

David HOWELL

FROM: DAVID HOWELL, M.P.

12th February, 1976

Dear Margaret,

You said at your meeting with the 'second eleven' that you were looking for themes. May I offer some thoughts.

Thank you for your very helpful note of February 3rd containing some of your thoughts on our recent meeting.

As you know, I am constantly searching for ideas to incorporate in speeches and many of your themes can be taken up in the next few months.

I am just about to leave for a relatively quiet weekend and very much look forward to reading your pamphlet, "Time to Move On", which seems to have received some good coverage.

3. a) On the negative side

- i) The final failure (and consequent internal crisis) of British socialism and in particular the rise of the 'new' socialism as set out in the 1974 Labour manifesto and embodied in the N&S and the nationalisation programme.
- ii) Overdependence of government to the extent of over-dependence on public and social services.
- iii) Overtaxation (although we have to make quite plain that if we are not to damage the basic structure of the economy (and the public's confidence in the government) we must not raise taxes).
- iv) Overdependence on public expenditure on an appalling scale.
- v) Overdependence on the public sector, labour shortage, inflation, unemployment, the emergency, brought about by the government's policy of high public expenditure.

David Howell; Esq., M.P.