

20TH CENTURY DIGITISATION OF HOUSE OF LORDS PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS [1901 – 2005]

The first digitisation of the House of Lords Parliamentary Papers [1901 – 2005] is now available, offering online access to the British legislative landscape during the 20th Century.

This historical source captures the political, social, economic and foreign policy decision making process of the second chamber which has shaped our constitution.

It offers researchers/academics from all disciplines/fields a comprehensive insight into how issues were explored and legislation formed, leaving an indelible print on our past, present and future. Landmark debates and decisions by the House of Lords which affect our everyday lives for example cover areas such as welfare, health and education:

- **Education Bill (amending The Employment of Children Act, 1903)** – summarises alterations in England and Wales including the prevention of children twelve and under being employed; restriction of employment of children twelve and above to two hours on a Sunday and not at all during the hours of a normal school day nor on any day before six o'clock in the morning or after eight o'clock in the evening.
- **National Health Service HLB 126 1945/46** – led to an Act to provide a universal physical and mental health service in England and Wales and for the purposes connected therewith. The main driving force being that money, or lack thereof, ought not to prevent anyone obtaining free advice and treatment for their holistic well-being including dental, sight, hearing and even mental health.
- **Death Penalty (Abolition) Bill HLB 154 1955/56** – led to an Act to suspend [effectively abolish] capital punishment in favour of alternative penalties including life imprisonment. A steady increase in the rate of murders following this Act [including those by the infamous Myra Hindley and Ian Brady in 1966] led to countless unsuccessful debates about the reinstatement of the death penalty.
- **Unemployment Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Unemployment Volume 1. Report HL 142 – 1981/82** – a report examining the causes and implications of the oil crisis, miners' strike, three-day week, double-digit inflation, trade deficit and national debt which collectively had a domino effect on rising unemployment and what is deemed as the 70s recession.

And so, the impartial role of the House of Lords in reviewing bills, analysing legislation, considering public policy and holding government to account is an intrinsic part of our heritage, culture and tradition. This digitisation of 20th Century parliamentary papers captures this history in the making and preserves its legacy for future generations.

ABOUT PIO/DANDY

Dandy is a specialist supplier of Parliamentary and official publications with 25 years experience. We started our business buying publications from HMSO and in 2005, when the digital age was fast becoming our future, we launched Public Information Online [PIO]. Currently the site has over 150,000 fully searchable documents and is growing by the day. All publications are available in PDF format and this venture exceeds the cross sectional needs and challenges of librarians, researchers and academics:

- Digital format overcomes shelf space issue
- Easy to access, share and manage
- Conserves time and effort = preserves productivity



House of Lords 1961-2 Portrait of Peers