

PRIME MINISTER

Bob Clay's Question runs the risk of taking you into the kind of territory which you clearly and openly avoided in the last Parliament.

The Question does not deal in a clear-cut way with a meeting which would quite obviously be an entirely private one. Nonetheless, I think it merits a "Mark Carlisle" response because, apart from anything else, you may not be aware of having met Councillor Tim Brown, and touched on shipbuilding, on one of your several visits to the North East. As you will see, Mr. Brown has in fact recently written to you about shipping, and mentioned that you spoke briefly to him at the National Local Government Conference.

I think this is an appropriate opportunity to put down a standard blocking reply which you will be able to refer back to when dealing with similar Questions in the future.

**MEA**

5 May, 1988.

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