

PRIME MINISTER

MONDAY LUNCHESES

Mark and I have been discussing possible alternative uses to which we could put the Monday lunch slot, besides entertaining Ministers and senior backbenchers. One possibility, leading on from your discussion with Hugh Thomas in the summer, would be to devote a lunch each to the Centre for Policy Studies, the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Adam Smith Institute. The purpose would be two-fold:

1. to have an informal discussion with a few of their radical thinkers about policy and ideas for future initiatives. It might even be worth gently thinking about possible manifesto issues.
2. to help them by including amongst those invited one, or perhaps two, of their big donors as a reward and encouragement.

Mark and I feel that there is no need for the Chairman, Chief Whip or Lord Privy Seal to attend. We would therefore propose the home team should be yourself, Geoffrey Howe, Brian Griffiths, Mark and myself (Mark has done a note attached on the reasons why it might help to include Geoffrey Howe).

I have taken discreet soundings from the CPS and IEA as to who might be invited, if you thought it a good idea. We would therefore propose:

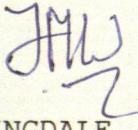
CPS Lunch

Lord Thomas
Kenneth Minogue
Sir Charles Tidbury
Ron Halstead
David Willetts
Oliver Knox
Sheila Lawlor

IEA Lunch

Lord Harris
Nigel Vinson
Alan Peacock
Patrick Minford
Frank Vibert
Malcolm McAlpine
Graham Mather

Content with the idea in principle and with the proposed guest lists?


JOHN WHITTINGDALE

7th November, 1989

Yes 

PRIME MINISTER

Between now and Christmas there are four Monday Lunches. You have agreed guests for the first three occasions. Monday 18 December is still outstanding and you would be able to have the CPS lunch on that date.

John Whittingdale has written the attached note with proposals for both CPS and IEA lunches.

I strongly urge that Geoffrey Howe should come to the CPS lunch, and that the Chairman, Chief Whip and Lord Privy Seal should not. I can easily explain to the latter three why they were not invited, but I think that an invitation to the Lord President would be seen by him as a pleasant gesture which would cost you nothing and would be well received.

Content that he is invited?

M. B

MARK LENNOX-BOYD

10 November 1989

SUE

I attach a rather complicated note about Monday Lunches.

The complete list for 18 December is:

Prime Minister	Lord Thomas
Geoffrey Howe	Kenneth Minogue
Brian Griffiths	Charles Tidbury
Mark Lennox-Boyd	Ron Halstead
John Whittingdale	David Willetts
	Oliver Knox
	Sheila Lawlor

I hope this is clear - please ring me if it is not.

A.

ALICE

13 November 1989