

Rite

H8



Dr William Jack

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 November 1979

As I told you and Alan Fraser in Lord Mansfield's office the Prime Minister was most unhappy with the way in which Dr. Jack's letter of 26 September about the transportation of milk in Scotland was handled. I have now on her instructions sent a telegram to Dr. Jack - copy enclosed. The Prime Minister will want to write to Dr. Jack in reply to his latest letter of 24 October when she has had an opportunity to discuss the substance of his complaint with your Secretary of State: we are trying to set up a meeting for later this week.

T. P. LANKESTER

Godfrey Robson, Esq.,
Scottish Office.

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TELEGRAM TO DR. W.J. JACK, HEATHCOTE, 25 SNOWDON TERRACE,
WEST KILBRIDE, AYRSHIRE.

The Prime Minister has read your letter of 24 October and the earlier correspondence starting with your letter of 26 September about the transportation of milk by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board. She has instructed me to apologise most sincerely for the manner in which your earlier letter was handled - in particular, for our having passed the letter to the Scottish Office against your wishes, and without first obtaining your permission to take up your complaint with them.

The Prime Minister is now personally looking into the substance of your complaint and will write to you shortly.

Tim Lankester
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

5 November 1979



10 DOWNING STREET

PM agreed not

to send his

manuscript letter —

and not it

should write .

1257..



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Sunday 4th Nov 1979

Dear Mr. Tadi,

I have today seen your letter dated 26th September & the subsequent correspondence for the first time.

You are quite right - your letter should never have gone to the Turkish Office in view of your specific request that it should not be forwarded. I apologise most deeply.

Then it seems we made a further

had error by not dealing with
the essential nature of your complaint.

We should have written back
and asked your permission to take it
up anonymously.

I regard the problem as very
serious and the complaint requires an
answer. I will now look into it
myself.

Once again, my humble
apologies.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Tom

Tell Lord Ranfield that
I intend to send this letter off
today by recorded delivery and
that both our offices have made
a thorough mess of things. If
we had to forward the letter we
might at least have expected a
courteous reply. Mr George
Younger to see me and we will
convert into the actual complaint. Mr

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Ingham

You should perhaps be aware of this correspondence since the correspondent, a Dr. Jack (who runs a small transport business in Scotland) is threatening to make it public. I passed Dr. Jack's original letter on to the Scottish Office, and Lord Mansfield - as you will see - wrote a rather negative reply. But although the drafting could have been less bureaucratic, it is hard to see how he could have been more helpful. It would have been better, in retrospect, if I had sent a private secretary reply myself.

I do not think there is anything more we can do for Dr. Jack, but of course I will send the Scottish Office a copy of his latest letter.

But we were asked ^{make} do pass it on to the ^{Scottish} office.

1 November 1979

*We really must do that again
Now I had better ^{reply to him} find out if his ^{supposition is true} or not*



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 October 1979

Attached is a further letter from Dr. W.G. Jack. I doubt whether there is any need for a further reply. Please let me know if you think either we or your Department should correspond further with Dr. Jack.

T. P. LANKESTER

Godfrey Robson, Esq.,
Scottish Office

"Heathcote",
25 Snowdon Terrace,
WEST KILBRIDE,
Ayrshire.

24th October, 1979. *YR*

Mrs. D. Thatcher,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Further to my letter of 26.10.79 and your reply from Lord Mansfield, I am bitterly disappointed that:-

- a) You did not respect my wishes to keep the matter "private and confidential in the meantime".
- b) You did not as I specifically requested refrain from informing the Scottish Office at this stage.
- c) That your Scottish Office team have been so perfectly and cleverly hoodwinked by certain members of SMMB.
- d) That you all hide behind this so convenient yet so pathetic "we cannot interfere".
- e) Most important of all, that you would appear to be quite prepared to accept successful thriving private enterprise businesses (which are your only hope in 1980 and beyond) going to the wall.

Surely Prime Minister you can do very much better than this.

We intend to make this public shortly and then of course be obliged to provide details of this correspondence available to the press etc. if requested.

Yours sincerely,

William G. Jack

Dr. W.G. Jack

c.c. Sir Keith Joseph
Mr. John Corrie

FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE, SCOTTISH OFFICE



NEW ST. ANDREWS HOUSE
ST. JAMES CENTRE
EDINBURGH EH1 3SX

Dr William G Jack
"Heathcote"
25 Snowdon Terrace
West Kilbride
Ayrshire

R 23/10

22 October 1979

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 26 September about the apparently impending assumption, directly by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board, of a larger proportion of their milk haulage commitments. As you will know, I am the Minister directly concerned with the milk industry in Scotland.

The Scottish Milk Marketing Board is essentially a compulsory co-operative of dairy farmers in Scotland (excluding the North East and the Highlands) set up at the request of the vast majority of dairy farmers at the time and maintained in being by the continued support of dairy farmers today, to enable dairy farmers to market their milk efficiently and profitably. The Board operates on commercial lines. Provisions in the Agricultural Marketing Act 1958 and certain EEC legislation provide safeguards for the public against possible misuse of the monopoly powers of purchase and sales of milk vested in the Board under the Scottish Milk Marketing Scheme 1933. Apart from these safeguards however, which are analogous to those affecting other commercial enterprises under the Restrictive Trade Practices and Fair Trading legislation, the Government have no power to intervene in the activities of the Board and have no financial stake in its operation.

MANSFIELD



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 September 1979

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 26 September. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

I. P. LANKESTER

Dr. William G. Jack

Dr. W. Jack



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 September 1979

Breited reminder

MS
RM
12/10
MR

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Dr. William G. Jack about the Scottish Milk Marketing Board. I would be grateful if you would arrange for your Secretary of State, or one of his Ministerial colleagues, to reply on the Prime Minister's behalf. Please may we have a copy of the reply for our records here in due course?

J. P. LANKESTER

Godfrey Robson, Esq.,
Scottish Office.

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IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE
MEANTIME PLEASE

"Heathcote",
25 Snowdon Terrace,
WEST KILBRIDE,
Ayrshire.

26th September, 1979.

Rt. Hon. Mrs. D. Thatcher,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON

R28
(200) PS

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

As a lifelong believer in the virtues and value of private enterprise I would ask for your personal intervention in a very disturbing situation developing within the area of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board. Much of the milk within the area is transported ex-farm by over forty private haulage firms who have been advised that, with the possible exception of some ever increasing larger units, their services will soon be no longer required: their work is to be taken over by a giant transport system run directly by the Board. This virtual nationalisation of the smaller companies (with compensation offered akin to that offered by the 1945-51 Socialist Government in their nationalisation fiasco) will mean that the prompt and personal service of even more private enterprise businesses in the country will be lost - perhaps for ever.

I write on behalf of a private family firm established some fifty years who have never lost a day's work through industrial dispute and who would never become a lame duck seeking government assistance: I cannot forecast what the record of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board transport unit will be over the next fifty years.

I would be very grateful if you would not pass this on to the Scottish Office at present: Your personal attention will be much appreciated.

I shall be very glad to expand on this should you be good enough to consider the fate of some forty small private enterprise businesses important enough for your personal attention and help.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

William G. Jack

Dr. William G. Jack.

c.c. Sir Keith Joseph
Mr. John Corrie