

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH "EARLY TIMES"

You are to be interviewed on Monday morning by four "Press Gang Reporters" from the "Early Times". This is a children's national newspaper which, though only launched in January, is proving to be very successful. It is read by children and young people between the ages of seven and 17 and many schools have subscribed to the paper for use in lessons and school libraries.

Most of the paper is written by established journalists, but the readers themselves have an opportunity to report for "Early Times" through and paper's "Press Gang."

The four young people coming to interview you were chosen by way of a competition. "Press Gangers" were asked to submit six questions each to the paper and those judged to be best were selected for the interview. The paper received well over 1,000 questions.

The young people chosen by the paper to interview you are:

Nicola Harrison (13) of Norwich, who attends Eaton City School, Norwich

Luke Salkeld (12) of Plymouth, who attends St Boniface's College, Plymouth

Jessica Paterson (9) from Belfast, who attends Rosetta Primary School, Belfast

Stephen Fairclough (14) of Purley in Surrey, who attends Whitgift School.

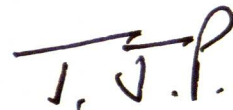
They will be accompanied by the young editor of the paper, Nicky Smith.

They will be asking you about freedom of speech; education reforms; televising the Commons; Glasnost; whether British people are selfish; your best achievement; what makes you laugh; the Anglo-Irish agreement; how the Cabinet is chosen; and unemployment. If there is time they will also ask if you are made to keep your bedroom tidy; do you ever wish you were a man;

could you make it a law for all children to get pocket money;
what would you like to be remembered for; do you think it is
important to have a serious newspaper like "Early Times"; and
what flowers do you like growing in your garden.

I have attached a copy of the "Early Times" in which they announced
that they were coming to No 10 to interview you.

The interview will take place in the White Room. There has been a
lot of media interest in these young people coming to interview
you. You have agreed to a five minute photo-call in the White Room
before the interview begins.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. J. P.' with a stylized flourish above the letters.

Terry J Perks
2 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER /

INTERVIEW WITH "EARLY TIMES"

You are to be interviewed by four "Press Gang Reporters" aged between 9 and 13 from the "Early Times" on Monday 6 June - I will give you details nearer the date.

In the middle of May the paper ran a question competition to select the four "Press Gang" reporters to come to No 10 to interview you. As a result there has been much media interest.

You will be seeing the four youngsters in the White Room. I suggest that you have a five minute photo-call in the White Room with the youngsters before the interview begins.

Content for a photo-call with the youngsters in the White Room before the interview begins?

Yes -

What are they
interviewing me about?
not

TJP

Terry J Perks
27 May 1988

E R

POLICE

FRONT DOOR

MR FOUNTAIN

MR TAYLOR

At about 10.45 am on Monday, 6 June, the following will arrive at the barrier by taxi:

Ms Nicky Smith, Editor, "Early Times"
Mr David Smith, Photographer

Miss Nicola Harrison (aged 13)
Mr Luke Salkeld (aged 12)
Miss Jessica Patterson (aged 9)
Mr Stephen Fairclough (aged 14).

They will interview the Prime Minister in the White Room but WHEN THEY ARRIVE WOULD YOU PLEASE DIRECT THEM TO MR TERRY PERKS.

Beth Frier

BETH FRIER
PRESS OFFICE

2 June 1988