



Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

14: 10: 82

My dear Margaret,

In my travels during the recess I have constantly been asked to convey to you affectionate greetings from overseas admirers. From Houston, Texas, there comes a torrent of praise! In the Netherlands the Prime Minister asked me to give you his warm good wishes.

I feel deeply privileged to have served as speaker during your Prime Ministership. You know how much I appreciate your friendship & your unfailing support. Words are inadequate to express my gratitude.

P.T.O.

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When the House resumes
we shall begin a fairly long run
up to the General Election. We
probably feel that it will be
in your interest & that of the
House, for the speaker who will
contest the next election to
preside over the Queen's speech
& get well run in. If this is
your feeling I should announce
next week that I shall retire
on October 28th.

It was my hope to
complete seven years in the Chair, but
I realise that the above course may
be better from your point of view,
and I have always told you that
I would try to behave honourably
in my departure.

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Because I love the House and all that it stands for, I am naturally upset at the thought of leaving. I know you will understand such a feeling.

Margaret, no one at all knows that I have sent you this letter. I have let them all guess that my departure will be nearer next summer, so the element of surprise should be complete.

You have become a very dear friend of mine, and I wish you well with all my heart.

P. T. O.

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Your strength & courage are
a blessing for our country.
May you be guided and
inspired in the long years of
service you have yet to give.

Ever,
George.

P.S. I shall try to get you on the
telephone at No. 10 on Sunday night.
My arrangements this weekend are,
Friday 7. pm. Clarendon with Members
of allies' Underground Movement 1939-45
Saturday a. m. Westminster College, Oxford
late p. m. Leicester
Sunday a. m. preach in Leicester.
Return to Speaker's House after
lunch.
George.