## PRIME MINISTER

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

- 1. Many of our Back Bench Committees are inviting
  Ministers to come to explain the policies of their Departments,
  and listen to back bench opinions.
- 2. There was a very good meeting indeed yesterday of
  the Environment Committee, at which John Stanley explained
  what would be in the (very long) Housing Bill. Michael Heseltine
  was also present.
- There was overwhelming and enthusiastic support for the policy of selling Council houses and flats, with Bill Benyon advancing, in a reasoned way, his well-known objection to compelling Councils to sell.
- 4. You would have been heartened by the recognition that the policy of selling Council houses and flats could transform ownership of wealth, opportunity, mobility, self-respect and political attitudes!

29th June, 1979

IAN GOW