

PRESS RELEASE FOR JOHN GUMMER'S SPEECH TO THE AGENTS

A full text is being typed and will be ready in 1/2 hour if you want it. This gives the gist. — I'm sorry you haven't had it before. JSG

John Selwyn Gummer, MP. the Chairman of the Conservative Party Organisation, speaking to about 250 Conservative Agents in Blackpool today, 10th October, said "entering Central Office as I did a fortnight ago, I entered a very happy ship, a very well organised professional organisation. I want to say absolutely clearly that I have no doubt on whose shoulders the praise for that should lie - and that is my predecessor Cecil Parkinson."

The Agents clapped loudly, and he continued: "this Party owes a very great deal indeed not only to his ability as Chairman but to the enthusiasm with which he communicated not just to the professional Party but to the Party as a whole."

Mr Gummer emphasised that there was a great deal to be done at this Party Conference. "And we are not going to be deflected from doing it by those who don't support this Party nor are they members of it." He recalled that it was the Conservatives 100th Conference. "Because we are the oldest political Party we are used to a flurry at the beginning of a Conference", he asserted amid laughter.

Mr Gummer referred to the ancient British habit of trying to undermine success meant that people were trying "to discover ways to show even in the greatest success we have had for fifty years there are the seeds of defeat.

We will not let them win", he insisted.

He underlined that the Conservatives deserved to win the General Election. They had deserved to win it for 3 reasons:

1. The Conservatives were the only Party which offered a credible policy for the coming five years.
2. The Conservatives were better organised, more enthusiastic and harder working.
3. The Conservatives were the only Party which could say honestly they represented all the people throughout the country whatever their background, whatever their age, and whatever their economic circumstances.

The Party Chairman declared: "what we have to do is to transform those who voted for us into people who are members with us. We have to make our voters members." Mr Gummer got one of his biggest rounds of applause and laughter when he said "I've got my eyes on some Conservative gains at the next General Election. Mrs Dunwoody was on the train coming up to Crewe I want to make sure in five years time she does not have to bother.... and there are others too.

If the state does everything for
you - in the end it takes everything
from you.