



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

PERSONAL AND SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

*RA. How looked up
for the present.
AA 24/6*

Ministerial Changes

I attach the starting paper you asked for. It is confined solely to a brief current assessment of existing Ministers and some comments on the future of each of them. It does not suggest any pattern of re-arrangement.

The paper does not lend itself to a summary but insofar as that is possible, and omitting any consideration of the decisions that you may take at the top level, the following emerges:-

PERSONAL AND SECRET

Promotable now or at some stage

Second Rank

Balniel (46)
van Straubenzee (49)
Gilmour (47)
Higgins (45)

Junior Rank

Baker (39)
Griffiths (48)
Grant (48)
Buchanan-Smith (41)
Younger (42)
Stevas (44)
Clegg (53)
Rossi (46)

Transferable at same rank (excluding Cabinet)

Chataway (42)
Howell (37)
Gilmour (47)
Eyre (49)
and others

Retireable, with varying degrees of ease or difficulty

Campbell (52)
Davies (57)
Page (62)
Peyton (54)
Eccles (69)
Smith (47)
Alison (47)
Goodhew (54)
Hawkins (61)

PERSONAL AND SECRET

The Department under heaviest fire in the Party is D.O.E. The Secretary of State happens to be an unpopular Minister at present. Clearly there is a connection between these two facts, but in my view it would be a mistake to suppose that a change of S/S would of itself cure the criticism of the Department, although it would help. There is a lack of confidence in it which requires a strengthened team. They have to deal with highly political and constituency problems in most of the areas affecting the electorate's daily life and obviously this is of special importance in the next year or two.

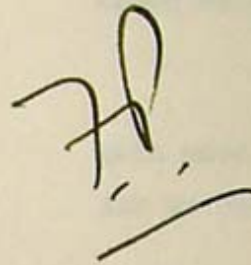
In M.A.F.F. the Lords are keen to have a Minister. The Departmental workload seems to me to justify an extra Minister.

As to the Whips, I hope you will feel able to change 4 or even 5, 2 to retire to the back benches and 2 or 3 to move on. In my view this degree of change now is necessary.

You will wish to know about the Chair. My understanding is that the Speaker at present contemplates a stint of about 5 years, that is, into the next Parliament. Grant-Ferris is retiring at the next election (he has not yet announced it) when he expects elevation. Mallalieu has already announced his retirement from Parliament at the next election. Betty Harvie Anderson has told me several times she wishes to give up being Deputy Chairman this autumn, to play a more active political role in Scotland. From the Scottish point of view this would have some advantage, although she is exceptionally effective in the Chair and not everyone's friend in Scotland. But we ought to try and avoid a situation where all these 3 offices fall vacant together at the election. Therefore I think Betty Harvie Anderson ought to be retired so there can be some continuity over the election.

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The Speaker takes this view, and if you agree I have no hesitation in recommending Oscar Murton, who was on the Panel of Chairmen before becoming a Whip. Grant-Ferris wholly endorses this name. Murton would then be placed to become Chairman of Ways and Means in the next Parliament, and I believe this would prove a good appointment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a flourish underneath.

22nd June 1973

PERSONAL AND SECRET

Present Performance

Future Treatment

Agriculture

GODBER (59)

impressing the Party at present.

no wish to change and no need to.

STODART (57)

reliable and hardworking. respected in the Party.

best left where he is for this Parliament. could be retired then.

FENNER (50)

copers with endless PQ's on food prices with robustness and competence.

gain more experience where she is before moving her.

Civil Service Department

WINDLESHAM (41)

BAKER (39)

good performer.

could be promoted or moved.

JOHNSON-SMITH (49)

has no opportunities in the House, but there are fewer complaints about publicity.

content at present. no change.

<u>Defence</u>	<u>Present Performance</u>	<u>Future Treatment</u>
CARRINGTON (54)		
GILMOUR (47)	has done what is a light job in the House very adequately.	some uncertainty as to his true political weight. move to a more controversial field with more frequent appearances in the House might be right.
BUCK (45)		recently appointed.
BLAKER (51)	safe and dull.	no sign of political potential.
KERSHAW (58)		just appointed.
<u>Duchy of Lancaster</u>		
DAVIES (57)	disappeared into the shadows. a lightweight but liked. adds no apparent strength to your team now.	it might be thought hard and unfair by some to retire him now because of the unusual history, unless there is a suitable outside appointment. he likes his job and believes in its importance, but his place could be filled.

