

9 Jan 77 Last Thur to Birkhill 2 days shooting. Guns Alec Home; Roger Sherfield; Bill Kilmany (First day); Dundee, Mervyn Fox Pitt; Ian Moncreiffe (second day) At dinner Monica Kilmany; Janet F-P; Kate Faulkner 17; Leonie F-P, Miranda, David F-B, Alexandra Hay.

An odd story of the 1967 election never published. Alec (then PM) was staying with John & Priscilla Tweedsmuir, who had no room for Alec's private body guard. He went to the nearest town (? Aberdeen) and John & Priscilla left Alec for a time alone in the house. Knock at the door. Door answered by PM in person. Deputation of left wing students from Aberdeen Univ? Said they were going to kidnap Alec. He: "I suppose you realise that if you do the Coxs <sup>vers</sup> will win the election by 200 or 300". He asked and received permission to pack a few things & was given 10 mins grace. After that they were offered & accepted beer. John & Priscilla returned and the kidnap project abandoned. The body guard swore Alec to secrecy as his job wd: have been in peril.

Alec also said that before the war he had once shot a woodcock wh: fell into the tender of the Royal Scot. The driver stopped the train at Berwick and gave the bird to the Station master who delivered it to Alec



Two stories of Winston in the Commons. (1) The first before World War I. He was U/sec State for Cols & had to answer a PQ abt the Virgin Isles. A Conserve backbencher: Wd: the Hon G. kindly inform the House of the exact location of the Virgin Isles. Winston (who did not know): I can assure the H: that they are as far as poss: from the Isle of Man. (2) During the Span: Civil war: Winston: "Does the RHC mean to say that HM ships are lolling about under the muzzles of the Span: guns at Algeciras?" An Hon: Mem: "Lolling?" "Winston, M: Speaker, the figure may have been somewhat picturesque, but by the word 'lolling' I was intending to convey the notion of the movement of heavy bodies, responding rhythmically to the movement of the waves."

I asked Alex<sup>a</sup>: Hay what she thought of Keith Joseph, for whom she has been acting as private secretary. She: "I can only describe him as toodly". I: "What do you mean by toodly?" She: "Edward Heath is not toodly". Roger Sheffield: "Is Lord Hailsham toodly?" Alexandra Hay: "He is the Emperor of toodliness".

When I started the car to leave for Lon: on Sun: morning, the clutch wd: not work. Patsy Dundee rang her neighbour, Brig: Crawford, who owns a garage. The mechanic arrived and found the mastercylinder empty. He filled it, but it reached London safely. Car now in Kennings for repair. Distance Birkhill Roehampton about 480 miles. M1, M6, A74 M74, M8, M90, Newburgh (Alternatively Tay Bridge Rd — km left before Kilmarnock signpost? Brunton across Roads. Bag for ~~both~~ <sup>Keith</sup> days about 150 — shot poorly esp: pm secondary when feet painful