



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

Wednesday, 11th April

- 10.00 a.m. Attorney-General (City & JT in N. Ireland)
Sir Denis Dobson
Mr. Boggis-Rolfe
- 11.00 a.m. Mr. Roger Parker, Q.C.
Mr. P. Oliver, Q.C.
Mr. M. Nourse, Q.C. (Rolls Royce)
Sir Denis Dobson
- 12 noon Mr. Lala
- 2.30 p.m. HOUSE
- 3.00 p.m. Lord Limerick (Insurance Cos. Bill)
- 3.30 p.m. Sir Denis Dobson
Mr. Bourne
Sir Bryan Roberts
(Birkenhead)
- 4.15 p.m. GEN 79, No. 10 (Capital Punishment in N. Ireland)
- 8/8.15 p.m. Dinner with Iranian Ambassador,
26 Princes Gate (Black Tie)
(and Lady Hailsham)



Capital punishment N.I. A.G. wanted advice. I said we must live with the fact that the P.M. Home Sec^r Whitelaw (by conversion) & Prior were all opposed to the death penalty, and could not be expected to operate it.

Meeting at D.S. 4/5. I said (i) Only indefensible policy wd be to reprieve all on some general principle without a public announce^t:
(ii) There wd be criticism of such an announcement if not backed by legislation as being a revival of the dispensing power. I wd not in fact agree w: th: criticism, but it wd be more unexceptionable to legislate.

(iii) That apart from general ^{factor} legislation we sh^d be taking away right to trial by jury when we pass Diplock in a variety of different cases including some murders of police and soldiers. I did not think Par^t: wd: condone the death penalty after trial by judge alone. Other (non political) police murders wd be subject to the ordinary law. Not tolerable that the latter sh^d die when former did not.

(iv) In the last resort death penalty for murder difficult to justify as part of ordinary law (as distinct from emergency) in one part of U.K. and not in rest of U.K., particularly as S.of S. is responsible to same Par^t: as that wh: today reaffirmed its abolitionist stand point by a maj^{ty} 142.

(v) The inevitable conclusion of this is to legislate, even tho! I remain impenitently ^{for} the death penalty.