

Prime Minister & see



Conservative Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH
Tel. 01-222 9000 Telex 8814563

From
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
John Selwyn Gummer MP

JSG/AM

6 April 1984

Mr Stephen

Thank you very much for your letter. I have today given instructions that:

1) No material should be sent to the Prime Minister without it having been agreed by me, or in my absence by Tom Arnold.

2) That when meetings are arranged between people in Central Office and the Prime Minister for filming etc., either I, or one of the Vice-Chairmen, shall be present.

I am sorry that this has happened. As you say there is a mixture of blame, but it should not have happened.

*Yours ever
John*

Stephen Sherbourne, Esq.

PRIME MINISTER

I am sorry that you had to spend so much time this morning on re-writing the draft for the Impact '80s video.

I should have taken greater care myself before submitting the draft. But I also believe that Central Office should never allow any inadequate draft to be submitted to you even though it comes through me. I think a more disciplined approach is required.

I am therefore writing to the Chairman to suggest that there should be a standing rule that any draft submitted by Central Office for you - if for some reason it is not seen personally by the Chairman - should always be approved specifically and personally by the Director of the Department.

S.S.

STEPHEN

25.4.84



10 DOWNING STREET

25th April, 1984

Dear Tom

The Prime Minister recorded this morning her contribution to the Impact '80s video. In the event it went well but there was a lot of time wasted by redrafting the text submitted by Central Office. As it happens, she had seen the draft text before Easter and again after Easter but I suppose inevitably only applied her mind to it probably this morning. The upshot is that she felt that she was served up an inadequate draft from Central Office.

I am writing so that you are aware of the situation in case the Prime Minister raises it with you at some stage.

But I also write with one constructive suggestion. Would it be possible for you to issue an instruction that every draft submitted from Central Office to the Prime Minister - for an article, speech, or recording - should, if it is not seen by you, be specifically and personally approved by the Head of the Department.

If you want to talk further about this I will, of course, be happy to do so.

*Yours
Stephen*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

Chairman of the Conservative Party