



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON S.W.1

(F)

11th May, 1983.

Dear Mr. Gow.

I enclose a photocopy of that section of the Manifesto entitled The Supremacy of Parliament into which we would like to insert a reference to devolution.

May I suggest that after this has been approved or amended it should be passed directly to Adam Ridley who has the complete document into which it will have to be inserted.

As you will know, the printing deadline is today, Wednesday, and it is essential that the Scottish version reaches the printers at the same time as the U.K. version as we are launching it at the same time.

Yours sincerely

P.P. George Younger

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10 DOWNING STREET

IAN

I have spoken to George Younger.
He is quite content.

Do you want me to send this
round to Adam Ridley or have
you already taken it?

George Younger will be ringing
Adam Ridley to say that he
has agreed to the deletion.

I have spoken to your wife
who was delighted to accept
your kind invitation to dinner.
She said that as it would be
so particularly nice to see
you she did not mind - and
probably would not notice -
where you took her to dine.
I said I would keep her posted.

THE SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT

Our Constitution has outlasted most of the alternatives which have been offered as replacements. It is because we stand firm for the supremacy of Parliament that we are determined to keep its rules and procedures in good repair.

We have modernised the Select Committees to improve Parliament's ability to keep a check on the actions of the Executive. We shall continue to pursue sensible, carefully considered reforms where they are of practical value.

We are concerned at all times to improve the quality of Government in Scotland. To this end, we have set up the Select Committee on Scottish Affairs, which has done much useful work in Scotland and

at Westminster, and we have made arrangements for the Scottish Grand Committee to meet from time to time in Edinburgh, where Scottish issues have been debated and Scottish legislation dealt with.

We remain willing to consider further changes to improve the Government of Scotland within the United Kingdom. ~~After serious consideration we are still faced by the basic problem of the 1978 Act as to how any form of devolution would be financed. We do not believe that the Scottish people desire extra burdens in the form of increased taxation, increased bureaucracy, or inbuilt confrontation with Westminster. The Labour Party propose another layer of taxation, the SDP a recipe for inbuilt confrontation. We find these options profoundly unattractive and believe that the Scottish people do not want them.~~

Labour wants to abolish the House of Lords. We will ensure that it has a secure and effective future. A strong Second Chamber is vital for democracy and for good government.