



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

8 March 1984

Dear Gray,

BT
8/3

HEREDITARY PEERAGES BILL

will request if required

Thank you for your letter of 21 February about the Hereditary Peerages Bill which Willie Hamilton introduced on 23 February.

No other members of the Committee have commented, and I agree with you that there is no point in allowing debate on this Bill even if the opportunity were to present itself. As you suggest it should therefore be blocked at Second Reading - which I see Willie Hamilton has listed for 23 March.

I am copying this reply to the Prime Minister, to other Members of Legislation Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

JOHN BIFFEN

Rt Hon Lord Gowrie
Minister of State,
Management and Personnel Office

10/12/12

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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr. Fletcher

I mentioned this to
to the Prime Minister before
Her Audience.

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

12 March 1984

FERB

13-3-



1/ Mr Butler
2/ Prime Minister

13/3

Dear David,

As you will know, Mr W Hamilton has introduced a Bill for the abolition of hereditary peerages. It is down for Second Reading on 23 March when it is unlikely to be reached.

Since the Bill directly affects The Queen's Prerogative, it cannot be debated unless Her Consent has been signified. The practice is that even though the Government opposes such a Bill, Her Majesty should be advised to signify Her Consent on the ground that it would be wrong to prevent it being debated solely for want of Consent. Even though Mr Hamilton's Bill is unlikely to be reached, it seems prudent to obtain Consent in case, through some unforeseen contingency, there is in fact some time for debate. Mr Hamilton has written to the Home Secretary asking him to obtain The Queen's Consent and I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr Brittan to Sir Philip Moore to this effect.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Private Secretaries to the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Minister of State, MPO, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

MJG

M J GILLESPIE

D Barclay, Esq

MAR 1984

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A
B I L L
T O

End the practice of the creation of hereditary peerages; A.D. 1984.
to make provision for the ending of existing peerages
on the demise of the present incumbent; and to end
the custom whereby retired Prime Ministers and other
senior government and parliamentary office-holders are
offered peerages.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and
with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and
Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament
assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 5 1. After the expiry of ninety days after the day on which this Act is passed, no new hereditary peerages shall be created. Bar to creation of hereditary peerages.
2. No former Prime Minister nor any other government or parliamentary office-holders shall be able to claim an hereditary peerage on or after retirement. Former Prime Ministers and other office-holders.
- 10 3. All hereditary peerages shall cease to exist on the demise of the existing incumbent. Ending of a hereditary peerage on demise of incumbent.
4. This Act may be cited as the Hereditary Peerages Act 1984. Short title.
[Bill 109] 49/1

Hereditary Peerages

A B I L L

To end the practice of the creation of hereditary peerages; to make provision for the ending of existing peerages on the demise of the present incumbent; and to end the custom whereby retired Prime Ministers and other senior government and parliamentary office-holders are offered peerages.

*Presented by Mr. W. W. Hamilton,
supported by
Mr. James Lamond, Mr. Gordon Brown,
Mr. Tom Clarke, Mr. Norman Buchan,
Mr. John Maxton, Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk,
Mr. Tom Torney, Mr. Jack Straw,
Mr. Ray Powell, Mr. Roger Stott and
Mr. Frank Haynes*

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