



file EK

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 May 1982

THE YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME AND THE CIVIL SERVICE

The Prime Minister was grateful for Lady Young's minute of 5 May. But she is strongly against the proposal that the Civil Service should provide places for the Youth Training Scheme.

One of the purposes of the New Training Initiative is to inculcate private sector habits and practices at an early age, and the Prime Minister is not convinced that using public sector training facilities is a sensible way of training those who may eventually be employed in the private sector. On the other hand, if the purpose is to provide training for eventual employment in the public services, then the Prime Minister questions whether such additional training is needed. In any case, she feels that the public services ought increasingly to be recruiting those trained in private sector disciplines.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister does not feel it would strengthen Mr. Tebbit's hand, in seeking cooperation from the private sector to say that the Civil Service will be taking on trainees at the taxpayer's expense. She feels that employers will understand the arguments against Civil Service involvement. We have always argued that Civil Service numbers must be reduced, and the Prime Minister considers that there would be widespread criticism from the private sector if the Government were to take on an extra 200 staff to provide 8,000 training places.

In short, the Prime Minister has considerable doubts about the principle of the Lord Privy Seal's proposal, doubts which are reinforced by the proposition that Civil Service manpower will need to be expanded.

I am not copying this to Barnaby Shaw in Mr. Tebbit's office since Lady Young's minute was not copied elsewhere, but I would be happy for you to copy this letter to him if you wish.

W. F. S. RICKETT

CS

Jim Buckley, Esq.,  
Lord Privy Seal's Office

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MR. RICKETT

cc Mr. Walters

The Youth Training Scheme and the Civil Service

I consulted Alan Walters about Lady Young's minute of 5 May, and the draft letter to the Chancellor which she enclosed; and we have considerable reservations about it.

It seems to us that neither of the possible reasons for providing training facilities in the Civil Service holds water:

i) If the purpose is to provide training for eventual employment in the public services, it is misconceived both because there is no evidence of a need for such additional training facilities, and because the public services ought increasingly to be recruiting those who have been trained in private sector disciplines.

ii) If the purpose is to use public sector training facilities in order to provide training for those who may eventually be employed in the private sector, it is misconceived because the whole point of the New Training Initiative is to inculcate private sector habits and practices at a very early age in those embarking on their careers.

*Andrew*  
We think the Prime Minister ought, therefore, to reply to Lady Young expressing considerable doubts about the principle of what Lady Young proposes, doubts which are reinforced by the proposition that Civil Service manpower would need to be expanded in order to meet this proposed obligation.

*J.*  
6 May 1982

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