

JC/DC

28th April, 1969

Anthony Howard, Esq.,
London Diary,
New Statesman,
Great Turnstile,
LONDON W.C.1

Dear Mr. Howard,

In your London Diary dated 25th April 1969 you wrote:

" So all the tipsters were wrong - and the first Booker prize for fiction has gone to P. H. Newby for his novel "Something to Answer For" The short-list of six (Iris Murdoch, Muriel Spark, Nicholas Mosley, Barry England, Gordon M. Williams and Newby) had been known for a month and in the gossip columns there'd been a good deal of speculation that the prize - at £5,000 tax-free, the most substantial literary award in Britain....."

You remark that the prize is tax-free is of very great interest to me as I am at present defending before the Irish Courts a case in which a £500 drama prize has been assessed to tax on a young Irish dramatist. The prize was awarded by an insurance company which did not even retain the play.

It would be of very great assistance to me if you could advise where I could confirm that the Booker prize is tax-free - or do the givers by some arrangement pay the tax. This is possibly a new departure for London Diary to give information of this kind but then you do not have "This Ireland" to cope with.

Yours sincerely,
