



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

The Duke of Grafton writes to warn of possible Government defeat in the Lords on the National Heritage Bill. Some Government backbenchers in the Commons refuse to take the Government line on emoluments.

The Chancellor of the Duchy is dealing with these representations and he will refer back to you if he considers this necessary.

MAP

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27 February 1980



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

27 February 1980

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 26 February about the National Heritage Bill.

I have of course brought this to the Prime Minister's attention and she is most grateful to you for raising the matter with her. She will be in touch with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Duke of Grafton, KG.

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JOINT COMMITTEE

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings  
Ancient Monuments Society  
Georgian Group  
Victorian Society  
Civic Trust

cc RDL's office

Chairman:  
THE DUKE OF GRAFTON

Please reply to:  
2 CHESTER STREET, LONDON SW1X 7BB  
01-235 3081

26th February 1980

*Dear Prime Minister,*

NATIONAL HERITAGE BILL  
Payment of the Chairman.

*R27*

We are writing to you as we foresee the risk of a Government defeat in the Lords next Thursday, when the National Heritage Bill is considered in Committee. This we would deeply regret.

You may know that the Bill was amended in Committee in the Commons to enable payment of emoluments to the Trustees - this being done on a division, 8:5, with responsible Conservative members of the Committee voting against the Government. The situation was reversed on Report, when Norman St. John Stevas moved an amendment to delete the power. Amendments have now been proposed in the Lords to restore the enabling power but restrict it to payment of the Chairman. This amendment has considerable support on all sides.

This is verging on the political, so charitable bodies must tread warily. We are most apprehensive lest controversy develops over 'heritage' to make all problems more difficult to solve. It seems regrettable that this should arise on a matter of such relative insignificance.

We do not, of course, know if you have already considered this matter, but if not could you, please, give it a moment of your time. An enabling power allowing the payment of the Chairman seems appropriate and not too difficult for Norman St. John Stevas to accept.

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher,  
PC, MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

GRAFTON  
Chairman

*Grafton*

JEREMY BENSON  
Vice-Chairman

*Jeremy Benson*