

GARDINER, G.P.

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31st December, 1980

Approved Report

Thank you so much for sending me  
a copy of this document.

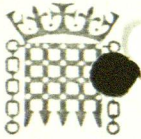
Would you be kind enough, please,  
to let me have another, on which the names  
of those concerned are written against the  
appropriate sentence?

Please forgive me for adding to your  
burdens in this way.

I send my admiring congratulations.

George Gardiner, Esq. M.P.  
House of Commons

House of Commons.  
LONDON, SW1A 0AA.



APPROVED REPORT

In the elections for Committee offices in the 1980-81 session, the "92" failed to secure all its objectives. However, I can report that over the two weeks our members notched up far more gains than losses.

The figures are as follows :

On the 1922 Executive, all our members retained their previous offices. A further member made a bid to join, but was unsuccessful.

On the subject committees, 11 bid for new or higher offices, and succeeded.

In the "no change" band, 19 retained the offices they had previously held; 9 bid for new or higher offices and failed - though some of these were bids made purely to strengthen chances lower down the line.

In only one case did a member suffer loss of office previously held.

We lost a secretaryship of Northern Ireland. We failed in our bids to secure the chairmanships of Employment and Education, though the voting was close, and we failed to secure a vice-chairmanship of Health. In all these cases, it was clear that the "92" was voting substantially below strength, to a greater degree than was accounted for by the absence of members in Europe.

We gained secretaryships on Agriculture, Constitutional Affairs, Defence, Education and Smaller Businesses.

We gained vice-chairmanships on Constitutional Affairs, Defence, Employment, European Affairs and Media.

We gained one chairmanship, of European Affairs, for which I should like to thank members personally for their weighty support.

I should add a word about the Finance Committee. This was an area of major challenge to us, and we secured the re-election of all our members in a hotly fought contest. There was some question whether we should extend our support to two previous office-holders who are not members of the "92". After consultation with the chairman of the Finance Committee, it was decided we might endanger our own candidates if we diluted our voting strength, and accordingly "plumping" was advised. Since our opposing organisation was "plumping" for single candidates at every level, I remain convinced that if we had spread our support this could well have resulted in our own candidates being defeated.

I would like to thank Bill Clark, Anthony Durant and Michael Colvin for the great help they have given in this exercise. Our conclusion, looking back, must be to echo the words familiar on school reports : the "92" has done quite well - but could do a great deal better.

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