

Ted LEADBITTER
MP

PRIME MINISTER

SA/ Alan - Yours?
I have told D/TP I
that Howell should
answer on the pm's behalf.

Ted Leadbitter writes as Chairman
of the Parliamentary Labour Party Transport
Group. He asks if you will meet the
Group to discuss the British Rail dispute.
He has also written to David Howell.

WM
19/7

I think it would be best if I were
to arrange for David Howell to reply first
to Mr. Leadbitter explaining why a meeting
would not be worthwhile, and if you were
then to write to Mr. Leadbitter saying
that you have nothing to add to what
David Howell has already said. Agree?

WM

Such allegations
must go to
the Sec. of S.
ms

16 July, 1982



FILE

See

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 July, 1982

We spoke this morning about the attached letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. Ted Leadbitter, M.P., who writes as Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Transport group. He says that he has also written to your Secretary of State. We agreed that it would probably be best if your Secretary of State were to reply first to Mr. Leadbitter, explaining why a meeting with the Transport Group would not be worthwhile. The Prime Minister could then reply saying that she had nothing to add to your Secretary of State's letter. I will let you know as soon as I can whether the Prime Minister is content to proceed in this way, but I should be grateful if you could set in hand the drafting of the necessary letters on the assumption that she will agree.

WR

Anthony Mayer, Esq.,
Department of Transport

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FILE SW



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 July, 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 14 July.

I shall place this before the Prime Minister at once, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

W. F. S. RICKETT

Ted Leadbitter, Esq., M.P.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Copies:

Tongaw

(1617)

14th July, 1982

The Prime Minister,
Downing Street,
London SW1.

R16

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

British Rail Dispute

The members of the Parliamentary Labour Party Transport Group met in the House on the 7th July, 1982.

It was agreed that we should seek a meeting with you. The situation is critical and the social and economic consequences unquestionably call for our attention.

I have also written to the Secretary of State for Transport, but our request to you arises from a concern to consider the issues at the highest level of Government thinking, and the role of Government where the national interest must be discussed in addition to the details of dispute between the two sides of the industry.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Leadbitter MP,
Chairman,
PLP Transport Group