



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14th June 1983

Dear Miss Lawley,

Thank you for your letter of 6th June which reached me after the Election.

I was interested to read your views about the Nationwide "On the Spot" series.

It was most kind of you to write. I confess I have never liked addressing a T.V. screen and it is so artificial.

Miss Sue Lawley

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

20, Doveside St.,
Fulham
SW6.

6. 6. 83.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher, (16/6)

I write, somewhat belatedly, to thank you for appearing on Nationwide during the first week of the election campaign.

I was sincerely sorry that you were unhappy about the way the programme went. I have since reviewed it and, I have to say, that I am still of the opinion that it was successful in so far as the format allows: that is to say, the viewers were able to question and, indeed, cross-question the prime minister on matters which, representatively, they considered important.

Personally, I find that kind of programme format rather more convincing for the mass of the electorate than an acquisition by the top-flight television interviewers (— much as we all thoroughly enjoy them!)

I doubt my arguments have convinced you, but I would like you to know that I was closely involved with the planning

and production of our "On The Spot"
series and there has most definitely
not been any "fixing" or briefing
of questioners. It would ofcourse be
professionally insupportable.

My thanks again for your
co-operation during this immensely
busy period.

Best wishes _____

Sue Kentley.

BBC Nationwide.