



FROM: THE RT. HON. SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Bt, MP

Can't Ford

KJ/IM

28 December 1978

Councillor G Jones,
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Mrs Thatcher has passed on to me your letter to her of December 11th.

I know something of the attempts of British Steel to reduce the huge deficit and am aware of the Bilston situation. You suggest that there might be a private enterprise interest. I would be delighted to have any indication of such an interest so that I may urge the Chairman of British Steel to take it seriously.

Yes, the tyre industry is in trouble because of the longer life of new tyres these days.

It is the Conservative view that the best way to encourage the creation of new jobs is to cut the marginal rate of personal taxation at all levels of income and to amend those parts of recent legislation which discourage firms from taking on extra people.

We are convinced that it will be necessary to cut wasteful government spending so as to reduce the burden of borrowing and of personal taxation.

I have ventured to spell out recently an analysis of how we can return to something nearer to full employment in the attached pamphlet which you may like to look at.

Do, please, let me know any evidence you have about private interest in Bilston.

I am copying this letter to Mrs Thatcher.