

Papers of Hugh Dalton:
Original Manuscript Diary

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DIARY 11/1/60

(1)

My life Peerage is announced, on the 11th of Nov, and
 in the newspapers. I had been uncertain till today whether
 it was really true. (I had had a letter from the Earl of
 first day of December, asking whether I would like it, and had
 heard from H.G. since after the election, as it was being handled
 on Chief Whip level. I then decided to let Lady Wood and my
 parents know all was clear & it would be in New Year's Honours with
 H.G. in the same context of the study. It is easy to deal with
 telephone calls, receive visits from from (H.G.), & telephone &
 letters. Many, & very varied, but my friends are very pleasant.
 Most, by a large majority, when I was still uncertain, urged
 me to take it. "Still a platform" if I wanted to speak. But this
 didn't appeal to me much. I was appealed to me most was that I
 should let's retain my membership of the Westminster Club,
 though at the other end of the Palace. After 31 years as MP
 I left 13 years, nearly half as a Minister, I shall like to keep
 the club. I will attend in H.G., and with my many friends there,
 including particularly young men on Labour side, and to make
 occasional use - though I must not waste it - of right of entry to
 Commons' Dining Room & Smoking Room. And it is Pean's
 Gallery watching the beasts fighting in the old arena. As I
 suppose Lords have a library, which will hold the Hansards on
 Annual Register to keep me firm VI III. I must, I think,
 have a Territorial Title in the Teesdale, perhaps Forest-in-
 Teesdale - a proposed Forestry Comm. to plant a new Forest
 there. (T.O.)

DIARY.

4/5/60

(2)

Ray Jackson to see me.

Just after A.E.U. against advice of E.C. that voted (Unilateral)

Writen Dist. against my change in Clause 4, 1 & 2

for a shipping list of new nationalisation.

We both felt that the position had become impossible if

Hatz. went should should be take care. I said he should

publicly declare that if Party went to unilateral it should

continue view: he stuck to what we had said since

1934: we were of multi-lateral work. That he brought

to us so also say something possible & forward working

to attract support for non-members of the Party, E.S. as

we national policy by Staff Division, at TV conference

by various meetings. While delegates were waiting I

Jay's remarks were put in among on both feet whether

fall standards perhaps Hatz had been heavy on Clause 4,

Ray told me that 'perhaps' I added, among at B. Hallford,

was on 'said that, if I were he should come to don't don't

not' and was quite prepared to support Hatz's line. 'That was he made it

an issue of personal loyalties. I had to vote against him!!

~~But perhaps the wild asses have taken hold.~~

[Xerox copy - 1966]

Bar, perhaps, I'm too gloomy.
May 5th
1960 I wrote to H.G.

I'm, of course, deeply pissed and troubled, but for the Party and for you by recent events, ending for the moment with the stampede of the A.E.U.

And it looks certain to let loose.

Now I don't write to you, I'm still on the trivial issues on the desirability of your having a second P.P.S.

But now it seems to me to be a question of how soon, and in what terms, you should give a public warning that you will join an agenda of a Party, which commits itself to unilateral withdrawal first, & perhaps to other interdictions too.

Ray talks to me that your ~~is~~ pamphlet. I talked to ^{the same} many sensible things, but nothing very new. ... All ending in the usual manner: no one strong enough to give a lead in your responsibility, etc. Very nice about you, & recalled your virtues, as well as your ^{rather} more colorful

platform personality. I asked Had Attle got it? & he hung on to the leadership for 24 years. He hadn't the nerve to leave

it like a walk with you is here. & if it's to be my part to you, we'd better have it soon. Here from Thursday morning

"I grieve most of all, at this juncture, for you, for whom, as well as from whom, I had hoped to make. But we are all, in a way, letting a very poor return on all the effort & devotion we've invested

in this poor old worn-out, simulacrum of a great political party, which is used to call "the Hope of the World". But perhaps I'm too gloomy.
Yours affectionately H.D.

12/5/60

(4)

H.G., whom I hadn't seen for some time,
dined with me ^{alone} (R had provided some food
cold food & drink) at the flat.

A.E.U. had just voted for nuclear
unilateral dis.

I said the slide to N.U.D. had never
gone so far that I doubted if we could
now stop it. I thought it likely that both

Mixson & N.U.K. had the same way. Large
prefabricated majority for this at the

2 dinner conference, was being rapidly built up.

~ I perhaps in favour of Clause 4
as well. If these were carried, ^{could} H.G.

go on as Leader?

H.G. didn't take quite such a dark picture
as I did. But he said that, if he
resigned leadership, it wouldn't mean that he
would retire from politics. He would sit

to be a gangway, 2 money a PUP would follow him. He would talk

PUP that he could do for an leader. He didn't know whom Lloyd chose. The new "Official Leader" & Front bench would not be impressive.

I asked him if his commitments in Leeds were firm. He said yes.

He said G. Brown was often difficult. His final words were a request to me to see G. B. & persuade him not to consent some amalgamation with Cousins. We wanted to issue clean cut. bill G. B. failed. He was

This was a very sad talk. First I told ^{H.C.} him that G. B. had clean mind of a said "that politician" ^{dropped dinner; this is U.S.} young Parliamentarian were saying "How long will H.C. last?" I don't want to be dropped down with him if he goes.

DIARY.

13/7/60

Today Hugh and N.E.C. give up Battle for Clause 4. Memorial service of war in Westminster & Abbey on July 26. How unreal & inappropriate. His condition & trouble with heart & brain he won at Hald. "let the little children come into me." He & Brian have built unbelievable.

FY ↑ 357

A.E.V.

Today H.G. and the N.E.C. gave up the ghost on Clause 4. It will remain unchanged in the Party Constitution. The substitute statement on Aims, agreed some months ago, will be printed in the N.E.C.'s Report for the Year. But at the Conference ill-constituted delegates may stage an anti-gaity's ball Report on this.

of course, the Press will naturally, and logically, describe this as a neat defeat & rebuff for H.G. But both I & Tony last letter to him, & Tony, will warn, talked last night, were built very easy to see & CL 4 buried. When H.G. made his Blackpool speech, I agreed with it. But neither he nor I realized the massive bench-headedness of all sections of the Party, D.L.P.s, T.U.'s & P.L.P. It has been a most staggering, and almost unbelievable, experience. And a tiny minority have the capacity to think things out, even in a very simple way, or to see themselves as others, including ordinary people of all ages and occupations, see them. And this buckets of malice, hatred & jealousy from the intellectual & working - a sustained bombardment on Hugh, & many of his supporters.

DIARY.

6 12

13/7/60 (2)

Memorial service for Nye in Westminster Abbey on July 26th of course, I should go. Utah uncle and in appropriate! He was an "unbeliever" and never pretended, in so many words, to be anything. (In this, if he nothing else, he & Eric Berrin were alike.) What Nye was wanted - is a memorial near Tredogan - there was no religious service at all. No Minister of Religion was present; no prayers, no hymns, no spoken word. The silence was broken only by part of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony - one of Nye's favourites played on a gramophone.

I remember that Nye was Minister of Health, and fighting fierce opposition to his National Health Service. That is a speech he said "Let the Little Children Come Unto Me." How many there Christians were. I think I remember the present Archbishop of Canterbury publicly rebuking him.

other than a today, the A.E.U. Lobby voted for Unilateralism at this Conference. Even Eric was called upon to decide how to vote at Labour Party Conference - for or against Unilateralism, & for or against Party's new Defence Plan. This Party can't be run like this, & long survive.

want to these half-wits think people outside think
of them and their kniggles?

Talking with Tom yesterday. We thought George Brown,
though very awkward, very sensitive & ~~completely~~ fundamentally

time job handling him said T. would be the best deputy
leader. The Gaitskillite vote, dispersed but not
negligible in the P.L.P. should be pushed towards him, the

that he would win by TV from Gaitskillites. Wilson
would get "the Left", ex-Bourgeois, etc. But no amount,
only a cabin lorry of Hope / 2 Economic Deans from Oxford.

Jim Callaghan isn't really in the running yet. Best ability in
some directions. Promise and poise. But too dim and
timid. I don't seem to have any deep convictions. (Quite

David Butler's question to me "Has he got a resignation inside
him?" and Desmond Donnelly's "if I did that I would
lose my seat on the N.E." D.D. "But this is much more
important than a seat on the N.E."

J.E. "But I don't want to lose my seat on the N.E. just
at this moment." But some say J.C.'s intellectual grasp
isn't tightening, as it should be. Conf. vote of unlikelihood.

Talk with Tom on cooperation of a Conf. vote of unlikelihood.
I said my hunch was that unlikelihood was his. I said many
primarily through a hunch; hoped A.E.U. would strike back, etc. I
couldn't see that. If unlikelihood was H.S. could be acceptable. I
wondered whether a majority P.L.P. would vote to rid us of Conf. vote
in the 1. I couldn't see. Boneheadness would work
against this. I couldn't see. I couldn't see. I couldn't see.
further hope to

Back Bayles This move, even if inevitable, since he was so deeply committed in Defence, & was individually entitled to his constitutional objection, might have, like, Uman 4, to be a radical miscalculation. Even a head, but no one following. But Brown was also pretty deeply committed in Defence of unilateralists. Not much joy ahead here. Only certainly Tories will win next election, probably with further increased majority, and probably the next but one likewise. ~~but he had~~ I told Tony that Desmon had ~~asked~~ Crossman ~~to~~ see her told him that Nye was going to stab Hux in the back after Hux's Blackpool speech, but the performance fell ill. Crossman a one of the most unfaithful deceivers, with a touching recollection of cheap glitter. Remnants were H & L Fisher said to Attlee about him.