

PRIME MINISTER

I thought I should report on two matters that were raised at the 1922.

- 1 Hal Miller referred to the Times article which had comments about your meeting with the Executive. He was quite clear in his disapproval.
  
- 2 John Stokes (in an unrelated comment) referred to the present state of the Party. "Where is the Party going and what is our strategy for the next General Election? People talk politics in pubs - a bad sign for Tories. People should not talk politics if they are happy (laughter). If we must have Bills, let's have some popular ones (laughter). As for civil servants, they should spend more time with us and ordinary people. We need a closer relationship between Ministers and ourselves and we will then be a happier Party and confident of victory at the General Election".

He made his points in a lighthearted way, but they gained considerable support.

AL.

ms

PP MARK LENNOX-BOYD  
8 February 1990