

House of Commons, Tuesday 24 July, 11.15 p.m.

Waiting for a vote which probably won't come, feeling headachy and very bored. I must say that the European Parliament sounds more worthwhile than our backbenches. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing¹ is an MEP now, and there are numerous other ex-ministers there. So: maybe. I'm certainly going to chase a cottage next week in the Tours region. It looks as if we could get something respectable for 300,000 francs, about £33,000.

One appointment in the recent reshuffle² has attracted a lot of gossip and could be very dangerous: Peter Morrison has become the PM's PPS. Now he's what they call 'a noted pederast', with a liking for young boys; he admitted as much to Norman Tebbit when he became deputy chairman of the party, but added, 'However, I'm very discreet' – and he must be! She either knows and is taking a chance, or doesn't; either way it is a really dumb move. Teresa Gorman told me this evening (in a taxi coming back from a drinks party at the BBC) that she inherited Morrison's (woman) agent, who claimed to have been offered money to keep quiet about his activities. It scares me, as all the press know, and as we get closer to the election someone is going to make trouble, very close to her indeed.

Teresa also told me (couldn't wait to tell me in the cab) about Cecil and Sara Keays. I knew they had a long-standing relationship – he took her on the parliamentary skiing trips, for example. For two years she tried to break it off, and went to work for Roy Jenkins in Brussels. On her return she decided to pursue her own career and applied to go on our candidates' list. She went to the same

1. President of France, 1974–81.
2. Nicholas Ridley resigned after his unguarded remarks about Germany were printed in the *Spectator*; he was replaced by Peter Lilley, and the moves precipitated a reshuffle in the middle and lower ranks of the Government.