



re MR INGHAM
Detective

24

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 December 1981

The Department of Energy's National Schools Competition on Energy Conservation

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 10 December in which he asks if she can award the prizes to the winners of this competition.

The Prime Minister is very happy to accept this invitation. She has 1½ hours free between 1100 and 1230 on Wednesday 27 January, and I hope that this will be a suitable date for the prize giving.

On the detailed arrangements to be made, the Prime Minister has suggested that it would be useful if your officials could consult both myself and Bernard Ingham. But her initial reaction was that the prize giving should not be held here, mainly because the State Rooms here are not large enough to accommodate the numbers involved, and because the Press coverage will be much better if the ceremony is held somewhere else. I understand that the Science Museum is no longer available, and that the officials concerned are looking for other possible sites. The Prime Minister suggests that you should consider holding the ceremony at the Royal Institution or the Royal Society.

As to the form of the presentation itself, the Prime Minister thinks that she might start by chatting to the children about their prize-winning projects, before moving into another room for the prize giving itself. This would give the children a chance to explain their work to the Prime Minister in person.

WR

Julian West, Esq.,
Department of Energy.

KM

PRIME MINISTER

The Department of Energy's National Schools Competition
on energy conservation

Nigel Lawson has written to ask if you could award the prizes to the winners of this competition towards the end of January.

I think you should accept. It is a good cause. And it will involve lots of children. There will be seven teams of winners from schools all round the country, and they will consist of about six or seven children each. You have one-and-a-half hours free on the morning of Wednesday 27 January, which would be plenty of time for this engagement. If you agree, Bernard Ingham will talk to the Department of Energy about the detailed arrangements they have in mind. But my initial reaction is that the prizegiving should not be held here. There will be at least 100 people involved, and it would be too crowded for proper press coverage if we held the ceremony in the State Rooms. You would get better coverage if the prizegiving were held somewhere else, though I understand that the Science Museum, which Nigel Lawson suggests, is no longer available. The Department of Energy are looking for other possible sites. The ceremony could be modelled on the Schools Design prizegiving. You could start by chatting to the children about their projects, and then move into another room to award the prizes.

Bernard Ingham, who used to be Head of Energy Conservation Division in the Department of Energy, will no doubt be able to write your speech notes.

Agree to present these prizes, and that we should proceed as I have described?

WJBN

Yes

Use Royal Institute?

Royal Society?

ms

806

6779.

27/1/82 ?



Prime Minister

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S NATIONAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION ON ENERGY CONSERVATION:
PRESENTATION OF PRIZE

I am writing to ask if you would agree to present the prize to the winners of my Department's National Schools Competition on energy conservation. The prize-giving is to be held at the end of January, probably in the Science Museum; though if it would be more convenient for you, it could be held at No 10.

This is my Department's second National Schools Competition on energy conservation and it is proving a great success, with over 1250 teams from 640 schools having registered. Conoco is sponsoring the Competition and making a contribution to our costs. I attach for your information the pack that was sent out to competitors.

The Competition will receive extensive national publicity and lending your prestige to the event will be enormously helpful in getting the energy conservation message over. I therefore hope very much that you can agree to take this on.

If you agree in principle, I will ask my office to contact yours to arrange a suitable date.

Handwritten initials or signature.

Secretary of State for Energy
10 December 1981