

PRIME MINISTER

File KB

BBC RADIO FOUR "WORLD THIS WEEKEND"

You have agreed to give Gordon Clough a 25-minute interview for World This Weekend tomorrow at Chequers. They propose to arrive just before 1000. They would like to record from 1010 and be away by 1045 and certainly no later than 1100 if they are to get it on the one o'clock news.

I shall arrive at 0930 by which time I hope to have read all the papers. This will allow 30 minutes for briefing.

The programme is intended to mark your 6th Anniversary and will look back at your record by way of current topics and then forward to the next election.

It may well be that Mr. Clough will start with the County Council elections and John Selwyn Gummer is to telephone you to brief you on them early on Sunday.

Your interviewer may then turn to the Bonn Summit's outcome as a convenient way of moving into unemployment. He is also proposing to mention the teachers strike in relation to your theme that we must improve our educational standards and our technological grasp.

He could well put in a question or two on the re-organisation of the welfare state though I have told him you will be able to answer only in general terms and most certainly not in detail. (I see considerable advantage in your being able to brief the listener on what you are seeking to do in conducting the biggest review of the welfare state since Beveridge).

Finally, Mr. Clough will probably come back to politics and ask you about your aims, hopes and expectations for the next election.

I have discussed this agenda with Robin. We agree we should not burden you with briefing especially as the Chairman of the Party will be ringing you early tomorrow.

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The present criticism of the Government is confused. On the one hand you are said to be doing too much badly (FT); on the other hand you are said to be running out of steam. The evidence from the County Council elections is anything but conclusive.

Perhaps what this points to tomorrow is the need to demonstrate you have a clear grasp of what the Government is trying to do; that you are a radical with lots of steam left in you; and of undiminished vigour.

All in all I see the broadcast as an opportunity not merely to rally your troops but also to rally the nation by explaining what your Government is trying to do with Britain.

My advice is to take this interview at a measured rather than a brisk pace; to be discursive and reflective but at the same time demonstrating drive, determination and a clarity of purpose on how your Government intends to use its power for the benefit of the people.

BERNARD INGHAM

4 May 1985