

SPEAKING NOTES

FOR THE OPENING OF

ENERGY WORLD BUSINESS WEEK

I am delighted to be in Milton Keynes.

I recall with pleasure the day I opened
the splendid shopping centre.

Today I have the excitement of seeing the
new Energy Park.

Britain needs innovation, design and imagination to
produce economic success.

This Exhibition proves that it has them.

This is Energy Efficiency Year.

The extraordinary thing about energy is that in the home, on the roads, in the factory, in the office and in the shop energy is wasted upon a massive scale.

The Government saw that in Britain we spent

£35 billion a year on energy.

It realised that with proper management and the application of sensible ideas we could reduce our energy bills by 20 per

cent, saving the country and therefore the people of this country £7 billion.

We have therefore created an Energy Efficiency Office, not a bureaucratic one but one eager and active to communicate the best of ideas to the occupants of our homes and to the managers of our commerce.

I am delighted to say that the campaign has been supported by the gas, electricity and coal industries, by the manufacturers

of the most up-to-date technology in energy efficiency, and by the retailers. As a result, things are really happening. We aimed to see that around the country there would be a thousand major events to bring impact to the theme.

I am delighted to say that already that target has been exceeded by 30 per cent. Already something like twenty thousand chief executives have attended early

morning briefing meetings, with the result that they are going from breakfast to their factories and putting into practice some of the most up-to-date ideas.

The number of firms with an energy manager has already doubled.

We believe that following our efforts it may well treble.

Through our various schemes we reckon to have saved £500 million a year in wasted

energy.

Through our survey schemes a further £200 million of savings have been identified and in the domestic sector the number of homes sensibly insulating their roofs, putting cavity insulation into their walls, or draftproofing their windows and doors is enjoying a massive increase.

As a nation, we are beginning both in our

homes and our businesses to remove the outdated boiler and replace it with a better new product.

It is a staggering fact that in our homes almost every central heating system that is more than a decade old could be profitably replaced by the latest product.

Many of the lighting systems in Britain are out of date.

The latest systems of lighting are
incredibly cost-effective and the
reduction in energy costs more than
compensates the cost of the installation.
It is therefore a delight that, with the
usual enterprise of Milton Keynes you have
created this new Energy World,
illustrating to the nation the range of
things that can be done to make our homes
energy efficient.

The Government has also recognised the importance of helping to reduce the energy bills of those on low incomes and here we have mobilised the voluntary sector to join with Government in insulating the homes of people on low incomes.

I am pleased to say that already over 200 thousand homes of the disadvantaged have been insulated by our imaginative projects.

Milton Keynes has given a lead which will help us
all to achieve the target of Britain being
£7 billion a year better off.