

PRIME MINISTERBob Boothby

1. The Lord Chancellor telephoned to say that he had been approached by Bob Boothby who had explained that he had been in Parliament, without a break, continuously, for longer than any person in history. Bob, who is now in his 83rd year, was first elected to the House of Commons in 1924; served continuously in that House for 34 years; and has been in the House of Lords for the past 24 years - i.e. 58 years service in all.
2. Bob Boothby asked whether he could be made a Privy Counsellor.
3. The Lord Chancellor does not recommend this, but I thought that I ought to pass this on.
4. Quentin says that Bob Boothby is "an old rogue of whom I am rather fond" and wonders whether you could bear to include the old boy (and his young Sardinian Wife!) on an invitation list for lunch or dinner at 10 Downing Street.
5. I promised Quentin that I would pass this on.

5th January 1983

IAN GOW