

Jopling, M.P.

Strictly Private &  
Confidential.

17th July, 1980

JOHN CORST

I showed to the Prime Minister on Tuesday evening a copy of the letter dated 14th July which had been sent to you by Hugh Dykes.

The Prime Minister thinks that the suggestion that the Whip should be withdrawn from Corst is absurd; she does, of course, deplore his attack on Jim Prior.

I must say that I think it unfortunate that Hugh's letter was sent at all. These matters are much better dealt with verbally.

Ian Gow

The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, M.P.



VAN

Yours, I think?

MS



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

R 17/5/80

*With the Compliments of*

HUGH DYKES, M.P.

From: Hugh Dykes, MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

CONFIDENTIAL

14th July, 1980

The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP.,  
The Chief Whip,  
The House of Commons

Dear Michael,

In view of this quite disgraceful attack on a senior Cabinet Minister, who is receiving the full backing of the Cabinet, should not the Whip be at least suspended from our colleague from Hendon North?

Yours ever,

(Dictated by Mr. Dykes and signed in his absence.)

Enc.

c.c. The Prime Minister,  
The Rt. Hon. James Prior, MP.,  
The Hon. Anthony Berry, MP.,  
Nicholas Scott, Esq., MP.,



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KINGSBURY TIMES

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Thursday, July 10, 1980

# Local Tories back Gorst's war on Prior



**HARD-LINE Tory MP**  
Mr John Gorst this week got 100 per cent backing from his constituency officers on his anti-Government stance on the Employment Bill.

In a weekend speech, Mr Gorst, the MP for Hendon North, called Employment Secretary Mr Jim Prior "a dangerous liability to the Government" and accused him of "tricking" his own party over union reforms.

He attacked Tory "fainthearts" who put at risk Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher's "otherwise robust efforts to restore self-respect and personal freedom."

And he accused the Government of expediency and "stopping to back-street morality" in suggesting recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

### 'Be tough'

Mr Leslie Church, his constituency president in Hendon North, said this week: "We have assured him of our support in his attitude towards Mr Prior and his Bill.

"Whenever I see John I tell him: 'Be tough, boy'. We have got to be tough or we are never going to see the end of this business. There is a job to be done — or it will get worse.

"I see that twit Joe Gormley is asking for a £35 a week rise for his people. If we don't take a strong line, they will continue to try and rule the country... and that is why we are down in the dumps."

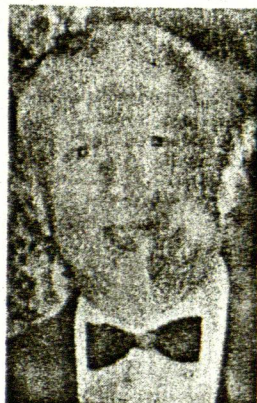
Further backing for Mr Gorst has come from Lord Orr-Ewing, his predecessor



**GORST: Accusing Tory fainthearts.**



**ORR-EWING: Leading Lords' revolt.**



**PRIOR: Under fire from the Right.**

at a meeting of Barnet and Enfield branch of the Freedom Association at Totteridge village hall on Friday.

He said there could be no freedom in a society in which one element or pressure group was more powerful than any other. Unions had acquired that dominance. Mr Prior claimed he had altered that state of affairs.

Mr Gorst went on: "But he deceives himself and, in so doing, he not only deceives the nation but misleads Parliament and, with the help of a small band of dedicated supporters who have manoeuvred surreptitiously on his behalf, he has tricked his own party as well.

"This combination of self

deception and deviousness, of fallacy and duplicity, make Jim Prior a dangerous liability to the Government.

### Horrendous

"He is a liability to our future electoral fortunes and he is also a risk to the freedom of the individual because, if his union reforms are a failure, and they certainly will be inadequate, curbing union power will be harder, not easier, to enforce at a later stage."

Mr Gorst said the obstacles if the Government did not get the Bill right were "horrendous, maybe insuperable."

Mr Gorst, who accused the Government of "shabby compromises" on both the Bill and the attitude to the P.L.O., said he would ban the closed shop.

He said that with unemployment at record levels in 1980, 1981, and perhaps 1982, there would be an explosive climate that would make further reform seem extreme provocation.

See report on page 3.