

PRIME MINISTER

NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION

Attached is a letter from the National Pensioners' Convention asking that you should meet them during their Lobby of Parliament on Tuesday 1 March. They have made similar requests in each of the last three years. In 1979 and 1980 you referred them to a DHSS Minister; in 1982 you saw the Committee of the Convention for half an hour in your room at the House.

Having seen them last year there is no special need to see the Convention again this year especially since their Declaration of Intent is precisely the same as that which they pressed on you last year. You may therefore wish to ask Mr. Fowler to see them. On the other hand, the Lobby is two weeks before the Budget and not to see them might allow Jack Jones the opportunity to accuse you of not caring. But he will do that anyway.

Do you wish to see them or ask Mr. Fowler to do so on your behalf?

*I had better see them
no*

TF.

13 January 1983

Any PP's d previous meetings?

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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Mrs M Thatcher
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

YOUR REFERENCE

OUR REFERENCE

PJ/SW/DS

DEPARTMENT

Social Insurance &
Industrial Welfare

January 4 1983

Dear Mrs Thatcher

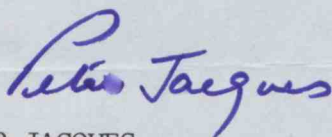
National Pensioners' Convention, March 1, 1983
Lobby of Parliament

I write to you on behalf of the Steering Committee of the National Pensioners' Convention. The Committee has decided, on behalf of the organisations' representatives, to hold a lobby of Parliament on Tuesday, March 1, 1983, between 2.30 pm and 5.00 pm. The purpose of the lobby is to enable pensioners and those who support their demands, to express their views to Members of Parliament. In particular we wish to press for the early implementation of improvements set out in the Declaration of Intent (copy attached) which was endorsed at the previous National Pensioners' Conventions.

The Steering Committee has also decided to ask each of the main Party leaders to meet a group of representatives from the organisations involved. We should be grateful, therefore, if you would agree to meet such a delegation on the day of the lobby. Detailed arrangements will then, of course, have to be made. As you may be aware the organisations involved on the Steering Committee include the British Pensioners and Trade Union Action Association, the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations, the Trades Union Congress and the Transport and General Workers' Union Retired Members' Section.

I look forward to your reply and hope, in view of the considerable importance of the matters concerned, that you will be able to agree to our request.

Yours sincerely



P JACQUES
Secretary
National Pensioners' Convention Steering Committee

GENERAL SECRETARY: RT. HON. LIONEL MURRAY OBE DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY: NORMAN WILLIS
ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARIES: KENNETH GRAHAM OBE AND DAVID LEA OBE

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.

FIVE SW



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 January, 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 4 January inviting her to meet a delegation from the National Pensioners Convention Steering Committee on Tuesday, 1 March. Mrs. Thatcher will be pleased to receive such a delegation in her room at the House of Commons at 4.30 p.m. on that day. I should be grateful if you could let me know if this is convenient for your Committee and, nearer the time, let me have a list of those who will be attending the meeting.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

P. Jacques, Esq.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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Mr T Flesher
Private Secretary
The Prime Ministers Office
10 Downing Street
London

SW1

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DEPARTMENT

Social Insurance &
Industrial Welfare

February 14 1983

JF

Dear Mr Flesher

National Pensioners' Convention

I am writing to confirm, following the meeting of the Steering Committee, that a meeting with the Prime Minister at 4.30 pm on March 1, 1983, will be convenient for the delegation from the Convention.

The delegation is likely to consist of Mr N Willis, Mr J Jones, Mr F Baker, Mr G Massey, Mr W Paynter and Mrs M Crook, together with myself and Mrs S Ward from this office. If any changes are made in these names on the day I will make sure that a message reaches you. I assume that the meeting will take place in the Prime Minister's Room in the House of Commons, and would be grateful if you could arrange for us to be met in the Central Lobby at 4.20 pm.

Yours sincerely

P. Jacques

P JACQUES
Secretary
Social Insurance and
Industrial Welfare Department

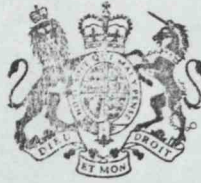
* This has been
copied to the
messengers with the
request that they
meet the delegation

P.E.
16/2

FIVE

SW

CF



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 January, 1983

The Prime Minister has received the attached letter from Mr. Peter Jacques, the Secretary of the National Pensioners' Convention Steering Committee, asking that she should receive a group of representatives from the Convention on the afternoon of 1 March. Mrs. Thatcher has agreed to see the delegation and we have offered a meeting at 1630 on 1 March in the Prime Minister's Room in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister would wish your Secretary of State to be present at the meeting and I should be grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements. I should also be grateful if you could arrange for briefing for the meeting covering in particular the points raised in the Declaration of Intent attached to Mr. Jacques' letter, together with other issues which the Convention are likely to raise. Could such briefing reach us by Friday, 25 February.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jill Rutter (H.M. Treasury).

TF

D. J. Clark, Esq.,
Department of Health and Social Security

Cashmere

TRADES UNION CONGRESS *to wto*

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Mr T Flesher
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
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DEPARTMENT
Social Insurance &
Industrial Welfare

February 7 1983

Dear Mr Flesher

National Pensioners' Convention

Thank you for your letter of January 14, agreeing to the request of the National Pensioners' Convention for a meeting with the Prime Minister on March 1, at 4.30 pm.

The Committee is meeting on February 10, and following that meeting, I will be able to confirm this arrangement and let you know who will be attending the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Peter Jacques

P JACQUES
Secretary
Social Insurance and
Industrial Welfare Department