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cc: Jean Cole

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TEMPORARILY RETAINED  
S. Gray 22/3/2016

19 November 1987

From the Private Secretary

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Dear Mike,

EDUCATION

Baroness Cox called to see the Prime Minister this afternoon. She was optimistic about the likely progress of the Education Bill in the Lords. She and others were working hard and the Lords tended to listen to good arguments. However there was likely to be substantial opposition to some aspects of the Bill. If there were going to be real battles it would be a great help to have someone else on the backbenches in the Lords who could support Lady Hooper, particularly at the Committee Stage. Ideally it would be someone with a real feel for state education and inner city schools.

The Prime Minister mentioned a number of people already in the Lords who might be able to help, including Lady Emily Blatch and Lady Young. Lady Cox was dubious about these names and suggested that there was a need for someone who had retired from the education world and who was used to campaigning, for example

Names were then mentioned, including Ray Honeyford (the Prime Minister remarked that this would be a big step for him),

and John Marks, who with Lady Cox had written the book "The Rape of Reason".

The Prime Minister intends to have a word with the Lord President about this at a suitable opportunity.

Yours,

David

David Norgrove

Mike Eland, Esq.,  
Lord President's Office

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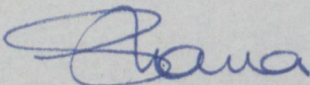
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MR WICKS

Lady Cox, at her meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday afternoon (which was attended by David Norgrove and myself) mentioned that the number of peers on the Conservative side who really understood state education was limited.

She therefore mentioned John Marks, co-author with Caroline Cox of "The Rape of Reason", and [REDACTED] as possible candidates.

The Prime Minister was attracted by the idea of John Marks and you might like to discuss whether anything can be done at this late stage.



pp ARCHIE HAMILTON

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