



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th September, 1977

I expect you know that Freddie Fisher and I have a shared anxiety about the frequency with which so-called "major" statements about Conservative economic policy tend to be overlooked by the Financial Times and I hope you won't mind my using your interesting piece yesterday about North Sea oil as a peg for another minor bleat on this subject. I do so simply because Malcolm Rutherford, whom I met at a Brazilian Embassy party on Wednesday night, volunteered the observation that the paper had missed a trick in failing to cover the paper on North Sea oil which I presented to the Oxford University Business School on 16th July.

In course of our earlier discussion, Freddie Fisher suggested steps we ought to take to ensure that our material reaches the right desk. In this case, apart from relying on the Central Office "milk-round", which seems to serve other papers reasonably well, I sent a copy direct to Freddie Fisher (as also to Sam Brittan). You may remember the paper was very fully covered in the Sunday Times Business News on the day of publication and was the subject of a leading article in the Telegraph.

Obviously I am not trying to get at you since you may never have seen the paper or may indeed have thought it unworthy of comment although, so far as I know, it is the only pronouncement of its kind from either of the major political parties; but I hope you won't mind my using your piece as a peg for mounting another enquiry as to whether there is anything further we can do to ensure reasonable coverage in the country's leading financial paper of the views and activities of the Official Opposition.

Anthony Harris, Esq.,  
Financial Times  
Bracken House  
Cannon Street

EC4