

Clip: Gerald Gardiner

Video: Open Forum 01 (1973)

Contributor: Gerald Gardiner

Gerald Gardiner:

Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Sir St.John-Elstob, ladies and gentlemen, as this is the first time I've appeared in public since my election as Chancellor, I should be grateful if you would allow me to begin by saying, what an honour I feel it to be to have been elected your Chancellor. Indeed I would sooner be Chancellor of this university than of any university, including my own. And that is because I have always been an enthusiastic supporter of the concept of The Open University. And while I shall probably render myself liable to prosecution under the Official Secrets Act, I don't mind saying that I remember a day in Cabinet when I told my colleagues that I thought that if the Government of which I was a member was remembered for anything in the years to come, they would be remembered as the founders of The Open University. Some of them seemed to think that rather odd, though what else they thought we should be remembered for I didn't discover. *[laughter]*