



FROM: THE RT.HON. SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Bt. MP.

KJ/SMC

Rt.Hon. James Prior, MP.

26th January 1979

Purely for interest, I have heard that Jim Callaghan recently had a four-hour meeting with a number of economists, researching into unemployment, to see what he could learn from them for policy.

The meeting was good-tempered but absolutely sterile: they were all practitioners in mathematical economics and had no lessons whatsoever for him. When he asked them how soon they might have some lessons, they spoke tentatively of 5 years!

It is both sad and exciting that we have, I believe, between us more positive ideas on this vital front than are coming from academics *or Labour*.

You will know from my previous letter to you that the M.S.C. is so structured that it cannot even put on its agenda such analysis and suggestions as have come from us.

CRD is hoping to accelerate, with Norman Lamont and Barney Hayhoe, the amalgam of the draft prepared for you and my paper, "Conditions for Fuller Employment" as a possible ~~general~~ *ind* product.

I am copying this note to Margaret and to Geoffrey.

Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.  
Rt.Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP.