



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Baroness Trumpington writes
to you about her Shops Bill.
We will let you have a draft
reply.

MAP

I have seen the Home
Office view - but I share
that of Lady Trumpington
I think the Bill is desirable
12 February 1982

and that it would result
more business opportunities
jobs. not



dl

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 February 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 11 February. I will place it before her at once, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M. A. PATTISON

The Baroness Trumpington



House of Lords

5 Redington Road,
Hampstead,
London NW3

11th February 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Shops Act 1950.

You will know that the Second Reading of my Bill to repeal the 1950 Shops Act, excluding the clause dealing with shop workers conditions of employment, has just been passed without Division in this House.

I am grateful to the Home Office for their offer of Government help with drafting before the Committee stage. I am, however, well aware that my Bill will almost certainly not be passed by the Commons.

I am writing to you because I believe that a reform of the shopping laws would be a political plus for our Government. I feel that the Government's present stand on lack of concensus of opinion is wrong. Furthermore, I am not convinced by the stated view of the Home Office Official Committee that differences of opinion about the need to retain shopping restrictions are evenly balanced. All my evidence shows that there is a substantial majority in favour of the principles of my Bill. In addition, evidence of the situation in Scotland, where there is no legislation, tends to confirm this.

If any Bill enjoyed total support, there would be no debate and legislation would always go through on the nod. Governments undertake a great deal of legislation where there is no clear concensus of opinion - why not my Bill ?

The indications that a fundamental change in the Law (after Government re-drafting) would be popular and gain votes in the next General Election seem to me overwhelming. I refer for instance, to the Editorial in last Thursday's Daily Mail (4th February). Its headline read "Do Something Popular". The Press and the correspondence I have received have been highly favourable to my Bill.

I appeal to you that in the event of my Bill succeeding in this House, the Government might find time for a Measure of its own in the next Session. Failing this, I hope that the Government might give a fair wind to a Private Member's Bill.

BPS CF?

R12/2



House of Lords

I really believe that shopping freedom would win votes for our Party at the next Election.

Please forgive me for bothering you - it is only because of the importance I attach to the political implications of this matter that I do so.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Trumpington

The Baroness Trumpington.

Copy to The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Young.