



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 September 1982

✓
The Prime Minister has asked us to provide some figures, on which she will draw in various speeches in the months ahead. I wonder if you would be able to help us with these?

The Prime Minister wishes to deploy the argument that there are shifting patterns of employment over the years, and that we have experienced in this country considerable reductions in the labour force in various sectors - often during periods of falling unemployment; and that these "jobs lost" have been replaced by growth of employment in other sectors. The particular examples she has in mind are coal mining, agriculture and textiles. Could you produce a table with some striking examples of this, taking, say, 1960 and the most recent figures as the years on which the comparisons would be based? If the point can be made even more strikingly by choosing a longer or shorter timescale, that, too, would be of interest to the Prime Minister.

We would also like a table which would illustrate the reduction in the labour force employed in manufacturing in recent years, together with a table showing the split between private and public sector manpower over the same period. It may be that you could simply draw our attention to statistics already published in these cases (and perhaps in other cases referred to in this letter).

The Prime Minister is also looking for some quantification of current jobs which did not exist ten years ago - because, say, the product or service concerned was not then available. I wonder if there are any measures which you might suggest?

The Prime Minister is also looking for some figures to illustrate the argument that the number of school leavers coming on to the labour market in recent years has been such that, even if there had been no recession in the UK, there would have been a substantial increase in unemployment. How many 16-year-olds are currently in employment, and what proportion of the workforce do they represent?

/It would be

It would be convenient, too, if your reply to this letter could contain up-to-date material on the numbers who join and leave the unemployment register every week/month/year.

Could you let us know the number of work permits which are issued each year, broken down into the numbers employed in the hotel and catering industry?

Finally, I would be grateful for any information you may have about the extent to which redundancy payments are being used to finance the establishment of new enterprises. The Prime Minister is under the impression that Finance for Industry have produced some material on this point.

I would be grateful if you could let me have a reply by next Wednesday, if at all possible.

M. C. SCHOLAR

Miss Marie Fahey,
Department of Employment.