

# Conservative Central Office

## NEWS SERVICE

### Biography:

Rt. Hon. Margaret THATCHER, M.P. (Finchley)  
Joint Opposition Spokesman on Treasury & Economic  
Affairs

Margaret (Hilda) Thatcher, nee Roberts, was educated at Kesteven School, Grantham Girl's School and Somerville College, Oxford. At Oxford she took an Honours degree in chemistry. After leaving Oxford, she did chemical research for four years.

In 1951 she married Denis Thatcher, now a director of Castrol and other companies. They have twins, a son and a daughter.

After her marriage, Mrs. Thatcher read Law and was called to the Bar in 1954. She specialised in Taxation Law.

She was a Governor of the London School of Economics.

She fought the 1950 and 1951 General Elections as Conservative candidate for the Dartford division. The result of these elections was a reduction of the Socialist majority from 20,000 to 12,000.

In the General Election of 1959 she was returned to Parliament for the Finchley Constituency which she has represented ever since.

In February 1960 she introduced as a Private Member's Bill, the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Bill, which received the Royal Assent in October 1960, and which gives the press and public a statutory right of admission to the meetings of public bodies such as local authorities, education committees and regional hospital boards.

In October 1961 she was appointed Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

Mrs. Thatcher became Front Bench Spokesman for the Opposition on Pensions and National Insurance in October 1964, and on Housing and Land in October 1965 to March 1966, and for the Treasury from March 1966 until 1967. She was appointed a member of the "Shadow Cabinet" in October 1967, and Chief Opposition Speaker on Power. In November 1968 she was appointed Shadow Minister of Transport, and in October 1969 was appointed Shadow Minister of Education.

Following the Conservative election victory of June 1970, Mrs. Thatcher was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Science. She held this position until the Conservative defeat in the February 1974 General Election. In March 1974 she was appointed Shadow spokesman on Environment. She retained this position until November 1974 when she was appointed a joint Shadow Spokesman on Treasury and Economic Affairs with special responsibility for financial legislation and public expenditure.

