



KJ/AM

5 July 1978

Lord Thorneycroft,
Conservative Central Office,

You will remember the suggestion made by Peter Carrington yesterday. That we should seek to put Labour on the defensive by a handful of legitimate charges. I have since spoken to Nigel Lawson. He strongly suggests that we should regard Labour Programme 1976 as a valid source for what Labour really intends to do if it has the power.

Clearly, their manifesto will avoid practically every policy contained in the Programme but we are entitled, surely, to claim that Labour Programme 1976 represents the real aspirations of Labour and that the manifesto is simply a confidence trick to win the opportunity to carry out by one means or another the intentions in the Programme.

The suggestion is, therefore, that a series of particularly credible policies - which the leadership can only renounce at the cost of infuriating the activists - should be put effectively to the public.

I am copying this letter to Margaret, to whom Nigel, I believe, sent the idea originally, and to Angus, with copies to Peter Carrington and Nigel Lawson.