LORD WOLFSON OF MARYLEBONE
11 November 1927 — 20 May 2010
Leonard Wolfson (Lord Wolfson of Marylebone) was a businessman and philanthropist. His family’s wealth was made in the retail trade, and, with his father, he helped to turn Great Universal Stores into one of the largest retail conglomerates in Europe. In 1955, alongside his father and mother, he created the Foundation that bears his family name. The Wolfson Foundation’s activities and grant-making have been focused on research and education—and, not least, the advancement of science and medicine.

**INTRODUCTION**

On Leonard Wolfson’s office desk sat a silver inkwell. Inscribed on the inkwell was a quotation from Mishlei Shlomo (the *Proverbs of Solomon*, chapter 22:29): ‘Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings.’

The quotation neatly summarizes the rise of Leonard Wolfson and his family. His father, Isaac Wolfson (HonFRS 1963), was born in 1897 in the Gorbals of Glasgow soon after the family had arrived in Scotland as immigrants. From the poverty of these beginnings, within two generations the Wolfsons had created a vast retail empire, using their wealth generously to support science, education and culture—and gaining, along the way, accolades and honours, including (in Leonard Wolfson’s case) a seat in the House of Lords.
Biographical Memoirs

Early years

For better or worse, Leonard Wolfson’s relationship with his father—and with his father’s business and philanthropy—framed his life. Leonard Wolfson was born in November 1927, the only child of Edith and Isaac Wolfson (figure 1). His childhood contrasted with the hardship of the Glaswegian upbringing of his father, who was one of 13 children born to Jewish immigrants. The family had emigrated to Scotland in the 1890s from the area around Bialystok (currently in Poland but then in the Pale of Settlement of the Russian Empire).

Childhood acquaintances of Leonard Wolfson recall a somewhat unhappy boy who was self-contained, even withdrawn. Though highly intelligent, he disliked school. His boarding at Bristol’s Clifton College only lasted six months, although he was more settled at King’s School, Worcester—the family having moved to Worcester from London during the war. Some solace was found on the cricket pitch, including playing for the King’s first team, and his love of the sport continued throughout his life. He often recalled, with excitement, a dinner that had been arranged while visiting Australia for him to meet one of his first great heroes: Don Bradman.

Leonard Wolfson’s earlier years were shaped by two things in particular: first, the onset of war when he was 11. Throughout his life, he remained gripped and horrified in equal measure by the Second World War and especially the Holocaust. It was no coincidence that one of the small number of non-executive positions he accepted later in life was the appointment as a trustee of the Imperial War Museum. At the end of the war, aged 17, he travelled from Worcester to be in London on VE Day. Martin Gilbert describes his excitement. Unable to reach the Mall because the crowds were so thick, he happened to be in Storey’s Gate at the exact moment when Winston Churchill FRS emerged from his wartime headquarters. Pushing through the small crowd, he tried to touch him. A policeman pushed him back. Churchill, who saw what had happened, called out ‘Leave the boy alone’ and gave a V-sign. ‘What a moment that was for a schoolboy,’ Wolfson recalled many years later (Gilbert 1995, p. 155). Churchill remained the greatest of his heroes; a signed portrait adorned his office wall, and a quotation from Churchill was never far from his lips.

The second key backdrop to his formative years was the growth and growth of his father’s business, Great Universal Stores (GUS). Born into reasonable comfort, by the time he left school the family had acquired significant affluence. He would later reflect in a speech for the opening of the new Glasgow Medical School, University of Glasgow, on 3 April 2003 (Wolfson Foundation archive): ‘My father was a brilliant commercial success story.’ Less welcome was an increased profile for the family, and part of his dislike of school was the bullying that came alongside that profile. A sneering article in The Daily Express in 1943 (Daily Express 1943) profiled the family, including Leonard Wolfson: ‘the schoolboy son who nominally holds most of the shares in his father’s business.’ The article, which had more than a hint of anti-Semitism, gave the ‘schoolboy son’ a lifelong aversion to both the media and anything that might be construed as being ostentatious. This was only reinforced by the now largely forgotten Lynskey tribunal of 1948, investigating possible corruption (in particular cash/gifts for access) at the Board of Trade. Isaac Wolfson was asked to give evidence at the high-profile tribunal and, although he himself was exonerated, the whole experience left his son shaken. Indeed, the report of the tribunal gives glancing mention to Leonard Wolfson’s attendance (Lynskey 1949, p. 68, paragraph 281), alongside his father, at one of the lunches with the shady Sidney Stanley (the individual whose activities were the tribunal’s key focus).
Figure 1. Father and son: Leonard Wolfson with his father, Isaac Wolfson, *ca* 1930. (Image copyright of the Wolfson family.) (Online version in colour.)

**BUSINESS CAREER**

Paradoxically for one of the great philanthropists of UK higher education, Leonard Wolfson did not attend university. Instead, on leaving school he began work in his father's business,
joining GUS in 1946 as joint merchandising director of Jays Furnishing (figure 2). He retained, however, a lifelong interest in learning (particularly history) and, in Isaiah Berlin’s words, ‘a sharp, shrewd, clever’ mind (Berlin 2016, p. 302). Like his father, who humorously insisted that he had received his education ‘by degrees’, Leonard Wolfson later amassed more than 20 honorary doctorates from British, Israeli and South African universities.

So began a remarkable career in the retail business. Largely through a series of acquisitions during the 1940s, by 1950 GUS had become the biggest mail-order business outside the USA—and this at a time when the mail-order sector was growing significantly. Some estimates suggest that by the early 1950s 25% of people in Britain were customers. The business empire was also rapidly expanding beyond mail-order, with interests including fashion, furniture, a supermarket chain, shoe shops, housing construction companies and a travel agency. Jays Furnishing, where Leonard Wolfson cut his teeth, was a typical example of the acquisition that fuelled this extraordinary growth. The company, with 200 furniture outlets, was purchased in 1943 for a bargain £1.2 million after the previous owners had run into trouble with wartime price control legislation.

Leonard Wolfson’s business acumen was clear from the start, and his rise through the ranks of GUS was rapid: becoming director in 1952, managing director in 1962 and chairman from 1981 until his retirement in 1996. Beyond these titles, he worked in partnership (sometimes an uneasy one) with his father to lead and build the company. The period of Leonard Wolfson’s involvement in GUS therefore almost exactly dove-tailed with an extraordinary record: 48 consecutive years of increasing pre-tax profit, in the years between 1948 to 1996. His business
contemporaries reflect on a financial genius, but a talent that was in complete contrast to his father. Whereas his father’s style was charismatic, instinctive, creative and entrepreneurial, Leonard Wolfson’s role was largely one of consolidation, careful analysis and incremental expansion—perhaps less creative, certainly more cautious, but brilliantly effective. He was highly influential in the increasing globalization of the business from the 1960s, and placed significant emphasis on careful cash flow, low levels of debt and—where possible—the ownership of the freehold of property. He avoided risk in almost everything he did; yet, he had a clear vision for the company, was astute in spotting trends and exhibited brilliant timing in his acquisitions and sales.

His business life was marked by extraordinary attention to detail, an almost obsessive focus on the underlying finances, an autocratic management style and an enjoyment of debate and disagreement. He was very formal in his presentation, immaculately dressed, punctilious in all that he did and not someone to suffer fools gladly. ‘He never did anything by halves’, recalls Jeffrey Sterling (Lord Sterling of Plaistow). His letters and speeches went through endless drafts; and even decades later those running regional retail outlets spoke with terror of his unannounced appearances to inspect the store.

While there was an underlying toughness and he rarely showed emotion, he generally laced it with a humour, wit and what one of his former employees has described as ‘an occasional flash of kindness’; he attracted admiration, loyalty and even affection from some of his longstanding employees. Through hard work and sheer force of will, he kept close control over the company—only allowing GUS to issue the tersest of annual reports, refusing to support the enfranchisement of non-voting shareholders and appointing the first external non-executive as late as 1993.

**Philanthropy and science**

Leonard Wolfson’s commercial life formed the crucial backdrop to his philanthropic activities. Most obviously that was because the wealth generated through GUS allowed the philanthropy of the Wolfson Foundation, the endowed charity created by the family. That was literally the case because between 1955 and 1998 the assets of the Wolfson Foundation were almost exclusively GUS shares, and therefore benefitted from the year-by-year growth of the company (while helping the family to retain control of the business).

The Isaac Wolfson Foundation (later simplified to the Wolfson Foundation) was established in the mid 1950s. It was the public, legal expression of a family’s existing philanthropy: ‘finely conceived and long meditated’, in the words of the first chairman, Lord Nathan.* With Leonard Wolfson, his father and his mother as the founder trustees, it immediately became one of the UK’s largest charitable foundations and built a specialism in infrastructure investment.

It was in his philanthropic work that Leonard Wolfson found his greatest enjoyment, and where he increasingly stamped his distinctive mark—a distinctiveness that was perhaps easier to express at the Foundation than in his father’s business. As Martin Paisner, the Wolfson family’s legal adviser, has noted, ‘without in any way diminishing Isaac Wolfson’s financial

* Quotations here and below are drawn from the Wolfson Foundation archive (1955–1995), held at the Royal Society, and from Ramsbottom (2005), unless indicated otherwise.
and conceptual contribution to the Foundation, it is fair to say that Leonard Wolfson was its creative genius’ (Paisner 2014).

From the time of the first grants in the late 1950s, Leonard Wolfson took an increasingly influential role—and helped to forge the emphasis on infrastructure, on education and on science and medicine that continued through the following decades. The scientific focus was reflected both in the recipients of funding and in the appointment of distinguished scientists and medics as board members. Early trustees included, for example, physicist and Nobel Laureate Sir John Cockcroft FRS and surgeon Lord Evans of Merthyr Tydfil.

In those early years, the award-giving was driven almost exclusively by board members—generally using their network of friends and contacts. Leonard Wolfson’s involvement in this informal grant-making is demonstrated in the largest grant given during the first decade of the Wolfson Foundation’s existence: to fund a new building for the Royal College of Physicians on the edge of Regent’s Park (£450,000 in 1959). As a case study it illustrates the complex web of meetings and conversations that often led to major awards in those early years. Alongside provision of modest paperwork and a ‘small luncheon party’, the College was gently interrogated by Leonard Wolfson, who ‘needed convincing: what the College is; what it does; in what ways the present accommodation falls short’. Leonard Wolfson also visited the College to talk, among other issues, about the cost—a subject on which the College’s registrar, although presumably not his visitor, ‘spoke with some diffidence’. Following the award, described by the president in the British Medical Journal as ‘a historic gift which my College and British medicine are unlikely to forget’, Leonard Wolfson and Horace Evans joined the building committee. A wry note from the architect Denys Lasdun following one of those committee meetings indicated that ‘Leonard Wolfson … disliked the roof of the main building, disliked the roof of the Lecture Hall and thought the link with the building in St Andrew’s Place was aesthetically bad. He considered the entrances inadequate, the toilets inadequate and that the whole building looked like a battleship’ (Holland 2015).

This early case study is an example of the very practical and direct interest Leonard Wolfson took in the work of organizations funded and, in particular, how he used his business acumen in a philanthropic context. This particularly came to the fore following his appointment as chairman of the Wolfson Foundation, succeeding his father in 1972 (and thereafter given a largely free hand to mould its operations). Among other factors, four stand out as hallmarks of the way he led the Foundation, each drawing on his experiences in business life. First, he demonstrated an almost pathological dislike of waste and anything that might be seen as extravagant or over-priced. That was reflected in the way in which he ran the Foundation, with lean staffing and an emphasis on frugality—asking employees, for example, to cut around memos submitted to him and reuse the scrap paper. It was also reflected in the way in which he looked carefully at applicant accounts and project budgets. ‘I should still like the [Charity] Commissioners to monitor more closely the administration costs of charitable trusts and fundraising bodies’, he said in a speech in the House of Lords on 30 November 1989.

Secondly, and partly flowing from his concern about waste, his meetings with applicants (which he greatly enjoyed) took on an interrogative style—as if engaging in a marketplace haggle. Whether the supplicants were vice chancellors, senior scientists or directors of cultural institutions, they could expect to be cross-examined on the financial details of their organizations and projects. While this left some shaken, they frequently also emerged with generous funding. Many viewed these unpredictable conversations with affection, recalling that good humour and the occasional snippet of song from interwar musicals punctuated the
negotiations. Neil MacGregor, while director of the British Museum, noted that he received ‘enormous generosity and encouragement’ alongside those ‘extremely testing conversations’ (MacGregor 2015). Others had a less positive view. The former director of the V&A Museum recorded in his diary that he avoided Leonard Wolfson, ‘as I never forgot how perfectly awful he was over the V&A Primary Galleries. Thank heaven I don’t have to suck up anymore’ (Strong 2017, p. 203).

Thirdly, Leonard Wolfson took a punctilious interest in the detail of projects and also directly and successfully controlled the details of the Foundation’s investment portfolio, following its diversification in the 1990s. In terms of the Foundation’s grant-making, this meant on rare occasions exercising his right of veto to stop the funding of a particular project against the wishes of his fellow trustees—a privilege that had been laid down in the 1955 trust deed of the Wolfson Foundation. More often it meant something more positive: probing and negotiating in an attempt to improve projects and obtain better value for money.

Fourthly, the emphasis on infrastructure allowed him to give free rein to his expertise in property. He had a keen interest in architecture, preferring more classical styles and with a deep suspicion of anything avant garde or overly expensive. However generous the funding, he was adamant that not a penny would go toward either professional fees or VAT. He enjoyed visiting projects and inspecting buildings funded by the Foundation and, as with inspections of his retail outlets, he often arrived early or unannounced; much of what he needed to know about an organization he felt he could ascertain from the state of the building’s lavatories. And, although averse to publicity, he took a pride in associating his family’s name with fine buildings and institutions—perhaps most notably the Wolfson Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge.

Under his chairmanship, and with these principles as his lodestar, the scope of the Foundation’s activities expanded from 1972. The establishment of the country’s foremost history prize, the Wolfson History Prize, was his personal initiative in his first year at the helm, and he also increased funding—particularly from the 1980s—for historic buildings, and museums and galleries. The range of funding programmes encompassed support for health and disability charities and a wide-ranging interest in education, including schools. Nonetheless, throughout his time as chairman, a large majority of funding was allocated for science and medicine.

The breadth of activities and the large sums committed to science infrastructure projects were a direct result of the Foundation’s increased income under Leonard Wolfson’s leadership. In 1986 Leonard Wolfson could note with satisfaction that 44% (in value) of all grants had been made in the previous five years. The levels of funding only increased into the 1990s, and the Foundation’s investment assets were diversified away from GUS in 1998 soon after his retirement from the company. By the time of his death in 2010 over £650 million had been awarded in grants by the Wolfson Foundation to 8000 projects (the equivalent of £1 billion in today’s values). Despite this level of spend, the endowment maintained and increased its value, which at the time of writing (2021) sits at just over £990 million.

Leonard Wolfson was not given to introspection or reflection. He did not articulate a philosophy for his philanthropy. He did, nonetheless, on occasion speak publicly about his approach to science, the largest area of funding (figure 3). The grant-making of the Foundation in this area reflected his view that ‘a flourishing scientific community is crucial to this country’s progress and development’ (speech given at the Royal Society, 14 June 2005, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Wolfson Foundation and being appointed honorary
Fellow). He recognized that research needed significant investment and that, while personally interested in the direct health and socio-economic benefits of science, the investment needed to be in basic as well as applied research. ‘The talent available to us in our universities and technical colleges needs to be backed by more funding in both pure and applied research, for ... pure research often produces the ideas and techniques that are the basis for applied research and innovation’ (speech in the House of Lords 13 November 1985). Much of the increased income available during his time as chairman was therefore allocated for construction and equipment facilitating this research, with the most eye-catching of awards being for new buildings housing outstanding science and technology departments in universities. Numerous examples include: Bioengineering at Strathclyde (1968); Engineering at Southampton (1975); Organic Chemistry at Imperial College London (1992); Engineering at Loughborough (1998); and Materials Science and Metallurgy at Cambridge (2009).

An obvious interest for Leonard Wolfson, given his background, was the forging of closer links between business and academia. ‘For their mutual advantage, the universities and higher education establishments must maintain and strengthen their links with industry and commerce’ (House of Lords 13 November 1985). One of the longest running of the Foundation’s research programmes was set up in the late 1960s and ran through until 1988: a technology projects scheme to engage industry and universities in joint development with a highly practical focus. To a considerable extent, this was the brainchild of Wolfson trustee and government chief scientific adviser, Lord Zuckerman (Solly Zuckerman FRS). By the end of the programme, the board could reflect that it had been ‘abundantly successful in its aim of narrowing the traditional gap between academics and industry’. Some of these successes were particularly striking. A grant for electronics at the University of Edinburgh (1968) helped lead to a spin-off company, Wolfson Microelectronics, which was floated on the stock market in 2003. When the Foundation made an award of £2 million for the Centre for Informatics and Life Sciences in the University of Edinburgh’s Informatics Forum (2004), the company were pressured by Leonard Wolfson to provide partnership funding of £1 million for doctoral research fellowships in informatics and microelectronics.

Nonetheless, the area that was probably of most, and increasing, interest to Leonard Wolfson was medical research. During the 1990s and 2000s the Foundation made some of its largest grants to a significant number of major medical initiatives covering many of the key contemporary research areas, ranging from the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre at Cambridge (1992) to the new Medical Cell Biology Institute at Edinburgh (2001). Of particular note was an award of £10 million in 1996 to help create the Wolfson Institute of Biomedical Research in the Cruciform Building at University College London (UCL). Headed by Salvador Moncada FRS, the Institute aimed to work at the interface between fundamental biological research and its application both to the discovery of new medicines and to clinical practice.

From the mid 1980s, the Foundation began to take on a more formalized structure, with the introduction of peer review and expert panels clustered around key themes of the Foundation (and each chaired by an academic trustee): Science & Medicine; Arts & Humanities; and Schools. The panel structure was partly a result of an increasing emphasis on research, hence the need for expert decision-making, and partly a general movement, under Leonard Wolfson’s leadership, to professionalize the philanthropy of the Foundation. It was also no coincidence that the panels were introduced directly after a rare contretemps with some of the academic trustees who felt, among other complaints, that decision-making was too heavily influenced by the chairman.
The shifting nature of the administration was reflected in the chief executive officers appointed by Leonard Wolfson. During his time as chairman, he moved appointments from the mould of the 1950s and 1960s—distinguished retired military men such Lieutenant General Sir Harold Redman—to civil servants who had built their careers in the research council world: Alan Jones, Barbara Rashbass and Victoria Harrison. The Foundation’s reputation became reliant on high-quality expert peer review; he appreciated the credibility and gravitas that came in its wake and was always interested to receive expert opinion, even when he felt at liberty to ignore it.
The increasing professionalization of the Foundation under his leadership was also reflected in the pursuit of partnerships with other organizations. Some, like the Wellcome Trust, were fellow funders; some were learned societies or other expert bodies. He welcomed the idea of drawing in their expertise, of outsourcing administration and also of using Wolfson funds to leverage additional funding. Perhaps chief among the partnerships over the years was with the Royal Society, including a joint programme from 1997 to support laboratory refurbishment at universities, and from 2000 the Merit Award programme to encourage leading researchers to come to and stay in the UK. He particularly appreciated the fact that, following his discussions with Minister for Science and Innovation Lord Sainsbury, the Department for Trade and Industry provided matched funding for the Merit Award programme.

Among numerous honours (figure 4), he was elected honorary Fellow of the British Academy in 1986 of the Royal Society in 2005.

**ISRAEL**

Although Leonard Wolfson was sceptical of piety (as he was of most things), he retained a proud affection for and commitment to Jewish traditions—and to the land of Israel. The lessons to be drawn from the Holocaust were never far from his mind. He never forgot hearing the announcement of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 on a ship’s radio returning from South Africa, and often mentioned supporting the archaeology of Yigael Yadin at Masada in the 1960s (e.g. a speech given in the National Gallery, at the fiftieth anniversary dinner for the Wolfson Foundation, 6 December 2005). The Central Synagogue in London’s West End—‘the subject of some of my fondest earliest memories’ (speech given for the fiftieth anniversary of the new building, 29 March 2008)—was destroyed in the Blitz in 1941, but was rebuilt with Wolfson funding in the post-war period. Leonard Wolfson took a central role as honorary chairman of the rebuilding campaign. It is no surprise, therefore, that the *Jerusalem Post* described him as ‘among the great philanthropists and contributors to Israel’ (Jerusalem Post 2010).

From the early 1980s he took over the chairmanship of the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust, a charity that had been established by his parents in 1958. He put the charity under the same administration as the Wolfson Foundation, but focused its activities on science and medicine in Israel, advised by an expert scientific panel based in Israel and chaired by economist Professor Haim Ben-Shahar. Many of the key areas of scientific and medical endeavour at Israeli universities and hospitals benefitted from the funding and, until his later years, he regularly visited the country to see the fruits of these investments.

**POLITICS AND PERSONAL LIFE**

Although not especially political, Leonard Wolfson was instinctively conservative by temperament, a fierce advocate of capitalism and a devoted patriot. It was therefore no surprise that he took the Conservative Whip when appointed to the House of Lords in 1985. It was also appropriate that he was introduced to the House not just by a party apparatchik (Lord Fraser of Kilmorack) but also by a scientist (Lord Zuckerman). He spoke rarely in the Lords, and throughout his life tended to avoid strongly held positions on political subjects, despite retaining a keen sense of propriety. Nor was he doctrinaire on the subject of state spending.
Although an admirer of Margaret Thatcher (HonFRS 1983), he did not place his philanthropy in the context of her free market policy. Indeed, he used his occasional platform in the House of Lords, not just to highlight philanthropy, but also to encourage government to provide additional funding for education, science and the arts (e.g. his House of Lords speech on 26 November 1986).
The social side of the House of Lords life appealed to him—as did the social side of his giving. Particularly after his retirement, he would attend dinners and events with his wife at London’s cultural and educational institutions on several nights each week. He relished his meetings and correspondence with senior figures from across political and cultural life.

Beyond the workplace, his great interests were cricket, classic films and narrative history—invariably he had a hardback history book (heavily annotated) tucked under his arm. Alongside his political hero, Churchill, and his sporting hero, Bradman, was another hero—an intellectual one: the historian Edward Gibbon FRS. Gibbon was probably the figure, consciously or not, whom he most tried to emulate in his sardonic wit, style and scepticism. As with quotations from Churchill, a Gibbon epigram was never far from his lips. These passions—for Churchill and Gibbon (and cricket)—also served a double purpose as part of a determined endorsement of Englishness and conservative English values.

Family was important to Leonard Wolfson. He married Ruth Sterling in 1949, and they had four daughters: Janet, Laura, Deborah and Elizabeth. The marriage was dissolved in 1991, and he subsequently married Estelle Jackson. He involved both his wives in his philanthropy, and both served as trustees of the Wolfson Foundation.

**CONCLUSION**

Leonard Wolfson’s family were a great source of comfort to him in the months leading to his death in May 2010 at the age of 82 at St Mary’s Hospital. Soon after his death, a bust was erected in London’s Queen Square. The epigraph provides (with a terseness that he would have appreciated) a three word summary of his life: ‘Businessman and Philanthropist’.

Following his death, two major gifts were made in his name that, in many ways, reflected his interests: a new auditorium at Wolfson College, Oxford, and the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre at UCL.

His legacy lives on in the many thousands of buildings constructed and the lives touched by his funding, and, above all, in the continuing work of the two charities that he helped to create and to which he dedicated so much energy, now chaired and led by his daughters: the Wolfson Foundation and the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust.

**SELECTED HONOURS AND AWARDS**

Leonard Wolfson was awarded over 20 honorary degrees from universities, including: Cambridge, Cape Town, Dundee, Durham, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hebrew, Hull, Imperial College London, Loughborough, Oxford, Sheffield, Strathclyde, Surrey, Technion, Tel Aviv, Wales and the Weizmann Institute.

He was made a fellow of many of the UK’s leading learned societies: the Royal College of Physicians (1977), the Royal College of Surgeons (1988), the British Academy (1986), the Royal Academy of Engineering (1997) and the Royal Society (2005). He was also honorary fellow of many higher education institutions, including: Wolfson College, Cambridge; Wolfson College, Oxford; UCL; the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; the London School of Economics; and the Royal Academy of Music.
Prominent among non-executive positions that he held were trustee of the Imperial War Museum (1988–1994) and president of the Jewish Welfare Board (1972–1982), as well, of course, as his lifelong involvement in his family’s charities.

He was made a life peer in the House of Lords in 1985.

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