

Vaizey

Prime Minister

1. I have had a manuscript letter from John Vaizey. The hand-writing is very bad (look who is talking!) which is why I set out the following extract in this note:-

"I am also most grateful for your advice on SDP et al. I am continually told I left the Labour Party 'too early', and that the SDP would 'do far more' for me. My book shows what I think the SDP's philosophical flaws are, and I certainly seek no career that depends upon their goodwill! Nevertheless, the Tories must seek converts (like Hugh Thomas and me) unless they are to be a diminishing band of people reiterating slogans to each other like Ulster protestant politicians.

"Even so, there is much more I could do for the Tories. As you see, I am astonishingly fit, and (having resigned my university post) my time is my own. Alistair McAlpine mutters that I can do a big job. I certainly can."

2. John is very anxious to help. He has some Directorships and his wife also earns. He is, therefore, alright financially. Unlike Ralph Harris, John does, as you know, take our Whip in the House of Lords.
3. Do you think that we might ask him to do one of your forthcoming political speeches, or is there any other way in which we can make use of his talents? He is devoted to you personally.