

PRIME MINISTER

WOMAN

You have agreed to give 'Woman' an interview for an hour from 9.30am tomorrow. Your interviewer will be Mrs Joan Reeder who has been with the magazine for 30 years.

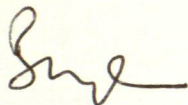
The objective of the interview is to secure your views, in a series on the subject, on values in society. Your personal and professional values; which you find most important; how values are changing and whether for better or for worse; how your values relate to your job and how they have been relevant to your period as Prime Minister and more especially during the Falklands crisis.

This interview will give you an opportunity to stimulate thinking about the family, discipline etc and perhaps also about some of the ideas contained in the Ashby Memorial Lecture, notably how we can build on victory in the battle for women's rights.

Mrs Reeder will be accompanied by Tim Graham, photographer, who would like to take pictures rather as the Express photographer did on Friday. They would like 5 minutes at the end for photography with the objective of getting informal shots. Ideally, they would like to go into the garden.

It will be necessary to break off at 10.20 if you are to lend yourself to outside photography because you have a meeting at 10.30am.

I attach at Annexes I and II copies of the Express interview and the Ashby Lecture.



B. INGHAM

26 July 1982

Bernad

*Linda*  
*R get me (4) diary for last week*  
*x (11) details for Press Office write down John's salary. Then my Joan needs. let me have this before call*

Joan Reeder has summarised the part of the interview about education as follows and has asked if this is OK? She quotes the PM as saying:

*Joan*  
*4*  
*8*

Schools

"All sorts of things become unfashionable, grammar schools for example, which were marvellous, though the alternative schools weren't good enough, needed working up. But, if you had the ability you got to the grammar school.

Then, selection by ability became totally unfashionable - almost wrong. So then there was an exam, and then it was thought that some children would fail this - so that was "wrong" - and all of this was ridiculous. They tried to cut out the competition in life, while you cannot, life is competitive."

The original transcript is as follows:

"Grammar Schools. You got on in those State schools by sheer ability. Never mind your background if you had the ability you got on and you went to a grammar school. Now the trouble wasn't with the grammar schools; they were marvellous, <sup>it was</sup> but the alternative schools <sup>were</sup> weren't good enough. What we had to do was to work up the alternative schools, but <sup>then selection</sup> those selected by ability <sup>too</sup> became totally unfashionable, almost wrong, they tried to cut out competition in life, <sup>even though</sup> while you cannot cut it out in sports, <sup>but</sup> and life is competitive <sup>and then</sup> they just thought that, you had an exam <sup>and</sup> some people would fail and that was wrong, and all of this was ridiculous."

She asked if she could clarify a couple of points:

- Yes.* By selection by ability can she say ie, scholarship; and
- Yes.* By exam can she say, ie, 11+.

In closing her interview Joan Reeder says that an aide reminded the PM that her next meeting was due to start and then 8 men filed in can she identify these men by saying 8 MPs, union men, etc?

*Miss - officials - ~~ambassadors~~*

She has also read recently that the PM does not draw her full salary can she say what this salary is? *PMs = £38,200 but taxes Cabinet Miss salary = £28,950 + 8450 P.A.*

*She has asked for an answer a.s.a.p. - I told her I would probably contact her first thing tomorrow*  
*Linda.*

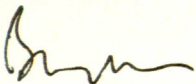
1 B Mower  
2 Circ

PRIME MINISTER

WOMAN

You will recall that in July you gave Joan Reeder an interview for 'Woman' on values in society. The result is out tomorrow and I attach an advance copy.

The interview is a faithful one, as I recall it, and very sympathetic.



B. INGHAM

6 September 1982