

FILE No. 19

Huskinson Dock,
Liverpool, 3.
11th October 1952

The Honourable Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs
and Excise,
Honourable Sirs,

Personal application for permission to appear on a
Television Broadcast.

May I be granted permission to appear
on Television in the series programme "Whats my Line?"
as per attached letter.

In view of the wording thereof, it
should be explained that when on leave recently I
visited the Lime Grove Studios on the invitation of
Mr. Newbiggin-Watts of the B.B.C. Television Service.
I was present when various programmes for the same
evening were being rehearsed, including competitors
for "Whats my Line?". In conversation whilst watching
Mr. Watts suggested that mine was just the type of
occupation likely to baffle the panel. He asked
whether I would be willing to volunteer as a challenger
and I said yes, subject of course to my being able to
obtain the necessary approval. The producer's letter
is the outcome.

Appearance on the programme, which is
unscripted, would not involve my speaking on Customs
matters; the panel would be simply endeavouring to
deduce my occupation, and replies to questions designed
to achieve this would be limited to Yes or No.

All challengers are required at the
outset to do a small piece of mime indicating something
done in the course of their work (in my case eg.
examining a seal, a duty which could be undertaken by
any Preventive grade) and sometimes they are asked at
the conclusion what this mime represented. Here would
be the only possibility for impromptu remarks and in
this connection I respectfully submit that my discretion
can be relied on not to say anything that would be
likely to embarrass the Department in any way. I
would add further, that several personalities of
similar and perhaps higher standing have already
appeared on this programme.

Attached also is a copy of my reply to
the B.B.C. Producer. Having regard to the second
sentence in his letter, may I respectfully request an
early decision, which I trust will be one of approval.

I am, Honourable Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,

William Cecil Hughes

William Cecil Hughes
Chief Preventive Officer.