

19 March 1982

Policy Unit

PRIME MINISTER

TACKLING CRIME AND PUBLIC DISORDER: A NEW INITIATIVE

A brief note to commend to you Gordon Wasserman's paper and its thinking, and the covering minute from Robert Armstrong.

This is obviously a key area in both political and policy terms. Hence your request for something to be done. Gordon Wasserman found that no-one in the CPRS was prepared to encourage him in this work, so he came to discuss it with me a week or two ago and we have spent some time together on it. I think the approach he has come up with makes a great deal of sense, and he should ideally be the person to take the work forward. He is intelligent, fast-moving and energetic. I suggested that he should work to Robert on this, if he felt that the CPRS was not the right team - at least as at present staffed - to work from. Hence Robert Armstrong's suggestion of a small unit in the Cabinet Office. Politically, this sort of work, especially if you are identified with it, will move the electoral debate from the narrow ground of economics onto the wider ground of the "healthy society". That must be right.

Prime Minister 1

JOHN HOSKYNs

You will remember that the Home Secretary has asked Sir Keith Joseph, Mr Heseltine, Mr Tebbit, Mr Fowler, Mr Younger, and Mr Edwards for their views on the problem of law and order in its widest context. He is to hold a meeting after which he will report to you.

Mr Wasserman's report picks up one of the themes that Sir Keith Joseph mentions as important (his minute at A).

~~For~~ Sir Robert Armstrong suggests that you minute the Home Secretary and other colleagues on this proposal and invite them to discuss it - if you like ~~the~~ what ~~is~~ proposed. It could form part of the Home Secretary's general review.

I don't think a seminar would do - but I should like a small unit in the Cabinet Office. We should be ready to back up the Puller report suggested?

Do you wish to minute the Home Secretary as suggested?

is her to be published no

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