

SUBJECT

cc Master



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64-71/4
EDUCATION

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1983

The Prime Minister had a brief talk today with your Secretary of State and Mr. Hancock about the article by Mr. Fred Janes, President of Yeovil College,

The Prime Minister said that, while she did not agree with everything in the article, the problem of the lack of a proper technical option for many school children, to which the article referred, was a real one. Your Secretary of State said that he recognised the truth of much of what Mr. Janes said. There was nevertheless some reason to hope; recent developments such as the technical training initiative, the new technical courses for low achievers, and the work which was being done on examinations for the 16+ pointed in the right direction. The problem was largely one of esteem. The greater prestige which attached to academic courses meant that parents were often unwilling to let their children undertake technical courses for which they were much better suited. The Department of Education and Science was nevertheless working on ways to meet the concern voiced by Mr. Janes and shared by the Prime Minister and himself, and he would report back to the Prime Minister in about two months.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Hancock (Cabinet Office).

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Timothy Flesher

Mrs. Imogen Wilde,
Department of Education and Science.

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