

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SWIA 2AT

8 March 1984

Dear Gray,

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HEREDITARY PEERAGES BILL

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

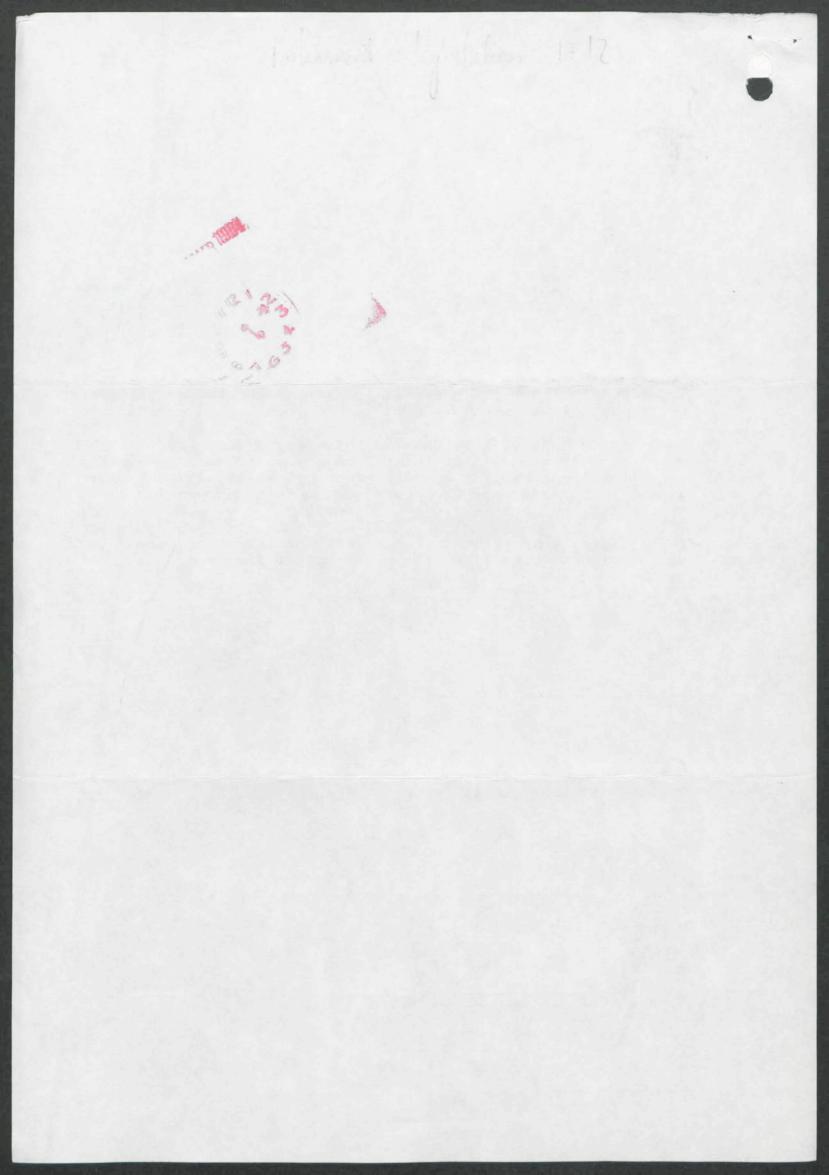
No other members of the Committee have commented, and I agree with you that there is no point in allowing debate on this Bill even if the opportunity were to present itself. As you suggest it should therefore be blocked at Second Reading - which I see Willie Hamilton has listed for 23 March.

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

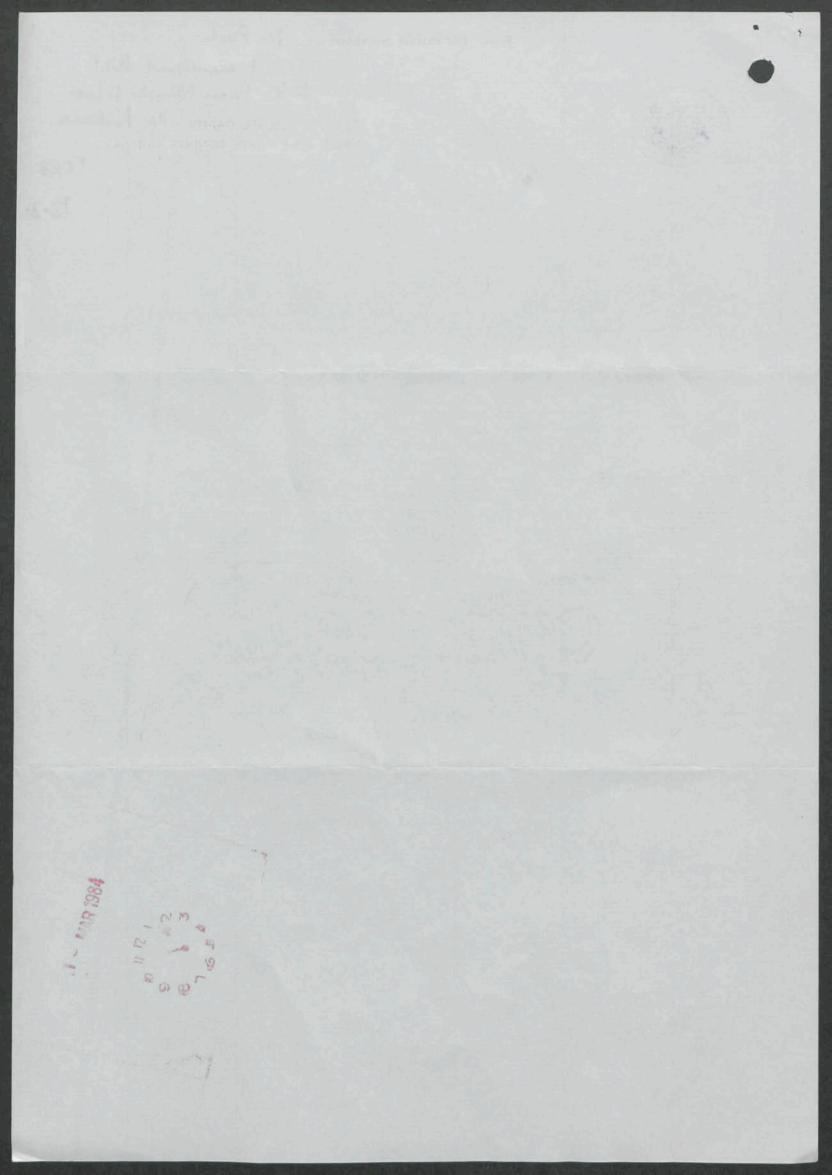
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JOHN BIFFEN

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



Markether From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY to the Prime Minister before HOME OFFICE He Andiance. 1/ Mr Byther 2/ Pur Munt QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SWIH OAT 12 March 1984 Dow 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 soley 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. Your ever M J GILLESPIE D Barclay, Esq



BILL

TO

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.

Beit 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 Bar to creation of Act is passed, no new hereditary peerages shall be created.

 Creation of hereditary peerages.
 - 2. No former Prime Minister nor any other government or Former Prime parliamentary office-holders shall be able to claim an hereditary Ministers and other peerage on or after retirement.
- 10 3. All hereditary peerages shall cease to exist on the demise of 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

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BILL

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

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 23 February 1984

LONDON

Printed and published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office Printed in England at St Stephen's Parliamentary Press

35p net

[Bill 109]

(310941)

49/1