

Mentions of Oxford and Oxbridge in Parliament

Date: March 2014

- 1) Commons Committee, Public Administration. Mention
- 2) Lords Committee, Communications, academic gives evidence
- 3) Lords Adjournment Debate, Mention
- 4) Lords Bill Committee, Immigration Bill, Mention
- 5) Lords Bill Committee, Immigration Bill, Mention

Tue, 25 March 2014

**Public Administration Committee - Conservative peer Lord Lang of Monkton –
The Work of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments**

Q32 Paul Flynn: The general public do not work or live in this elevated world where it is normal to get £60,000 for 18 days' work. The suspicion is there. The revolving door is spinning and it is corrupting Government. I believe that that belief is well founded. I was here when we had a retrospective pre appointment approval of your post, if you remember. You were already in post, so we could not possibly disapprove, because you already had it, but it was one of the few pre appointment hearings. In those years when you have been in that post, do you think your work has been worth while and that you have done a job that is worth the effort that you and the members of the Committee have put into it?

Lord Lang of Monkton: Yes, I do. It is interesting that **Professor David Hine of Oxford University produced a report recently** in which he said that there had been a marked improvement in the conditions attached by the Advisory Committee. In 2002, only some 10% of cases had conditions attached and now the figure is 85%.

Q33 Paul Flynn: But they are conditions that have no force. You are a watchdog without teeth or claws.

Lord Lang of Monkton: They have force with the 99% of applicants who observe them.

Q34 Paul Flynn: You could put 100 conditions around it. People can say yes, yes, yes, and go off and do what they like.

Lord Lang of Monkton: Even the remaining 1% probably observes them, but is thought not to have done by people who are keen to find a cause célèbre.

Tuesday 18th March 2014

Lords Communications Committee on broadcast general election debates, peers heard from:

* Professor Stephen Coleman, the Institute of Communications Studies, University of Leeds

* Tim Gardam, Chair, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, and Principal, **St Anne's College, University of Oxford**

Thursday 13th March Adjournment Debate

Lord Nash

To move that this House takes note of the role of primary and secondary education in improving social mobility.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash) (Con):

My Lords, I thank noble Lords for the opportunity to debate the role of primary and secondary schools in improving social mobility. We believe in higher standards for all, no matter what a child's background, and we are committed to getting every child's education right. From early years education and curriculum reforms through to more freedom for teachers and better vocational education, improving social mobility underpins absolutely everything that we are doing. Our reforms can be summarised in a few words: raising the bar and closing the gap.

.....
I have often said that teaching is the most noble profession. Teachers do a wonderful job, and those many thousands of dedicated, hard-working individuals working in our schools are transforming the lives of thousands of children. We now have the best generation of teachers ever working in our classrooms. **Education is now the most popular career destination for Oxford graduates.** Some 14% of its graduates enter teaching—a remarkable figure—and 74% of graduates entering teaching have a First or Upper Second degree, the highest percentage since records began. We have quadrupled the size of Teach First, now the largest recruiter of graduates in our country, and extended it into primary schools as well as to every region of the country.

Lords Committee Stage - Immigration Bill (Day Three)

Mon, 10 March 2014 | Committee Stage Debate

Lord Cormack (Con):

My Lords, 20 years ago, along with my friend, the noble Lord, Lord Radice, I was invited by the late, great—I use the word advisedly—Lord Dahrendorf, one of the most remarkable international figures ever to grace your Lordships' House, to be a visiting parliamentary fellow at **St Antony's College, Oxford**. We were the first two. I am sure I speak for the noble Lord, Lord Radice, who is not in his place. We were immensely impressed by this postgraduate Oxford college, which attracted students from all over the world. Many of them went on to hold positions of high importance and real influence in their native countries but always had a sense of real gratitude, affection and, indeed, obligation to the institution at which they had studied here.

I am still a member of the Senior Common Room at St Antony's and just a couple of weeks ago I was talking to our present warden, Professor Margaret MacMillan, herself an eminent Canadian historian who has just written a most remarkable book on the origins of the First World War. She said that at the moment there are students from 73 different countries at St Antony's, and that many current Governments of the world include those who received at least part of their education there. I believe there are four or five in the Mexican Government alone.

That is truly remarkable but it is not unique to St Antony's, eminent as that institution is. When students come to this country and study, they contribute far more than they obtain, and go back with a knowledge and affection for the United Kingdom. Of course, that does not apply just at postgraduate level. In the fair city of Lincoln, where I now live, we have two universities: the University of Lincoln, which has in a remarkably short space of time become a very significant university; and the smaller Bishop Grosseteste University, which began more than 100 years ago as an Anglican teacher training college and is now a proper university. Both those universities have students from a variety of countries.

As the head of another college said to me not long ago, we are in danger of making those who consider applying feel that they are not entirely welcome here. I cannot for the life of me believe that that is our intention. Of

My Lords, in listening to my noble friend Lord Patel's concerns, which I share very strongly, about children and the charging of children, it occurred to me that there might also be an issue about the immunisation of children. If significant numbers of children do not get immunised, that might pose a threat. I would appreciate the Minister addressing that question in his reply.

Mon, 3 March 2014 |

**Committee Stage Debate
Lords Committee Stage - Immigration Bill (Day One)**

Lord Tugendhat (Con):

My Lords, I very much agree with everything that the noble Lord, Lord Hannay, said and I am delighted that my name should be attached to his amendment. I shall not therefore repeat his powerful arguments but should like to add just one further thought.

As everyone in this House knows, the United Kingdom is second only to the United States in terms of the number of universities that it has in the top group of the world's universities, not just in absolute terms but in all kinds of important subject areas such as engineering; figures last week showed that Cambridge, Imperial College and Oxford were still in the very top group. That was as much as the rest of Europe put together was able to provide.

There are many reasons why British universities are in the top group of world universities but one is that there is a free market in talent that enables them to attract it from all over the world, not only in the students but in the teaching staff. To some extent, there is a chicken and egg factor here. They are great universities partly because they can attract talent from all over the world, and because they can attract that talent they remain very good universities.