



2:00 AH  
ces Tsy  
D/1

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

24 January 1983

IN CONFIDENCE

Dear Barnaby,

I should report that during a meeting which I had with the Lord Mayor of London (Sir Anthony Jolliffe) on Friday 21 January, he told me that he had had the first of a series of breakfasts with leading business people about the problem of unemployment. His approach, of which there was a trailer in his speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, was that business leaders are concerned about unemployment but are not co-ordinating their efforts to do something about it. The Lord Mayor said that he envisaged that the result of his meetings would be a report to the Government and he hoped that the work he was starting would continue after his term of office came to an end.

Among the points which he mentioned to me as having emerged from his meeting was a general feeling that the job centres were for some reason not doing their job - one leading businessman had said that a newspaper advertisement was many times more efficient in producing suitable applicants than an approach to a job centre - and an offer by Lord Sieff to second people from Marks and Spencer to local enterprise agencies. The Lord Mayor (who is an accountant) was wondering whether he could take an initiative with firms of accountants to provide free accountancy advice to people launching their own businesses.

The Lord Mayor said that he had a long talk with Sir Len Murray who had declared himself willing to act as an informal adviser, and was looking forward to a talk with Mr David Young. I commented that I thought it would be useful for the Lord Mayor to keep closely in contact with Mr Young, and suggested that if he wanted to discuss assistance to new business he might contact Mr John MacGregor at the Department of Industry and, if tax aspects were involved, Mr John Wakeham at the Treasury.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to Mr Wakeham and Mr MacGregor.

Yours sincerely,

Barnaby Shaw Esq.,  
Department of Employment.

Robin Butler

AH