



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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29 September 1983

Dear Mr Alun Jones.

Thank you for your letter of 21 September. My immediate comment is that things are not as bad as you fear. First degree graduate output in science and engineering subjects in 1984 is likely to be over 10% higher than in 1982. Total graduate output will continue to rise for some years after that, and I have indicated to both the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education that the Government wishes to see continuing emphasis given to subjects of industrial and commercial relevance. In the information technology field in particular additional lecturer posts and undergraduate places are coming into being this October as a result of the Government's IT initiative.

But this is a quick reaction only, and I will let you have a more detailed reply when I have considered your letter fully.

*Yours sincerely,
Kenneth*

SCIENCE & TECH.
KUNZ SEMINAR
Mar 83

29 SEP 1983



Michael Schizas

FERRANTI

R22

21st September 1983

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt
Secretary of State for Education
Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
London
SE1 7PH

SEMINAR

Dear Sir Keith

While not claiming to leave last week's seminar with "a brilliant speech in my pocket", there was one point that I would have liked to make and I have failed to resist the temptation to do so direct to you.

Much of what was said last week implied that we should be seeking rapid growth of the Science-based industries over the next decade. We are even now desperately short of good science graduates.

If the Industry were to start to expand rapidly, this shortage would be exacerbated and, in practice, a high rate of growth would not be possible, because on present plans the necessary qualified manpower will not be there. To sustain rapid growth we would require very much higher numbers of science graduates than are currently being produced.

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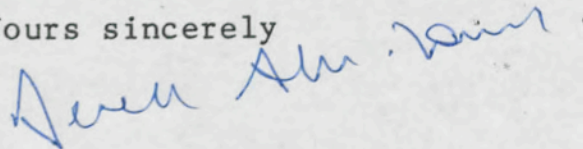
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to The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt date 21st September 1983

As I understand it there are no plans to greatly increase the availability of places for scientists at universities and polytechnics at the expense of non-science courses, and if this situation is not rapidly corrected, there can be no hope of rapid growth in the Science-based industries. While major change of this nature would no doubt be uncomfortable and difficult for those in education, if it is not done, then pursuit of growth in these industries will inevitably end in failure.

Yours sincerely



J D Alun-Jones
Managing Director

Copy to: The Prime Minister