about. He says, "happily, one's mental facilities are not in any way affected by this condition", and that he has no pain. Because he is on the spot he is able and determined to continue with his work as Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University. He says, however, "I fear it would be unrealistic to suppose that I shall ever again be able to preside at a meeting of the Top Salaries Review Body", although he still hopes to be able to make a journey to London around Christmas.

If your decision is to abolish the Review Body, there is no problem. If, however, you wish it to continue in some form or another, the question of chairmanship arises. It would be possible for him to remain nominally Chairman and for me to take the chair, but it will become increasingly known that he is unable to attend meetings. None-the-less if you think this politically possible I personally would welcome this solution, even if only for a short time.

At the present time we are in the middle of a comprehensive study of how to deal with the salaries of the judiciary - something to which I know the Lord Chancellor attaches great importance. We hope to conclude this study and that of the other groups for whom we make recommendations and report not later than the beginning of April. Personally I am happy to do whatever you wish, either to act as Chairman with Edward being officially Chairman,

./..

or formally to take over the chair, or to help any new Chairman to play an active part halfway through a somewhat complicated investigation.

It is my intention tomorrow, at Edward's request, to inform the other members of the Review Body of the state of his health.

Perhaps on Tuesday of next week when we meet at dinner you could give me some indication of what you would like me to do. In the meantime we are continuing our work.

Yours sincerely
Edwin Rowan

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 December, 1980.

My dear Quintin,

Thank you very much for your letter of 27 December.

I am very glad that you were able to see Edward Boyle before Christmas. He has himself written to me suggesting that Edwin Plowden should take over the Chairmanship of the Top Salaries Review Body by the first half of March at the latest; and if Edward really thinks he cannot continue, I am sure that will be the best solution.

I take the point about the GLC elections: we will have to look into this.

Yours ever,

(SGD) MT

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, CH, FRS, DL.

MR. WOLFSON

The Prime Minister has asked if you would please take up the point in the attached letter from Lord Hailsham about next year's GLC election, and the suggestion that the Party Organisation in London should report. She has replied to Lord Hailsham saying that we will look into the point.

T. P. LANKESTER

31 December, 1980.

PRIME MINISTER

At Flag A is a letter from Lord Boyle saying that he hopes you will agree that Lord Plowden should take over formally from him as Chairman of TSRB not later than the first half of March. At Flag B is a letter from the Lord Chancellor making the same point but also drawing your attention to the likelihood that some very left wing Labour people will be elected to the GLC next year.

You have already told Lord Plowden that he should continue as acting Chairman of TSRB for the time-being. If Lord Boyle really thinks he must stand down - and if he is not going to be able to attend the meetings before next year's Report I think we must accept this - I imagine you will agree with him that Lord Plowden should take over as formal Chairman. However, we would normally take Ian Bancroft's advice on this; and if you agree, I will seek his advice. Although Lord Boyle's letter is written in manuscript, it is not a particularly "personal" letter, and I hope you will agree that I should show Bancroft a copy of it.

Yes please
Shall I ask David Wolfson to follow up Lord Hailsham's point about the GLC election and the suggestion that the Party organisation in London should report? I attach a draft reply which you may wish to send to Lord Hailsham.

S. J. Pike

pp TZ

30 December 1980

FROM: LORD HAILSHAM OF SAINT MARYLEBONE



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

27 Dec 80

My dear Margaret:

Thank you both for yr. Ch'mas card. I hope you spent a restful Christmas at Ekeghess. I have been alone at home, but with plentiful visits from my family. We had a gigantic Christmas lunch varying from my father in law (94, I think) to my grandchild, Elizabeth (not yet 3)

However the purpose of this letter is to tell you abt. Edward Boyle, who gave me dinner last night at the Stafford Hotel in St. James' Place.

He was sleeping at the Lon: clinic & will have gone back to Leeds by now. He is now down to 9 stone.

He says that he plans to come up again in Feb.; but is, I think fully aware of his condition, wh: he is facing with equanimity, ^{fearlessness} clarity of mind, and fortitude.

He evidently wished me to tell you two things.

He wants Plowden to succeed him for however a brief period at the TSRB. He says Plowden is a young 74 and that his Chairmanship wd. enable a new, and younger, Chairman to get to

FROM: LORD HAILSHAM OF SAINT MARYLEBONE



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

know the ropes before taking over. Boyle himself will formally resign before the time comes to sign the next report. He said that it wd: be improper for him to do so since he had ~~the~~ not heard the evidence.

He also told me, and I think wd: have wished me to pass on, that the new Labour component of the GLC wh: will be elected in the spring will contain some very dangerous

elements indeed who wd: make Benn look like
an old fashioned Victorian Liberal in comparison.

I think he is likely to be speaking from knowledge
in saying this, and, if so, you shd: be aware of it,
since on present trends they may well be in a
majority. I wd: think it wise to get our London
party organisation to look into their backgrounds
and report.

Best wishes for 1981 and always.

Q.H.

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.

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APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

22nd December, 1980

The Right Honourable
The Prime Minister

1. Mr Patterson

2. Mrs [unclear]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

My dear Margaret:

Top Salaries Review Body

Lady Seear came to see me at the end of last week about the Chairmanship of the TSRB.

You will probably know that Lord Boyle is not well and she told me (rightly, I think) that there can be little prospect of his taking the chair again; indeed, I believe that he thinks of resigning fairly soon. (I may soon know more of this as I am dining with him on Boxing Day.)

Lady Seear told me that the members of the Review Body felt strongly that the right successor would be Lord Plowden. She recognised that his age (he is 74) might be against him; but his colleagues see no sign of failing powers (and nor indeed do I). I gave no indication of support, but told her I would pass on their views. There will be other claims, no doubt, and the plans which Geoffrey Howe is preparing for us to consider may well influence the choice. But you will want to know of the TSRB's own strong support for Plowden.

yrs:

[Handwritten signature]

APPOINTMENTS IN CONFIDENCE

→ ~~Mr Patterson~~



to see

T

10 DOWNING STREET

16/12

PRIME MINISTER

This letter from Edwin Plowden raises the question once again of the TSRB chairmanship in view of Edward Boyle's health. I think it would be best for Plowden to continue as acting Chairman, which he is prepared to do.

Yes please.

You can have a word with Plowden about this at the dinner next Tuesday.

TPL

Agreed mb

PM spoke with Ed Plowden

and they agreed that he should continue as acting chairman

12 December 1980

T. 16/12

J.P.

12 December 1980

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter of 10 December, which I have placed before her. I am sure she will want to have a word with you about it next Tuesday evening.

J. P. LANKESTER

The Lord Plowden, KCB, KBE

J.P.