

PERSONAL



C. Parkinson

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

17 November 1981

The Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson, MP
Paymaster General and Chairman of the
Conservative Party
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

Dear Cecil

Robert

I have been reading, with admiration, the Central Office press release of the speech which Quintin Hailsham made to the Oxford University Conservative Association on 6 November. Not for the first time, it seems to me that Quintin strikes exactly the right note - instructive, but not didactic - in his description of the causes of our current economic difficulties, and the various panaceas on offer. And, also not for the first time, it seems to me a very great pity that, unless I missed some reports, press coverage of the speech has been quite inadequate.

I wonder whether there is anything that we can do to remedy this for the future. If, for example, Francis Pym's or Number 10's or the Treasury's press people were given advance notification of a major speech of this kind we could ensure that the appropriate correspondents were tipped off. My people might be able to give particular help with financial and economic correspondents if the speech had an economic theme. It seems a shame to see so much fragrance wasted on the desert air, if a Cambridge man may so describe OUCA.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Quintin and Francis, as also to the Prime Minister. No doubt you or he will let me know if you see any merit in my suggestion of some advance preparation of the ground in Fleet Street next time.

[Handwritten signature]

GEOFFREY HOWE



RH
Econ Sol

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1981

Dear John,

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of the Chancellor's letter to the Chairman of the Party of 17 November. She has asked me to say she believes the Chancellor has identified one area where promotional liaison could be improved.

It so happens that Bernard Ingham, her Chief Press Secretary, has been looking at this general area and is aware of the Party dimension: he will be giving David Wolfson here some ideas on the subject in a few days.

I am sending copies of this letter to Michael Collon (Lord Chancellor's Office) and David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office).

Yours sincerely
Carole Phipps

John Kerr, Esq.,
HM Treasury.

JSS

PRIME MINISTER

The Chancellor has written attached to the Chairman of the Party, copied to the Lord Chancellor and Lord President as well as yourself:

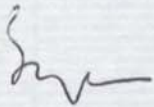
- praising a recent economic speech in a Party forum by Lord Hailsham;
- regretting the lack of publicity for it; and
- asking what might be done by Departments/CCO to maximise publicity for major speeches.

As it happens, I recently had lunch with Alan Howarth of CCO at which the main subject was the undeniable need to improve information/presentational liaison as between Party and Government. I am about to produce a paper for him. The point raised by the Chancellor is germane.

Could I suggest Michael Scholar writes to the Chancellor's Private Secretary, copying as appropriate, as attached.

Yes - Thankyou

mt



B. INGHAM

19 November, 1981

GRY pl type fms
MCS 20/11

Confidential

C.F. PPS please

MCS. 20/11

DRAFT LETTER FOR MICHAEL SCHOLAR TO SEND TO THE CHANCELLOR'S PRIVATE

SECRETARY

cc. Lord Chancellor }
Lord President } PS

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of the Chancellor's letter to the Chairman of the Party of November 17, ~~and~~ ^{she} has asked me to say she believes ~~he~~ ^{the Chancellor} has identified one area where promotional liaison could be improved.

Bernadette Ingham,

It so happens that ^{she} her Chief Press Secretary, ^{is aware of} has been looking at this general area and ~~has on board~~ the Party dimension: ^{he will be giving} He ~~intends to~~ give David Wolfson ^{here} some ideas ^{on the subject} in a few days.

I am sending copies —

blind copy to J Venner
B Ingham