

ANCRAM, T.P.

23rd April, 1980

Prime Minister's Speech in Perth on 9th May.

Thank you so much for your most helpful letter of 20th April.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say how grateful she is.

Ian Gow

Michael Ancram, Esq, mM.A., LL.B., M.P.

From: Michael Ancram, M.A., LL.B. M.P.

ANCRAM, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th April 1986

Dear Ian,

You asked me to let you know any thoughts I had on the theme of the P.M.'s speech at Perth.

I am always of the view that while it is always useful to have a Scottish topic within it, it is much more important at the moment to apply the general strategies to Scotland. As you will appreciate U.K. problems such as unemployment and factory closures tend to be magnified in Scotland and are made much of in the media.

The corollary to this must surely be that the Government's strategy of economic realism is thus even more essential to Scotland than to the rest of the U.K. precisely because the roots of the problems ^{here} are that much deeper and more endemic. Socialist measures of spending and subsidising to hide the grim reality have merely exacerbated the problem, and the surgery of economic and monetary realism is

Thus that much more needed up here.
At the same time if skills and pools of
skilled labour are going to be the base of
eventual revival, they exist in quantity
in Scotland and will in the future be
available in a way they have not been in
the past.

We have too long been the victims of
artificial economies, and as a result
have often missed the opportunities for
real revival and job creation. So while
the cuts and pain will be greater, so can
the eventual recovery be that much more
complete.

The Labour Party are making much
of the cuts at both national and local
level, and in the latter are still preaching
the philosophy of spending their way out
of trouble. While on the surface this may
appear politically attractive, I do not
believe that the barically hard headed Scot
is that easy to fool, or indeed is being
fooled. The budget had a reasonable
response, and the polls have shown an
improvement since.

From: Michael Ancram, M.A., LL.B. M.P.



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The Conference will follow hard on the district elections. There will be hard fun as not only because we did well in 77, but more particularly because at that time Labour lost heavily to the SNP in some cases splitting the vote and letting us in.

The expected S.N.P. collapse in May will thus militate strongly for Labour and against us. The results and any comments on them must be viewed in this light.

What Scotland really wants to hear is words of hope. ^{First} too long there have been promises of false dawns - oil etc. If we can show that what we are doing promises no gifts but rather opportunities for self-reliance I think that this is a message which Scots will understand and appreciate.

I hope this is some help,

Yours ever

Michael.