

BIRTHDAY HONOURS 1979

Note of an unattributable lobby briefing by Ken Stowe, No. 12 Downing Street, 12 noon, Thursday, 14 June.

THE HONOURS LISTS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION

Mr. Callaghan did not take up his option of recommending a dissolution honours list to the Queen. This list therefore represented Mrs. Thatcher's chance to 'balance' the political element in Mr. Callaghan's list and Mrs. Thatcher's political honours - principally the Life Peerages - represent the 'dissolution' element in this list.

The Political Honours Scrutiny Committee considered the 'political' names and made no comments.

The inclusion of such honours did not necessarily imply that Mrs. Thatcher intended to reintroduce political honours - she is considering this question, as she is the question of hereditary peerages.

The "ordinary" - i.e. the non-political list - is compiled half-yearly by Departmental Committees for submission to Ministers and the Prime Minister. This exercise was completed by March 29, but both Mr. Callaghan and Mrs. Thatcher agreed not to take any hand in the lists until after the Election. The recommendations then came forward to Mrs. Thatcher - and she and her Ministers had then considered the names. There had, of course, been additions and subtractions.

POINTS FROM THE LIST

The Prime Minister was concerned to see that due recognition was given to the International Year of the Child, especially

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services in connection with the N.S.P.C.C.

The Prime Minister asked the Leader of the Liberal Party if he would like to make a nomination in this connection. Mr. Steel proposed the name of Mr. Emlyn Hooson for a Life Peerage.

Some statistics: the following figures may be of interest. Total names in the List - 667.

Women	135		
Scotland	69	Wales	31
State Servants	141		
For services to export	24		
Local Services	234	(Teachers 34, Nurses 18, Police 17).	

The Life Peers (14) cover a broad spectrum. There are three women: the widow of Airey Neave; a nurse (Professor Jean McFarlane), and a former Parliamentarian (Betty Harvie Anderson); the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland; the Lord Advocate; an Economist (Ralph Harris); and Hugh Trevor-Roper, are among the Life Peers as well as those who served in the last Parliament. There is one Privy Counsellor, Terence Higgins, and one Companion of Honour, Michael Tippett.

Knighthoods

Local Services are represented by, among others, Horace Cutler of the G.L.C.; Hugh Ferguson Jones for public services in South Wales; and Gervas Walker, Chairman of Avon County Council.

Industry names include Michael Edwardes of British Leyland; Gordon Hobday, Boots; Maurice Hodgson, I.C.I.; Alex-Jarratt, Reed International; and Anthony Tuke, Chairman of Barclays Bank. James Cameron, Chairman of the B.M.A. is also included.

Noel Moynihan of Save the Children Fund and John Tooley of Covent Garden are also among the Knights.

There is one D.B.E., Miss Margaret Weston, Director of the Science Museum, a particularly appropriate choice from a

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woman Prime Minister.

Two K.B.E.s - John Greenborough, President of the C.B.I. and Reginald Murley, President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Among the C.B.E.s, Richard Buckle, former ballet critic and organiser of many major exhibitions; Jim Slater, General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen; Lady Freda Valentine, who has given 40 years service to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

The O.B.E.s include Michael Harris, Overseas Director of Oxfam and Miss Joan Hickmott in recognition of her services to profoundly deaf children.

Among the M.B.E.s is Miss Jean Burt, General Secretary of The Samaritans; Squadron Leader Lester Davies, Warden of the Ullswater Outward Bound Mountain School and Mrs. Alice Woods, who has played the church organ for 65 years.