

RIFKIND, M.P.

21st May, 1981

Thank you for your letter of 15th May.

I have a great deal of sympathy with what you say in the first two paragraphs of your letter.

I am advised that the House would not have agreed to the third stage only, and would have insisted on at least another 6%, which in fact is what the Government is proposing.

That 6% is, of course, one per cent below the offer made to the Civil Service.

Thank you for having taken the trouble to write.

Malcolm Rifkind, Esq. M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster, London SW1

From: Malcolm Rifkin



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th May 1981.

Personal

Dear Prime Minister,

I am extremely concerned at the effect the pay rise proposed for MPs and Ministers is bound to have on the level of pay settlements in general and the Civil Service dispute in particular.

Although we we all know that the increase in respect of inflation in the last year is only 6% the media have not hesitated to announce it as 18% and I have little doubt that that is the figure that will stick notwithstanding all the explanations we make and information we provide.

I am convinced that virtually all Ministers and a good majority of MPs would be willing to forego the 6% rise and rely on the 12% catching-up factor. If such a proposal was to be made, even now, I am

and there would be a good response from colleagues
and public. Otherwise I fear there will be considerable,
albeit unjustified, bitterness from the Civil Service and
hostility from the public.

Yours ever,

Malcolm

PS Please do not bother to reply.