

31st March, 1981

At the last meeting of the 1922 Committee, Christopher Murphy, (Welwyn and Hatfield) made a strong attack on the attitude of Central Office in general and on Frank Marshall in particular about their alleged defeatist attitude towards the forthcoming County Council Elections.

In a note to me afterwards, he wrote as follows:-

"Can I emphasise to you (and therefore to the Prime Minister) that the "smell of defeat" sensed by Lord Marshall et al is doing Tory morale no good at all. We must provide leadership and firm resolve to encourage our candidates and troops, and I trust MPs will, even if Central Office will not. The Opposition is divided and although clearly we cannot do well, a sense of confidence can stop the worst defeats".

I thought that I ought to pass this on to you.

IAN GOW

The Right Honourable The Lord Thorneycroft, C.H.
Chairman,
Conservative & Unionist Party,
32 Smith Square,
London SW1