

PRIME MINISTER

You have agreed to lunch at The Economist on Monday as guest of the Editor, Andrew Knight.

Those present will be:

Norman Macrae	-	Deputy Editor
Simon Jenkins	-	Political Editor
Sarah Hogg	-	Britain Editor and Economics Editor (who is, I believe, going to the Sunday Times)
Brenda Maddox	-	Home Affairs Editor
Mark Schreiber	-	Parliamentary Correspondent
Brian Beedham	-	Foreign Editor
Peter Martin	-	Acting Business Editor.

I shall accompany you.

Andrew Knight has apparently to leave at 2.30 to go to Heathrow to catch a plane at 3.30 for the USA where he is receiving an award. Caroline has said she would do her best to get you to The Economist for 12.45.

The Economist have nothing particularly special they wish to discuss but I am sure that they will concentrate upon the law and order/economic scene, since that is the news of the moment.

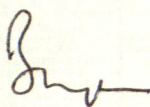
I attach a copy of The Economist which you may care to leaf through over the weekend. In addition, I attach an article from last week's edition, making some proposals about opening up the process of Government and briefing after Cabinet. Simon Jenkins shows himself to be very interested in this subject and may pursue.

In the nature of things - and bearing in mind the spirit of journalistic expertise around the table - I would expect the following points to arise:

- The inner cities problem as an adjunct to the riots/economy debate.

/- Public expenditure/tax:

- Public expenditure/tax: the prospects, bearing in mind the crowding demands for more rather than less expenditure.
- Prospects for a re-shuffle (about which the Lobby is increasingly excited).
- The approach to Ottawa and possibly the Commonwealth and North/South Summit Conferences.
- East/West relations/Afghanistan/Poland/Middle East.



B. INGHAM

10 July, 1981

~~MR. INGHAM~~

ECONOMIST LUNCH

I see from the Prime Minister's diary that she and you are lunching at the Economist on 13 July. This prompts me to record two thoughts:

(1) The Economist this week contained no less than four articles ^{on pay:} the main lead, on the private sector - highly relevant to the work that the CPRS now has in hand; the lead under the British section, on pay policy by exhortation; and smaller articles about police and doctors pay. All of these were well informed and, on the whole, helpful. That leads me to think that pay may well form a significant part of the discussion during the lunch. I doubt if the Prime Minister needs special briefing on it.

(2) It might be useful (certainly to me) if I were there - would there be any objection to that?

Copy for me pl.

Jr.

D. Venet

I'm afraid newspapers want minimum of press time on these occasions.

July 8/3

PRIME MINISTER

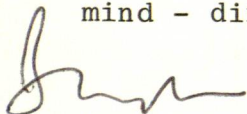
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The Economist

I had an approach over the telephone today from Andrew Knight, The Economist, inviting you to lunch. As I had been told by Caroline that you would not wish to accept such an invitation, I was non-committal and discouraging.

You should know this because Mr. Knight will be a guest at your lunch for Mubarak on Tuesday and may well extend the invitation personally.

I can well understand your reservations about The Economist. I find them very trying, supercilious and altogether too sure of themselves. It would not be an enjoyable lunch. But the Economist exists and is not going to go away. There is therefore much to be said for their having a piece of your mind - direct. Content to let them have it?



B. INGHAM

28 August, 1980

Xmas news?
and

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PRIME MINISTER

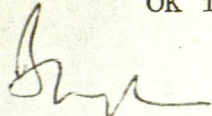
In a previous minute I said that I was arranging a lunch for you at the Economist at the instigation of the Editor, Andrew Knight.

You did not comment and I assumed that you were content.

Caroline, however, is rather anxious that you may not have taken the point on board since you are not too keen on either Andrew Knight or the Economist.

You know my views about the need to talk to hostile as well as friendly newspapers and, whether we like it or not, the Economist does wield considerable influence.

OK for me to go ahead?



B. INGHAM

22 May, 1980