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Private Secretary  
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LONDON

- 1) ~~Press Office~~ : to see. I agreed with  
John Graham that honour was  
now satisfied.  
2) CF/GR : please p.a.

7 December 1983

Dms  
7/12

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November about the Sunday Mail campaign on the Health Service. You subsequently telephoned me on 17 November about a Question which Mr Donald Dewar put down to the Prime Minister on the campaign.

In fact my Secretary of State had a general article published in the Sunday Mail on 6 November, which at the request of the Editor included a response to the Mail's campaign. I enclose a copy. A further article specifically about the campaign by a Scottish Minister would therefore in our view be superfluous and in any case would be unlikely to be accepted by the Editor.

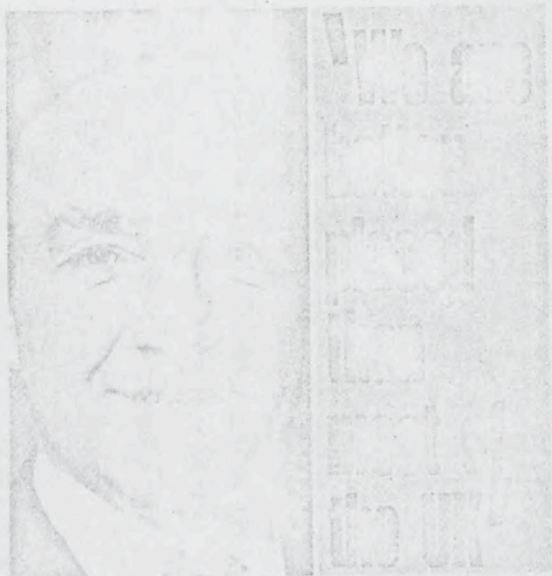
Yours sincerely,  
John Graham

J S GRAHAM  
Private Secretary

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# YES, I SEE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



WITH five years of the new Parliament ahead of us, I'm often asked what's my greatest wish for Scotland.

It's simply this: That it will be in the forefront of the nation's recovery.

I can just hear the reaction in some quarters to that! There are certain people who are only happy when they're being miserable.

But it's no fanciful pipedream on my part.

It can be achieved. Because unlike previous painful recessions, Scotland is showing a resilience which leaves us better poised than other parts of the UK to take advantage of the upturn now underway.

Mind you, I'm not predicting anything dramatic.

BY GEORGE YOUNGER  
Secretary of State for Scotland

It will continue to be a slow process. We'll all have to be patient.

The UK is not alone in its search for new jobs to replace those now being lost in older, declining industries.

But Scotland is better placed than most people recognise. We're in the forefront of technological change.

*Expansion IS happening.*

For example, IBM (2400 employees and expanding) make computers at Greenock; Motorola (1200 and expanding) manufacture semi-conductors at East Kilbride; NEC have set up the largest greenfield development by a Japanese company in Europe at Livingston, promising 800 jobs; while the John Wood Group in Aberdeen (2000) is engaged in international oil and energy projects.

**T**WO of our older industries going through sticky spells are steel and shipbuilding.

On steel, the future of Ravenscraig is the central issue.

The Government have still not seen any firm plans from BSC about what is called "the American DEAL."

But if plans are put to us I will consider them carefully with the best interests of Scotland at heart.

The Government have clearly shown their commitment to the UK shipbuilding industry by giving British Shipbuilders more than £800 million since 1979.

But the plain fact is there are too many shipbuilders in the world chasing too few orders.

Only the best and most productive yards will survive.

This has been painfully highlighted for us through the action Britoil has taken with Scott Lithgow because the rig being built there has fallen behind schedule.

Scott Lithgow's future is all about customer confidence.

When new I hope that an

agreement can be reached to show this contract to be completed so that there can be some hope for the yard.

Enormous changes have taken place in the past few years in the shape of Scottish industry.

Electronics companies now employ around 36,500 people — almost one of ten of all those in manufacturing industry.

North Sea oil continues to provide twice that number of jobs.

Scottish companies involved in the health care industries now employ around 7000 and by 1990 that's expected to rise to 15,000.

We shall, as a Government, continue to do everything possible to encourage and support industries which have new ideas.

But there is still a resistance to new technology on the grounds that it means fewer jobs or even redundancies.

Often the fear of new technology is a fear of the unknown.

These are understandable human reactions. I take them seriously.

*But I have to say that reluctant workers and sceptical trade unions don't create an atmosphere for success.*

**T**HE National Health Service in Scotland has come under a great deal of attack.

But the critics have conveniently overlooked some basic facts.

Since 1979-80, spending on the NHS in Scotland has gone UP by around 66 per cent and will total £1719 million in the current financial year.

After allowing for inflation, we're spending seven per cent MORE on the NHS.

More staff than ever before — 111,750 in 1982 compared with 103,000 in 1979.

More patients than ever before. Last year the NHS dealt with 5.4 million outpatients and discharged 895,000 inpatients.

The response by readers to the Sunday Mail's campaign showed enormous concern about "weakening" the NHS.

I hope the facts I've given will help to explain the true position.

**L**AW and order has been one of our prime concerns.

Since 1979 we've given police powers to detain suspects and to search for offensive weapons.

We've banned drinking at football grounds, which has greatly improved conditions.

Now those who kill policemen or prison officers, who commit crimes with firearms or who assault children, must expect to serve long sentences.

I attach great importance to family life and decent values.

By next year I hope we'll have stiffer laws to protect young people against violent, sadistic or "sex" videos.

Finally, just a word about national house-keeping.

There's no shortage of people calling for millions to be spent on this or that, whether by the Government or the local authorities.

Just remember—it's all YOUR money.

It doesn't come out of thin air. It comes out of your pockets and purses.

Whatever else this Government is doing, it's certainly making a tremendous effort to spend as little of YOUR money as it can.

And to make sure that what it does spend is spent wisely.