

U DLS Papers of Dr Hastings Bertrand Lees-Smith MP c.1909-1990

Biographical Background:

Hastings Bertrand Lees-Smith was born in India in 1878 and returned to England after the death of his father in 1880. He broke with family expectations of a military career and went to Oxford University in 1895, graduating in History in 1899. At Oxford he joined the Fabian Society and became involved in working class education at Ruskin College. He eventually became a lecturer in public administration at the London School of Economics in 1906, and in 1907 went to Bristol as Professor.

He was twice elected as Liberal MP for Northampton in 1910. Despite becoming an early member of the Union of Democratic Control, he served in the army during the First World War until he was invalided out in 1917. After his defeat in the 1918 election, he joined the Labour Party. He continued to work sporadically at the LSE (where he became a Reader in Economics, and holder of a DSc Econ) and to produce scholarly tracts. He was elected Labour MP for Keighley in 1922, and retained the seat (except for 1923-24 and 1931-35) until his death.

He was an expert on parliamentary procedure and the labour movement. He became Postmaster General in 1929, and then Minister of Education, with a seat in the Cabinet, briefly in 1931. On his return to the Commons in 1935 he became Labour's front bench spokesman on foreign affairs and, in May 1940, acting chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party. He died in 1941.

Custodial history:

Donated by Patrick H Lees-Smith, Hereford, through Dr Joyce Bellamy, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Hull, April 1990

Description:

The collection is comprised largely of correspondence and printed material and speeches but also contains press cuttings, articles written by Lees-Smith and other miscellaneous items

Arrangement:

U DLS/1 - 17	Correspondence, 1919 - 1941
U DLS/18 - 32	Printed Material and Speeches, 1910 - 1954
U DLS/33 - 37	Press cuttings, circa 1909 - 1943
U DLS/38 - 40	Articles, 1931 - circa 1938
U DLS/41 - 48	Miscellaneous, 1953 - 1990

Extent: 0.5 linear metres

Related material:

Archives of the Union of Democratic Control [DDC]

Other repositories:

Correspondence with Sir BH Liddell Hart, King's College London: Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives

Access conditions:

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U DLS/1	Letter from Lees-Smith to the Press[?] Giving reasons why he and other Radicals were leaving the Liberals to join the Labour Party 1 bundle	Jun 1919
U DLS/2	Letters to Lees-Smith, from a) Arthur Ponsonby, congratulating Lees-Smith on his speech in the House of Commons. Press cutting of related[?] incidents attached, 12 Apr 1923 b) A. Berriedale Keith: i) Thanking Lees-Smith for copy of 'Second Chambers', 15 October 1923 ii) Sympathising with Lees-Smith on his election defeat, 7[?] December 1923 c) Viscount Haldane, thanking Lees-Smith for book 'Second Chambers', with comments, 29 June[?] 1924 d) William Parkinson, thanking Lees-Smith for his strong protest against protectionist proposals in the Finance Bill, 27 June 1925 e) Eva M. Hubback, thanking Lees-Smith for his work on the Widows' Pensions Bill, 30 July 1925 1 bundle	12 Apr 1923- 30 Jul 1925
U DLS/3	Pencilled notes Querying / confirming Lees-Smith to lead off in a Commons debate. Signed 'CE'[?] on verso 1 bundle	1920s
U DLS/4	Telegrams i) Accession Council meeting at St. James' Palace, 21 Jan 1936 ii) Accession Council meeting at St. James' Palace, 11 Dec 1936 2 items	21 Jan-11 Dec 1936
U DLS/5	Letter from Ramsay MacDonald Informing Lees-Smith of submission of his name for approval as member of Committee of Privy Council (on the) Coronation of Edward VIII 1 item	22 May 1936
U DLS/6	Notification of Privy Council meeting 1 item	30 May 1936
U DLS/7	Letter appointing Lees-Smith a member of the Coronation Committee of the Privy Council With Order in Council listing approved names of Committee 1 item	3 Jul 1936

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U DLS/8	Notification of meeting of the Coronation Committee With press cutting about meeting on 30 May and memorandum about the proceedings of the Accession Council attached 1 item	7 Jul 1936
U DLS/9	Letter appointing Lees-Smith as United Kingdom representative to the Coronation Commission 1 item	15 Jul 1936
U DLS/10	Note of apology thrown to Lees-Smith across the floor of the House of Commons 1 item	20 Jul 1936
U DLS/11	Letters of thanks to Lees-Smith, from i) Winston Churchill, 9 Apr 1941 ii) The Speaker (E. A. Fitzroy), 24 Nov 1941 2 items	9 Apr-24 Nov 1941
U DLS/12	Appointment of Lees-Smith as Postmaster General With Oath of Allegiance and letter (13 Jun) of confirmation attached 1 item	10 Jun 1929
U DLS/13	Appointment of Lees-Smith as President of the Board of Education 1 item	5 Mar 1931
U DLS/14	Appointment of Lees-Smith to the Privy Council With Oath of a Privy Counsellor attached 1 item	5 Mar 1931
U DLS/15	Notifications of government meetings Lees-Smith requested to attend as President of the Board of Education 3 items	Jun 1930- Jun 1931
U DLS/16	Award of Silver Jubilee Medal to Lees-Smith from George V 1 item	6 May 1935
U DLS/17	Notification from the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery Of their wish to include a photograph of Lees-Smith in the National Record of Distinguished Persons 1 item	24 Jul 1940
U DLS/18	Parliamentary election addresses by Lees-Smith i) Northampton, 1910 ii) Keighley, 1931 2 items	1910-1931

U DLS/19	<p>Parliamentary Speeches by Lees-Smith</p> <p>a) Maiden speech (notes), Mar 1910</p> <p>b) Salary of the President of the Local Government Board (notes), 17 Jun 1910</p> <p>c) Census Bill (notes), 20 Jun 1910</p> <p>d) General. (Torn from copies of Hansard's 'Parliamentary Debates'), and covering the three periods during which Lees-Smith was a Member of Parliament, viz.: 17 Jun 1910 -14 Mar 1918, 15 Feb 1923-9 Sep 1931, and 5 Feb 1936-30 Sep 1941 (circa 186)</p> <p>1 bundle</p>	Mar 1910-1941
U DLS/20	<p>Typescript. 'The Time - table of the House of Commons', by Lees-Smith (70 pp)</p> <p>1 item</p>	[1923]
U DLS/21	<p>List of Parliamentary Sessions from 1780 to 13 Feb 1923, with pencilled note on Times of Sessions attached</p> <p>1 item</p>	[1923]
U DLS/22	<p>Letter convening meeting of the Joint Committee on the Sittings of Parliament</p> <p>With a Memorandum on the Select Committee of House of Commons (Procedure) of Session 1914 attached</p> <p>1 item</p>	9 Nov 1923
U DLS/23	<p>Typescript. 'Notes of Evidence given to the Joint Select Committee on the Sittings of Parliament', by Lt. Col. the Rt. Hon. Leslie Wilson, C.M.G. (Companion of the Order of St Michael and St. George), D.S.O (Distinguished Service Order)</p> <p>1 item</p>	13 Nov 1923
U DLS/24	<p>Report from the Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on the Sittings of Parliament, together with the Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence</p> <p>1 item</p>	14 Nov 1923
U DLS/25	<p>Report of the Joint Committee on the Sittings of Parliament</p> <p>1 item</p>	26 Jun 1924
U DLS/26	<p>'The Sittings of Parliament', by Carlton Grey, from 'The Empire Review'</p> <p>1 item</p>	c.1924

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U DLS/27	Typescripts. Speeches by Lees-Smith on the Workings of Parliament 2 items	Jan 1930
U DLS/28	Form and Order of Service and Ceremonies Coronation of King George V 1 bundle	22 Jun 1911
U DLS/29	Reports and Conclusions Of the Coronation Commission, the Coronation Joint Executive Committee, and the Coronation Committee of the Privy Council 16 items	Jul 1936- 17 Mar 1937
U DLS/30	Typescript copy. Edward VIII's abdication speech, with Bill of abdication attached 1 item	10 Dec 1936
U DLS/31	Draft Form of Ceremonies, Coronation of King George VI, with supporting letter 1 item	6 Apr 1937
U DLS/32	Miss Savidge Tribunal i) Parliamentary Debates concerning the appointment of members, 23 May 1928 ii) Appointment of Members of Inquiry. (Typescript), 24 May 1928 iii) Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act, 1921, 24 Mar 1921 iv) Report of the Miss Savidge Tribunal, 11 Jul 1928 v) Press cutting. 'Judge Parry says what he thinks of the Savidge Report', Sunday Chronicle, 15 Jul 1928 vi) Press cutting. 'Miss Savidge and the case against the police by Edgar Lustgarten', 'Evening Standard', 10 Jun 1954 1 bundle	23 May 1928- 10 Jun 1954
U DLS/33	Press cutting. Lees-Smith as Postmaster General, unveiling tablets to seven Londoners 11 items	14-16 Oct 1930
U DLS/34	From 'The Schoolmaster and Women Teacher's Chronicle' i) Press cutting. Resignation of Sir Charles Trevelyan, President of the Board of Education, and appointment of Lees-Smith, 5 Mar 1931 ii) Press cutting. New Minister of Education, 12 Mar 1931 2 items	5-12 Mar 1931

U DLS/35	Press cuttings Miscellaneous, biographical 37 items	[1909]- 21 Oct 1937
U DLS/36	Press cuttings Reviews of Second Chambers in Theory and Practice, by Lees-Smith 13 items	3 Nov 1923- 22 Dec 1924
U DLS/37	Press cuttings Obituaries and memorial tributes, including those from M. P.'s, and related correspondence 23 items	19 Dec 1941- 4 Nov 1943
U DLS/38	Articles by Lees-Smith on Education a) 'Education: To-day and To-Morrow', 'Everyman', 18 Feb 1932 b) 'Fixing the Child's Fate at 11', 'New York Herald Tribune', 10 Sep 1933 c) 'Eleven', 'News Chronicle' (2), 1 Feb 1934 d) 'The New Governing Class', 'News Chronicle' (2), 26 Feb 1934 e) 'Overworked Children', 'News Chronicle' (2), 21 Jun 1934 f) 'Concentration Camps for those who Set Excessive Homework', 'Junior Teachers World' (2), 24 Oct 1934 g) 'The Challenge of the Day School', 'News Chronicle', 13 Nov 1934 h) 'The Nightmare of Homework', 'News Chronicle' (2), 15 Jan 1935 i) 'Will They Pass?', 'News Chronicle' (2), 9 Apr 1935 j) 'Matriculation's Dead Hand', 'News Chronicle' (2), 3 Jun 1935 k) 'What Will They Be?', 'News Chronicle' (2), 17 Jul 1935 l) 'When Education is a Curse. The mysteries of "Matric"', 'Reynold's Illustrated News' (2), 18 Aug 1935 m) 'What Should They Learn?', 'News Chronicle' (2), 16 Sep 1935 n) 'Making Children Slaves', 'The Evening Standard', 26 Sep 1935 o) 'Little Tests to Find the Best', 'The Evening News' (2), 19 Nov 1935 p) 'The Boy who'll Rule Us', 'John Bull', 11 Jan 1936 1 bundle	18 Feb 1932- 11 Jan 1936

U DLS/39	<p>Articles by Lees-Smith on politics</p> <p>a) 'The Future of the Labour Party', 'The Spectator', 7 Nov 1931</p> <p>b) 'Is the Post Office Efficient', 'The Spectator', 26 Dec 1931</p> <p>c) 'Is Parliament Too Slow', 'Daily Herald' (2), 25 Jun 1934</p> <p>d) 'Britain's Government Falters', 'Current History', Sep 1934</p> <p>e) 'Political Parties and the Next Election, II: prospects for the Labour Party', 'The Political Quarterly', Jan 1935</p> <p>f) 'Looking Behind the Budget', 'Reynold's Illustrated News', 21 Apr 1935</p> <p>g) 'The Next Budget - what Labour will do: sixpence in the o', 'Reynold's Illustrated News (2), 2 Jun 1935</p> <p>h) 'Labour's Ready, Aye, Ready!,: Outline of Policy and Tactics for the First Five Years', 'Reynold's Illustrated News', (2), 30 Jun 1935</p> <p>i) 'When England Votes', 'New York Herald Tribune' (2) 17 Nov 1935</p> <p>j) 'England's New Ruling Classes', 'New York Herald Tribune', 22 Dec 1935</p> <p>k) Draft copy of 'Labour and the Election', 'The Contemporary Review', (c.1938) 1 bundle</p>	7 Nov 1931- [1938]
U DLS/40	<p>Articles by Lees-Smith on America</p> <p>a) 'The Police and Dillinger', 'News Chronicle', 27 Apr 1934</p> <p>b) 'What Americans Can Teach Us', 'Daily Herald' (2), 9 Nov 1934</p> <p>c) 'A British Politician on Gangster-dom', 'Reynold's Illustrated News' (2), 17 Mar 1935</p> <p>d) 'Twilight of the Gangsters', 'Daily Herald', 21 May 1935</p> <p>e) Typescript. 'English and American political life', (13 pp), (c.1934) 1 bundle</p>	27 Apr 1934- 21 May 1935
U DLS/41	<p>Poem. 'I sing the curl which drapes the neck...' Manuscript 1 item</p>	20th cent.
U DLS/42	<p>Pencil drawing of Lees-Smith by 'Mossom'[?] 1 item</p>	20th cent.
U DLS/43	<p>Press advertisement [masonic]: 'H. Lees, 30' Possible connection with Lees -Smith's father? 1 item</p>	20th cent.

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U DLS/44	Parliamentary notices of the day: Death of Queen Mary 1 bundle	25 Mar 1953
U DLS/45	Typescript. 'H. B. Lees-Smith, M. A., M. P.: the life and career of one Labour M. P., 1878 - 1941', by Brenda Burns (Dissertation) 1 item	Jul 1967
U DLS/46	Letter to Lady Uvedale from Brenda Burns Thanking her for help with dissertation (see U DLS/45), with photograph of Lees-Smith attached 1 item	7 Jul 1967
U DLS/47	Revised draft biography of Lees-Smith from the 'Dictionary of Labour Biography' With note about use of Lees-Smith's first names attached 1 item	[1989]
U DLS/48	Letter to Dr. Joyce Bellamy from Patrick H. Lees-Smith Thanking her for the copy of his father's biography 1 item	3 Apr 1990