



PPS Notes
file
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10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER,

1. YOU ASKED FOR A LIST
OF PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE
SECRETARIES.

2. HERE IT IS.

3. A MIXED BAG!

31/8/1982.

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

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26th August, 1982

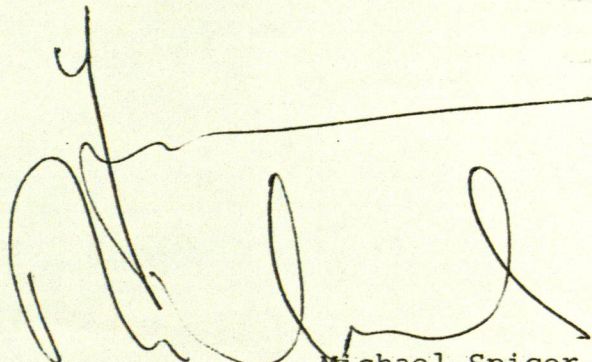
Dear Sir

Thank you for your note of 19th August in which you ask me to respond on paper. Here goes: I feel myself it would be invidious for me to suggest names though if pressed I would not find it hard to do so. In any event, they can readily be inferred from what I say below.

The general point I was making the other day was really this: I think I am right in saying that not a single one of our colleagues who was made a PPS at the start of this Government has been promoted to the ranks of Minister. This compares with the 4 or 5 Ministerial promotions out of the 1979 intake into Parliament. This I believe is unfortunate. There are a number of long serving or erstwhile PPSs who are both very able and loyal. It would seem that their enforced silence in Parliament has worked against them. It in effect discriminates against a whole generation.

More significantly, it calls into question the whole philosophy of promotion. At the junior levels at least one would have thought that there would have been a more discernably rational structure, although of course everyone accepts that in politics not everything is totally clear cut.

I suspect that there would be benefit to morale if everyone knew a little more where they stood, in particular that being a PPS was a rung on a ladder as opposed to the cul de sac it would seem to be at the moment.



Michael Spicer
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