

JNM

Group Chairman

15th April, 1970.

Booker Prize-Giving - Order of Events - 21st April, 1970

- 6.00 p.m. Ante room to Stationers Hall to meet Jennie Lee, judges, and short list writers. George Hardinge and I will also be there.
- 6.45 p.m. Move into main hall
- 7.00 p.m. Speeches
1. Mark Longman (under 1 minute - content of speech attached)
 2. David Powell (2 minutes - draft of speech attached)
 3. David Holloway (4 minutes)
 4. Jennie Lee (3 minutes)
- 7.12 p.m. Carry on with refreshments.

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MARK LONGMAN's SPEECH (roughly)

Welcome to the 2nd year of the Booker Prize. I'm the President of the Publishers Association and I'm here because, although the Booker Prize is given by the generous firm of Booker McConnell, it is run jointly by Bookers and the Publishers Association. I am the M. C. My first pleasant duty is to introduce David Powell, the Chairman of Booker McConnell, the generous donor of the prize.

DRAFT SPEECH FOR D.P. AT BOOKER PRIZE-GIVING

I would like to join Mark Longman in welcoming you all tonight to the second Booker Prize. When the Publishers' Association and Bookers instituted the Prize last year, we felt that there was a real need for such a prize for a really significant prize. We hoped that, by making the prize important in terms of money, it will also become important in other ways of value to the book world. I believe that our hope is already well founded and that the Booker Prize has already become important. What better evidence do we need than that we are honoured tonight by the presence of the Minister of State responsible for the Arts. The fact that five very eminent men and women have found it worthwhile to give a great deal of time and energy to judging the prize is another indication. And here I would like to thank Mr. David Holloway, the Chairman of the judges, Dame Rebecca West, Lady Antonia Fraser, Mr. Ross Higgins and Professor Richard Hoggart for all the effort they have put into judging the prize. I consider myself to be an avid reader, but I was staggered to learn, as I am sure you will be too, that each judge read no less than ^{sixty}~~xxxxxx~~ novels in deciding this prize, in addition to the exacting full time jobs that each of them has.

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And, lastly, the fact that there are/many important writers and publishers here tonight, together with so many members of the press, radio and television, I regard as yet another indication that the Booker Prize has become important to the book world...which is what it set out to do. I am very glad that this is so and we at Bookers are proud to be associated with the prize.

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