

U DX327 Papers of Barry Sheerman MP 1910-1990s
(including research papers relating to Harold Laski)

Biographical Background:

Barry Sheerman was born on 17 August 1940 in Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex. He received a BSc from the London School of Economics in 1965 and an MSc from the University of London in 1967. He was a lecturer at the University of Wales, Swansea from 1966 until his election to parliament for the Labour Party in 1979. Sheerman represented Huddersfield East from 1979-83 and became MP for Huddersfield in 1983, a position he remains in today.

Sheerman has undertaken various Labour spokesperson roles; on education and employment between 1983 and 1988, for Home Affairs (as Shadow Deputy Home Secretary) from 1988-92, and for Disabled People's Rights from 1992-94. He was also a member of the criminal justice bill committee in the early 1990s. From 2001 Sheerman has been Chair of the House of Commons Education and Skills select committee, which was renamed the Children, Schools and Families Committee in 2007.

Sheerman is chairman of Policy Connect, a cross party, not-for-profit think tank based in London, which he helped to found. He also chairs the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety, an environmental charity called Urban Mines, and the All-Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group.

He married Pamela Elizabeth Brenchley in 1965 and they have four children.

Custodial history:

Material donated by Barry Sheerman in January 2003

Description:

Two thirds of this collection relates to the British Marxist, political theorist and author Harold Laski. It is largely made up of transcriptions of Laski letters, mainly to his wife Frida Laski, but also includes correspondence of Barry Sheerman connected to his research, memoirs of Laski family members, transcripts of interviews undertaken by Barry Sheerman and his research assistants, research notes taken from various archive collections, and copies of Laski manuscripts and articles by and about Laski.

The remaining third of the collection comprises loose papers concerning Sheerman's parliamentary responsibilities in the early 1990s, and mainly relates to amendments to the criminal justice bill.

Related material:

Papers of Harold Laski (and Frida Laski) [U DLA]

Papers of Granville Eastwood relating to Harold Laski [U DES]

Copies of items relating to Harold Laski [U DX268]

Access conditions:

U DX327 (6 boxes, 1 linear metre) is currently un-catalogued. In some cases a draft or box list may exist which may allow us to provide access to the collection ahead of the material being catalogued. If you are interested in this collection please contact archives@hull.ac.uk clearly outlining your interest and timescales.