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Secretary of State for Industry

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30 June 1979

*Scandham*

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In my minute to the Prime Minister of 25 June, I undertook to let you have some ideas for outside speakers who might help in putting our ideas across during the summer. I attach a short list, which could be extended substantially if we eventually concluded that it was right to try to encourage a programme of suitable speeches from outside the Government and from outside the ranks of our supporters in Parliament.

But as you will have recognised from my minute to the Prime Minister, I believe that there are dangers in your proposal which we ought to consider very carefully. I detect a similar uneasiness in John Nott's minute of 22 June. Although there are many in industry, in the City and in public life generally who are likely to be sympathetic to our broad policy aims, I do not think that we should assume that they would therefore necessarily wish to appear publicly to identify themselves with us. I know, of course, that you have in mind non-political reinforcement of the themes which we are seeking to put across - the need for higher productivity, readiness to accept change, the irrelevance of class divisions - but it is difficult to treat these issues without reference to policy instruments, and to invite help from anybody who is not an active party supporter must run the risk of misunderstanding. More than this, if our efforts to enlist outside speakers were made public, I believe that the media (not to mention our opponents) could make damaging misrepresentations of our intentions. And frankly, I find it difficult to believe that most of those who would be prepared to speak if nudged to do so could be expected to carry much weight with trade unionists or with the public at large. I hope, therefore that we shall have an opportunity to reflect fully on the implications of what is proposed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretaries of State for Trade, Energy, Employment and the Environment, the Lord President, Sir John Hunt and Sir Kenneth Berrill.

*Gunn*

*Kerr*



Sir Hector Laing  
Sir Freddie Laker  
Sir John Greenborough  
Sir Arnold Weinstock  
Mr Kenneth Corfield  
Sir Terence Beckett  
Sir Monty Finniston  
Sir Marcus Sieff  
Sir Michael Edwardes  
Sir Frank McFadzean

3 JUL 1979

