



House of Lords

Lord NORTHFIELD, 60 Courtenay Street, London SE11 5PQ

15th September 1980

R16

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Prime Minister

You will know through Mr. Callaghan (and possibly through Sir Michael Palliser) that I indicated interest in case you are conducting a broad search for a nominee with a Labour background for the new Commission of the EEC.

It so happens that I am being pressed to sign a contract for the purchase of a house; and before doing so, I enquired of Mr. Callaghan whether he knew if your choice is now made. I will continue to postpone if need be. Mr. Callaghan writes to suggest that I should contact you direct; and this I do in the hope that you can indicate - if necessary in complete confidence - whether I should rule out the hope of Brussels and go ahead with these personal plans.

Yours sincerely,

David Northfield

Rt. Hon. Mrs. M. Thatcher M.P.  
Prime Minister

Prime Minister.

Trudy.

Could I please have a word with you about how we reply.

MW 16ix

Eno PA



## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

18 September 1980

*Dear Lord Northfield,*

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 15 September.

She understands the dilemma you find yourself in. She is in touch with Mr. Callaghan about people with a Labour background who might be suitable for appointment as the second of the two British Commissioners in Brussels. A number of names are under consideration, and the Prime Minister has asked me to let you know in the strictest confidence that yours is among them. She is not able to say, however, when a decision will be reached.

The Prime Minister realises that this is not a very helpful answer for you in your present domestic situation, but there is no more she can say at the moment. She will let you know as soon as the position becomes clearer.

*Yours sincerely,**Shirley Williams.*

The Lord Northfield



House of Lords · Westminster

2  
Prime Minister.  
To see.  
MMS  
26ix

24th September 1980

*ms*

*Dear Mr. Whitmore*

Thank you for your letter of 18th September, which enables me to deal for the time being with the domestic problem about which I wrote to the Prime Minister.

In case you would find it useful at some stage, I venture to enclose an abridged c.v. which indicates my EEC experience.

*Yours sincerely*

*Dorothy Northfield.*

NORTHFIELD

Clive Whitmore Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

LORD NORTHFIELD (Donald Chapman)

Abridged c.v.

Born: 25.11.1923

M.A. (Cantab) 1st Cl. Hons (Economics and Politics)

Formerly:- M.P. for Birmingham, Northfield, 1951-70  
(incl. Chairman, Procedure Cttee 1966-70)  
Chairman, H.M. Development Commissioners, 1974-80.  
Chairman: Cttee of Enquiry into Ownership &  
Occupancy of Agricultural Land 1978/9.  
("Northfield Committee")

At present: Chairman, Telford (New Town) Development Corporation.

"EUROPEAN" Experience:-

At present:- Special Adviser on Environment Policy to  
the E.E.C. Commission  
(Role: assisting at official level in liaison  
between Commission and DoE; interpretation  
of UK environment policy to Commission;  
assistance in drafting key Directives)

Member of UK Delegation (deputy leader 1968/70)  
to Assemblies of Council of Europe and WEU  
with special role on environment (Rapporteur 1981)

Previously:- 1971-5. Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford  
and then of University of Sussex, doing full  
time research on the institutions of the  
E.E.C. (This included periods of residence  
in Brussels, with freedom of entry for  
research purposes to all parts of the  
Commission headquarters and European Parliament.  
Publications - "The European Parliament - the  
Way Ahead" (European Movement); and "The Road  
to European Union" (University of Sussex)).

Work on agricultural land ownership in EEC  
countries - see "Northfield Report" above.

Work on impact of European economies and Lomé  
Convention on islands of the West Indies

-----  
General:- Virtually bi-lingual English & French  
Some knowledge of German

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

26 SEP 1980

12 1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0



Good

13

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 October 1980

Dear Lord Northfield,

As you will have seen from today's newspapers, Mr. Ivor Richard has accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to become the second of the two British Commissioners in Brussels.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say that she would have preferred to let you know of Mr. Richard's appointment before it appeared in the Press, but we had to announce it at very short notice yesterday when it became clear that certain newspapers had got to hear of it prematurely.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Whiteman.

The Lord Northfield

CONFIDENTIAL

*Enno Bot.*

NOTE FOR THE FILE

EUROPEAN COMMISSIONERS

The following names were mentioned in the discussion this morning recorded in my letter to Mr. Lever of today's date:-

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| The Rt. Hon. Dr. J. Dickson Mabon | - It was considered that he would not be an effective Commissioner.   |
| Mr. Robert Maclennan              | - Unlikely to fight hard enough for British interests   |
| The Rt. Hon. William Rodgers      | - An excellent candidate but would not accept the post because of the repercussions on his own standing in the Labour Party |
| The Rt. Hon. David Owen           | - (as above)  |
| Lord Northfield                   | - A light-weight  |
| Lord Brimelow                     | - A backroom operator   |
| Lord Harris                       |   |
| Professor David Marquand          | - A dilettante MP   |
| Mr. Maurice Foley                 |   |
| Mr. Ivor Richard                  | - A good candidate but lacking in political weight  |
| The Rt. Hon. Alan Williams        | - (as above)  |
| Roderick MacFarquhar              | - Plenty of international experience but no administrative experience   |

The names of Sir Roy Denman, Sir Michael Palliser and Mr. John Pardoe were also mentioned but it was agreed that for the moment at least the effort to find a suitable Labour Party candidate should be continued.

25 July 1980

*Paul*

CONFIDENTIAL