

PYM 4? (F)

8th October 1979

In view of the fact that you will be introducing the Prime Minister on Friday, I thought it might be useful if I gave you the following facts in case you felt ~~that they~~ could be included in what you say.

During her four and a quarter years as Leader of the Opposition Mrs Thatcher visited approximately 250 constituencies throughout the United Kingdom averaging a visit to a factory once every nine days. She placed a great deal of emphasis upon talking to people at their place of work.

Even independent political observers have said that her campaigning style was excellent during the General Election and of course to some extent this was a result of the early experience which she had gained on her many, many regional tours during those four and a ~~quarter~~ years. During the same period of Opposition she went to approximately 30 foreign countries making some major speeches which were well reported domestically.

Since her appointment as Prime Minister she has been to 20 constituencies and is still averaging about one factory every nine days, and a number of future regional tours have already been agreed. The Prime Minister is determined to spend as much time out of London as she possibly can. On the foreign side, since becoming Prime Minister she has been to eight countries including the Tokyo Summit and the Lusaka Conference.

I hope you do not mind ~~me~~ blowing this little trumpet. I think some of the facts are noteworthy and may be of general interest.

With best wishes,

Richard Ryder
Political Office

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP