

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Wicks



c: Mr Sherbourne

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY
OF LANCASTER

This is to confirm my conversation with you yesterday. On Friday I had lunch with Ian McIntyre, Controller BBC Radio 3, and George Fischer, also Radio 3, both of whom have been very helpful in the past.

They present themselves as friends at an unfriendly court and Mr McIntyre said that he and Mr Fischer (who nodded assent) were only too willing to try to help the Government and party improve its radio broadcasting output.

I said that much as I valued this offer, it seemed that its real worth would be to the party and that I would pass it on. I suggest that you might invite them to lunch; it would seem preferable to see them away from Broadcasting House.

In conversation they showed enthusiasm for:

- a splitting of radio and television broadcasting both BBC and IBA; they claimed that Lord Thomson, IBA, tentatively raised this idea with the BBC some years ago and was told No by the BBC (which is preoccupied with holding what it has got and expanding its empire)
- the introduction of new radio and television broadcasting authorities
- the concept of individual, identifiable editorial controllers of radio and television news and current affairs output
- a contraction in local radio with BBC getting out of it.

BERNARD INGHAM
8 July 1986

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