

McQuarrie
MP

29th October 1981

I am writing, on the Prime Minister's behalf, to thank you for your letter of 7th October, addressed to her, about which we have had a word already.

I would welcome a talk about this and will seek you out.

Ian Gow
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Albert McQuarrie Esq MP

From: ALBERT McQUARRIE, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th October, 1981.

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,
10, Downing Street,
London. SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I am deeply disturbed at the report in the Sunday Times, copy of which I attach, wherein there is a suggestion that certain Members of Parliament who are Conservative Colleagues, propose to publish a document as an attack against your policies.

As one who has consistently supported your broad strategy since being elected to Parliament, such actions by these Colleagues gives me cause for deep concern. How can I, as an ordinary Back Bencher, continue to stand up and stoutly defend you and the Government's policies when such names as William Waldegrave, M.P., Michael Ancrum, M.P., Ian Lang, M.P., Peter Fraser, M.P., Alex. Pollock M.P., are included on the list of signatories to the document. It is especially disturbing when Michael Ancrum is the Chairman of our Party in Scotland. William Waldegrave is a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in your Government, and Ian Lang has recently been appointed Scottish Whip.

I have been swamped by telephone calls from my Constituents since the publication of this article, who are demanding to know what the situation is in the Party, when people holding office under your Administration can come out in an 'attacking document', and still retain office. My Constituents, who support your aims, are alarmed at the position and have urged me to contact you with all possible speed to ascertain the position. I quite agree with my Constituents, and our Party supporters, that if these people feel they must attack your policies, then they should have the decency to offer you their resignations from the appointments they hold.

In view of the wide publicity this matter has been given, it calls for immediate and positive action as I have now been placed in an extremely embarrassing position, which naturally similarly applies to all our



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continuation.

Colleagues who are totally behind you in your efforts to get the Country back on its feet.

I would welcome your comments on this article and the implications it has for the Party at large.

Yours ever,

Albert

ON TARGET: Mrs Thatcher, young as 11 am in Canberra, where she is to be the... while his wife worked, goes through a putter's agony.

SUNDAY TIMES 1/10/81

Heath heads new rebellion against Thatcher's policies

by Michael Jones, Political Correspondent

REBEL Conservative MPs are planning a major attack on the Government's economic policies. This follows last week's rise in interest rates and the forecasts of continued recession, higher mortgage interest, more unemployment and lower living standards.

The rebel campaign, beginning this week, will attempt to force a change in Treasury strategy. It will be spearheaded by Edward Heath, the former prime minister and party leader, and Sir Ian Gilmour, sacked by Mrs Thatcher two weeks ago as deputy foreign secretary.

Heath was said last night to be on the point of "an explosion" against Mrs Thatcher's determination to stick to existing policies. After a long period of silence, he will signal the revolt on Tuesday in a Manchester speech calling for urgent action on the economy. His major appearance during the Tory conference the following week will be at a fringe meeting when he will argue that the party has historically been opposed to theories of allowing market forces to dominate.

Other Heath speeches and a carefully-timed television appearance on the eye of the Tory conference in Blackpool are scheduled. One theme he intends to push hard

is the need for Tories tempted to join the Social Democrats to stay in the party and fight for change.

Gilmour and Heath will use the party conference for a double blast at Mrs Thatcher's new "conviction cabinet." Gilmour will unveil details of an alternative Tory policy, intended to force the prime minister to accept that there is one.

Other related rebel activity, as yet only loosely co-ordinated, is intended to step up the anti-monetarist pressure on Tory backbenches at Westminster. This week, 13 Tory MPs will publish a pamphlet called Changing Gear: What the Government Should do Next.

A major row is likely when it appears. Its editor is William Waldegrave, MP for Bristol West and newly appointed junior education minister. Other signatories include Michael Ancram, MP for Edinburgh South and chairman of the Scottish Tories, and Ian Lang, MP for Galloway and a newly-appointed government whip.

They can argue that they worked on the rebel document, which runs to nine chapters, before they accepted office. The pamphlet's whole argument, however, runs flatly against Mrs

Thatcher's contention that existing policies will work and that there is no other way.

"No one can deny," the pamphlet states, "that in the last few years we have come close to abandoning our traditional approach to politics in favour of the belief that our job was to impose a certain type of economic analysis on the nation—to become a pressure group for a particular economic theory."

Since Mrs Thatcher strongly denies that government policy is based on "a particular economic theory" and monetarism is now a banned expression in Whitehall, this attack will be seen as a direct challenge.

Other MPs who joined to produce the anti-monetarist declaration are: Robert Atkins (Preston North), Jocelyn Cadbury (Northfield), Robert Cranborne (Dorset South), Peter Fraser (Angus South), Tristan Garel-Jones (Watford), Nick Lyell (Hemel Hempstead), Richard Needham (Chippenham), Chris Patten (Bath), Alex Pollock (Moray and Nairn) and John Watson (Skipton)—all well known "wets."

One estimate by the wets is that 70 to 90 Tory MPs share their opinions. They foresee mass abstentions in a Commons vote if

the government decided to squeeze public spending by cutting the value of pensions and social security benefits.

While taking care to defend the government's achievements so far, the rebel group reminds Mrs Thatcher: "In stark electoral terms, we are only elected when half our supporters come from the working class."

The alternative strategy proposed by the rebels calls for the injection of between £4,000 and £5,000 million over the next two years into capital projects and a £2,000 million cut in industry's payment of national insurance contributions.

The rebels admit that this is a reflationary policy but they argue that it would show "we are not giving up the struggle of political leadership or deserting the unemployed."

Geoffrey Rippon, MP for Hexham and a former Tory Cabinet minister, also plans to join the attack this week. If it develops on the scale expected, Mrs Thatcher will face the most serious challenge to her leadership since she succeeded Heath.

When Mrs Thatcher returns from her Australian visit later this week, she seems likely to find her party in uproar—only days before the opening of the Blackpool conference.

Walesa invites Hungarians

SOLIDARITY union officials have filed as a "breakthrough" a letter from state-run Hungarian unions which rejected an invitation to Solidarity's congress—calling for a dialogue with the Polish union. The newly re-elected Solidarity chief, Lech Walesa, replied inviting the Hungarians to talks.

Fervour cooled, page 8

Air crash death

JOHN MILNE, a painting contractor, Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire, was killed yesterday when a single-engine plane crashed into the sea off western Scotland. The pilot, Francis Park, of Binbrook, Lincolnshire, swam to safety.

Reggie collapses

REGINALD BOSANQUET, the former television newscaster, collapsed yesterday while leading a group of medical students on a sponsored bed-pushing trip up Ben Nevis. He was released from hospital at Fort William after a check-up.

Gasmen's warning

GAS supplies will be seriously interrupted throughout this winter if the government goes ahead with its plan to sell showrooms and other assets, Dave Stirzaker, an officer of the Nalco union, said yesterday.

Hope for 3,000

THE NUMBER of people allowed to leave East Germany to rejoin their relatives in West Germany could reach 3,000 in the next few months following last week's exchange of spies, Bonn officials said yesterday.

Karpov ahead

ANATOLY KARPOV, the Soviet world chess title holder, seemed poised to win his second game against Victor Korchnoi when they adjourned last night at Merano.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

GERARD TUIE, who once headed the police "most wanted" list of IRA bomb suspects, and escaped from the top security wing of Brixton prison last December, is now in the Irish Republic. He was met there by a Belfast radio journalist. The Sunday Times today prints exclusive details of a long interview in which he gives precise details

EXCLUSIVE

IRA man reveals

METROPOLITAN POLICE ANTI-TERRORIST BRANCH
TERRORIST ALERT
THIS MAN MUST BE CAUGHT

conspiracy to cause explosions and possession of an Armalite rifle and two Browning automatics. He denies the charges.

However, the police disagree strongly. When he escaped, Commander Peter Duffy, head of the Anti-Terrorist Squad, said: "He is a dangerous and dedicated terrorist." Duffy added that it would be a big coup for the IRA if he were able to get back to

When British is best



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