



CEBO

Prime Minister²

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

Re Hurd's comment
on Mr Baker's Budget
representations.

6 March 1986

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Dear Nigel,

WILL REQUEST IF REQUIRED

I should like to support the line suggested by Kenneth Baker in his letter of 25 February, particularly as regards crime prevention.

Crime prevention schemes can be beneficial not only as regards their immediate effect in reducing crime, but also in providing employment and improving relations between the police and the public. Properly targetted, they can help reduce the risk that we will have riots in our inner cities this summer. It is, of course, impossible to prove the precise relationship, but it remains my judgment that some demonstration in the budget that the Government has the activities described by Kenneth Baker well up its list of priorities, and is taking initiatives to bring some kind of improvement, can reduce the sense of hopelessness which provides the climate which the criminals and political extremists can turn into riot.

The cost of disorders, not only in the long-term effect on our society and economy, but in the short-term as regards dealing with the damage and the irresistible demands for further expenditure on law enforcement, are so great that it may well be worth taking out some extra insurance.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Love,
Douglas

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