

DHSS: +NF- Brief by Tues
Press: no printing.
NF: small groups.

PRIME MINISTER

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National Pensioners' Convention

This letter invites you to meet a delegation from the National Pensioners' Convention on 18 February at the House of Commons. You received a similar invitation last year and the year before. You refused them both, and asked a DHSS Minister to receive the delegation on your behalf.

I assume that you will want to do the same this year. In any case 18 February is a Thursday, with a Cabinet and E meeting in the morning, and Question time in the afternoon.

Agree that I should decline on your behalf, and offer a meeting with a DHSS Minister?

When

3 February 1982

It is simpler
to receive them
for a short time
after Question.
If we do it in the House
there are no
photographs.
not

NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE

c/o CONGRESS HOUSE GREAT RUSSELL STREET LONDON WC1B 3LS
Telephone 01-636 4030

February 2, 1982

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

NDW/JH

R3

Dear Mrs Thatcher

THIRD NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION: FEBRUARY 18

As you may know, the third National Pensioners' Convention will be held on the morning of February 18, 1982, at Central Hall, Westminster. Following the Convention, the seven hundred delegates representing nine million pensioners at the Convention will be lobbying MPs in support of the Convention's Declaration of Intent (copy attached). As part of the lobby, a small delegation from the National Pensioners' Convention Steering Committee will be meeting the political Party leaders to press the case for the demands in the Declaration to be implemented in the long-term, and for immediate action on retirement pension levels, the Christmas bonus, pensioners' fuel charges and restrictions on local authority services for elderly people.

On past occasions when the Steering Committee has approached you, you have referred us to the Secretary of State for Social Services, although both Mr Foot and Mr Steel have met our delegations. I hope that on this occasion you will be able to find some time on February 18 to allow the pensioners' national representatives to put the case for a better deal for pensioners to you directly.

Yours sincerely

Norman Willis

Norman Willis
Chairman, Steering Committee



The National Pensioners Convention Steering Committee includes representation from: Age Concern; British Pensioners' Trades Union Action Association; Help the Aged; London Joint Council of Senior Citizens; NALGO Retired Members Section; National Federation of Post Office and British Telecom Pensioners; Pensioners Voice; Public Services Pensioners Alliance; Task Force; TGWU Retired Members Section; Trades Union Congress; Wales Old Age Pensioners Association and West Midlands Pensioners Convention.

National Pensioners' Convention

Declaration of Intent

This Convention declares that every pensioner has the right to choice, dignity, independence and security as an integral and valued member of society.

These rights require an adequate State retirement pension. There must be an immediate commitment to a pension level of not less than one half of average gross earnings for a married couple and not less than one third of average gross earnings for a single person, uprated at six monthly intervals.

In addition to an adequate income a pensioner should, as of right:

- live in accommodation which is appropriate to personal need and circumstance with a reasonable degree of choice including sheltered housing;
- be able to call on the full range of community and personal social services to give full support as need arises, including, for example, home helps, meals on wheels, chiropody, television and telephone;
- be able to use a National Scheme of substantial concessionary facilities on all public transport in all parts of the country;
- have ready access to comprehensive free health care on demand;
- be able to maintain a warm and well lit home with adequate heating allowances covering all fuels;
- have full access to a varied and extensive range of education and leisure facilities;
- be paid a regular tax-free Christmas bonus of £20, adjusted in future in line with inflation;
- be eligible for an adequate retirement pension on ceasing work at any time of his or her choice after the age of 60 years, without being subject to an earnings rule;
- be entitled to an adequate death grant irrespective of age.

FILE

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cc Gow
Howe
Press Office
DHSS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 February 1982

Third National Pensioners' Convention: 18 February

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 2 February, and to say that she would be happy to meet a small delegation from the National Pensioners' Convention Steering Committee in her room at the House of Commons at 1545 on 18 February.

Since space in the Prime Minister's room is fairly limited, she hopes that the delegation can be kept to half a dozen or so. I hope this does not cause you any problems.

J. W. F. S. RICKETT

Norman Willis, Esq.

file to CS 112

NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE

c/o CONGRESS HOUSE GREAT RUSSELL STREET LONDON WC1B 3LS

Telephone 01-636 4030

N. Barnes

Mr W Rickett
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

Your Reference
PJ/RGB/DS
Department
Social Insurance &
Industrial Welfare

February 11 1982

Dear Mr Rickett

Third National Pensioners' Convention:
February 18, 1982

Your letter of February 4, 1982, to Mr Willis has been passed to me. Our delegation may exceed six, but will not be more than eight people and I hope the Prime Minister's room can accommodate this number. I would be grateful if you could arrange for us to be met in the Central Lobby at 3.45 pm, and directed to the Prime Minister's room when she is ready to meet us.

Yours sincerely

P. Jacques

P Jacques
Secretary
Steering Committee

*Norma Willis - Chairman
Pensioners*

*Jack James Pres: TGWU
Ret. members Sect*

*Fred Baker: Gen Sec
British Pensioners
Assoc. I.*

*Mr. Norman Gook - Ed
Pensioners Voice*

*George Massy Gen Sec
Nat. Fed. of P.O. & Tele
Telecom Pensioners*

*Wil Payne 2 & 4
Joint Council of
Senior Citizens
Mr. James*

The National Pensioners Convention Steering Committee includes representation from: Age Concern; British Pensioners' Trades Union Action Association; Help the Aged; London Joint Council of Senior Citizens; NALGO Retired Members Section; National Federation of Post Office and British Telecom Pensioners; Pensioners Voice; Public Services Pensioners Alliance; Task Force; TGWU Retired Members Section; Trades Union Congress; Wales Old Age Pensioners Association and West Midlands Pensioners Convention.

15 FEB 1982



PRIME MINISTER

c. Mr. Rickett
Mr. Ingham
Mr. Gow
Duty Clerk

Delegation from the National Pensioners' Convention
Steering Committee on 18 February 1982

The following will be attending your meeting at 1545 in your room at the House.

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Mr. Norman Willis	Chairman, Steering Committee
Mr. Jack Jones	President, TGWU
Mr. Fred Baker	General Secretary of the British Pensioners Action Committee
Mrs Miriam Crook	Editor of Pensioners Voice
Mr. George Massey	General Secretary, National Federation of Post Office and British Telecom Pensioners
Mr. Will Paynter	Chairman of the London Joint Councils of Senior Citizens
Mr. P. Jacques	Secretary, Steering Committee

Mr Macdonald

es.

Prime Minister

16 February 1982

I am afraid that the opposition have prayed against 3 orders dealing with the reorganisation of the NHS, and Mr Fowler wants to be on the front bench from 3.30 pm., even though there will be business questions and his statements before he will have to speak. He would like Hugh Rossi to join you for this meeting in his stead. Content?

WH
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