



TRANSCRIPT

Article from St Michael News May 1961

St Michael NEWS

MICHAEL HOUSE, BAKER ST. W.1.

May 1961

INTERVIEW

These are some of the things Sir Simon Marks said on his first TV appearance:

Up to 1914 our motto was "Don't ask the price, it's a penny." – a very simple business.

During the First World War, when we had to buy anything we could, the result was a kind of hotch-potch of goods which had no relation to "Don't ask the price, it's a penny." It was only after a visit to America in 1924 that I ... came to the conclusion that the simplified price policy would be: "nothing over 5s."

The period 1924-1939 I always regard as the formative period because it meant going from the small little shop to the larger store, with larger selling areas and a totally different assortment of goods.

We have developed our welfare organisation to try to make our staff comfortable and happy in their work. We started with canteens. Medical and other services followed. Very few firms 25 years ago had any conception of welfare.

One has outside interests, and without being interested in outside national and Jewish problems, I would have a very limited outlook on life.

The think I want to do is live a little longer ... dispense philanthropy ... to help great national causes, and small causes, and in particular, to be a very good citizen if I can.