



cc Press 41

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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01-212 3434

27 March 1984

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
House of Commons
London
SW1

128/3

Prime Minister ④

Dear Margaret

AT
28/3

/ You may like to have a copy of the enclosed
press notice which we are issuing today.

[Signature]

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NICHOLAS RIDLEY

SAVING LONDON TRANSPORT - SOME GLC MYTHS EXPLODED

Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport today assured London travellers that there were no plans to close any London Transport routes or stations.

He welcomed the campaign to save London Transport as it was the Government's aim to save London Transport from the political interference it has suffered under the GLC.

Speaking during the committee stage of the London Regional Transport Bill, Mr Ridley said:

"It is unfortunate that in this campaign the facts and figures quoted are so misleading.

"There is talk of a hit list of stations and routes that will be closed. We have no such list. We have no plans to withdraw any services."

Mr Ridley said that the GLC has alleged in the National press that one in six buses are at risk and that 20 to 30 tube stations will be closed. He categorically denied these allegations.

"No one can say that bus and tube services will not change before the year 2000. My hope is that there will be changes as London Transport provides extra services to meet the changing needs of travellers. Even the GLC has occasionally allowed London Transport to match services to demand."

"On finances I have made it plain that the level of revenue support agreed upon by government for 1984/85 is £125 million. With the £40 million of subsidy saved by London Transport in 1983/84 this provides what London Transport themselves assessed they would need to implement their three year plan to hold fares in line with inflation."

"But the GLC insisted on a further fares reduction in real terms costing another £25 million. They then increased costs by a further £21 million and are blocking efficiency improvements."

"On capital, we have approved £175 million in total - very close indeed to London Transport's budget. In total, this means £300 million, a sum which London Transport themselves have indicated is enough for them if only their attempts to cut costs were not being frustrated by the GLC."

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