



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 May 1983

Dear Mr. Evans.

You wrote to me on 2 May enclosing a letter from Mrs. Preece of 76, Duncansby Crescent, Great Sankey, Warrington.

When I speak of Victorian values, I mean respect for the individual, thrift, initiative, a sense of personal responsibility, respect for others and their property, and all the other values that characterised the best of the Victorian era. Of course I do not wish to see Mrs. Preece and her family go without work. If politicians could banish unemployment, then no-one would have gone without work for the last forty years; but the truth is that unemployment has risen steadily. The best hope for reducing unemployment lies in improving industry's competitiveness, so that firms make and deliver products people want at a price they can afford. That will need many of the Victorian virtues of initiative, hard work, and self help that I have mentioned.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

John Evans, Esq., M.P.

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