

FRONT ERIC SMITH MBE, R.P.

Smith pps pls. ^{cc70}



Pls

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Fri. 24/5/80.

The Prime Minister

Dear Margaret

I hope you will not mind me writing ^{the very} private letter to you but I do so because I do so much want to see you succeed in your defence of freedom.

I write re the Textile industry and my "official" request to you to meet a deputation. I plead with you to do so.

The position really is very serious - another closure to be announced this afternoon (Ash Mill) making 4 in the last 17 days. Labour are covering a field day out of it!

The writer the local Press pointing out that in the last 3 months of Lab. Govt., we had 3 Textile Mills close - and it really is nonsense to argue that all this is due to the any Govt. BUT

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Honestly, those of us who fight a very vicious
Labour Party in the W. West - do need to be able to be
seen to be doing something.

I assure you, on my word of honour, many
of your own Members are in the thick of it - as I am.
Young David Trisler - a grand lad whom I've
seen grow up - were all taking the stick
a very cocky Labour Party -

Now were being taunted that you are not
concerned - they are offering bets through
speeches that you won't see us - and soon.

There's no way I'd attend a delegation
and watch rudeness, unfair blame or
impudence - though you're well able to
look after yourself - I realize!!



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Since I first wrote you etc., I have become
aware of a letter addressed to you by Bob Lloyd
Jones - (dated April 15th) of British Textile
Employers' Assn.

It would be great if you met us,
and then agreed to set up - without prejudice
or commitment - the working party the B. Textile
Employers are asking for.

We really do need a physiological
stick with which to hit back. A meeting
WITH 404 - without any disrespect to
Keith or John Watt - would be such a

Stick and a boost — and ~~your~~ ~~new~~ ~~members~~
 would be greatly encouraged I assure you.

Forgive me then, for writing in this very
 personal way. I hope (and believe) that you,
 like me — will keep this letter confidential.

The typed ones are over official correspondence!

I'm past the top of the hill politically, am
 coming down not up — I have no axe to grind.
 If I stand at the next Election — and it's
 highly unlikely I'll do so — it will be
solely because of my hatred of Left wing
 Socialism and my keen desire to keep one
 more out of the House — so I ask all
 this not for personal ego, advancement,



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on anything of that kind but simply
because I DO believe a meeting would
not only be useful for the Textile Industry,
it would also be very useful politically
to the non-Labour NW M.P.S.

Forgive me for writing at length,
but I cannot over-emphasise my strong
belief that a meeting WITH YOU is vital
industrially and politically.
Regards.
Lyndal