

Sir Ian Lloyd 1921-2006

A tribute by Sir John Osborn

Preface: A personal Appreciation

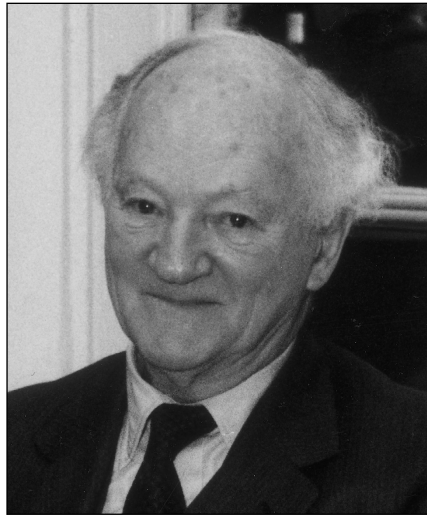
I have known and worked with Sir Ian Lloyd for over 40 years, and we have been life members of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. We have had many mutual interests. He has done much to promote the understanding of Science and Technology, especially amongst fellow politicians, and in Government.

I well remember his vision of over thirty years ago, when he predicted that containerisation would become a dominating aspect of the transport of goods by land and sea. It was an interest that concerned us both. He was Economic Advisor to British and Commonwealth Shipping (1956-83), and Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Shipping and Shipbuilding Committee (1974-77).

The impact of the computer and IT was also of importance to us at the same time. I chaired a P&S committee which reported in 1968 on "The Collection, Dissemination, Storage, and Retrieval of Scientific and Technological Information". It foresaw the role of the computer in Information Technology and the impact of the memory and random access but for the next fifteen years it was impossible to forecast the implication of it all. The P&S, an all party IT Committee, and a Conservative Committee chaired by Ernest Marples were interested in developments. Sir Ian was the driving force behind the founding of PITCOM in 1981. I had always used secretaries, typists, and a variety of office machine operators, but he insisted that in the next century all senior officials in Government, civil servants, MPs, and top executives would have to operate their own computers and word processors in order to hold down their posts. Another prediction that is surely true.

He was a member of the UK delegation to the Assemblies of the Council of Europe and Western European Union and served on their Science and Technology Committees (1968-72). I followed him, to learn that his original and thought-provoking work there was greatly valued.

We both took part in many European Parliamentary and Scientific Conferences, and by chance we were



together at the 7th Conference in Ottawa in 1990. I had set in hand the arrangements with a Canadian MP but by 1990 we had both retired. He invited Ian Lloyd, who was leading the UK delegation, and me to have lunch in the dining room of the Canadian Parliament. When we asked how it was possible for a former Canadian MP to have access to "Parliament Hill", he explained that he was President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, recognised in an Act of the Canadian Parliament. Ian Lloyd was on the Services Select Committee, and was so briefed by our Canadian host that he was able to insert the appropriate amendments into the 1992 Services Bill. Former MPs now have passes to give them access to many parts of the Palace of Westminster. There is an Association of Former MPs, backed by the Speaker Michael Martin, who has hosted reunions in the Speaker's House. They number 350, but many more Former MPs have been granted passes since the Services Act of 1992.

Sir Ian Lloyd's Contribution to Science and Technology, including the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

With the Council of Europe he undertook a survey of the use of computers in European Institutions; this survey took him to the USA and Canada, which enabled him to take an active role in the All Party IT Committee formed in 1979. He joined the Select Committee on Science in 1975, and was concerned with Scientific Innovation. He took a deep

interest in Energy, being a member of the Parliamentary Group on Energy Studies formed in 1980, and serving on the Select Committee (1979-89). He was a prominent supporter of Nuclear Power.

Sir Ian joined the P&S in 1965. He was Vice President (1984-87), deputy Chairman (1988-90) and became President in 1990, leading a delegation to China in 1991. Following a brief period as editor in 1997, he has been a regular contributor to *Science in Parliament*, reviewing "Chernobyl – Catastrophe and Consequences" just before his death. He concluded that the authors "Have effectively demolished any excuse for publishing any nonsense on the topic of Nuclear Power".

He worked closely with Sir Trevor Skeet and Sir Gerard Vaughan in 1986 to set up the P&S Science and Technology Working Group. One aim was to set up a British version of the Office of Technology Assessment in Washington, which they visited. By 1988 briefs were being sent out on key issues to members of the Lords, Commons, and the European Parliament by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), of which Sir Ian was the first Chairman.

Some other highlights of the Life of Sir Ian Lloyd

Born on 30th May 1921 in Durban, he was educated in South Africa, attending Natal-Witwatersrand University. He read Science at Kings College, Cambridge, becoming President of the Union in 1947. He returned to South Africa and was economic advisor to the Central Mining and Investment Corporation until 1949, entering the South African Board of Trade and Industries. He resigned in 1955, because of a "profound disagreement with Apartheid".

In 1957 he moved to England, becoming MP for Langstone-Portsmouth in 1964. Boundary redistribution created contests, but he continued in Havant & Waterloo, and then Havant until he retired in 1992. He married Frances Addison in 1951 and they had three sons. He was knighted in 1986.

He displayed considerable vision and was a distinguished back-bencher, who made an outstanding contribution to many aspects of Science and Technology.