



# THE HOUSE magazine

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26 November 1998

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Lord Alderdice  
The Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3SW

*Dear Lord Alderdice,*

**'The Coming Year in PARLIAMENT'**  
Thursday December 3

Each year *The House Magazine* and *The Hansard Society* hold a one-day conference on The Coming Year in Parliament. Now in its fifth year, the conference has a reputation for providing the most detailed, and interesting, assessment of the Government's legislative programme. The key speakers are always Ministers, Shadow Ministers, other Senior Parliamentarians, leading academics and journalists.

Because of this, and because ample time is allowed for discussion the conference always attracts an attendance of more than 100, primarily drawn from Public Affairs Managers, Parliamentary Officers and Public Affairs Advisers from major companies and from the voluntary sector.

This year the conference will be held on Thursday December 3 at Millbank Media Centre, Westminster and I would be most grateful if you would agree to take part by speaking at a panel discussion on 'Devolution and the Impact of the new Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Parliamentary Institutions'. This particular session would run from 12.00 until 13.00 and confirmed speakers include, Margaret Ewing MP and Daffydd Wigley MP.

David Trimble and Seamus Mallon had both provisionally agreed to speak, but both withdrew yesterday. I apologise for the very short notice, but very much hope you will be able to accept this invitation. Although we do not offer our speakers a fee we do, as a gesture of appreciation, like to send all of them a case of wine and I hope you will feel able to accept this.

I very much look forward to hearing from you and if you have any queries do please telephone me on 0171-878 1590. Things have certainly progressed a long way since July 1987 I came over with David Alton and Kieran Seale to meet with you.

Best wishes,

*John Ricketts*

John Ricketts  
**Director**

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*The*  
*Coming Year in*  
**PARLIAMENT**

Organised by

**THE HOUSE**  
*magazine*



Thursday December 3 1998  
Millbank Media Centre, Westminster SW1

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*The*  
*Coming Year in*  
**PARLIAMENT**

**PROGRAMME**

- 09.00      **Registration and Coffee**
- 09.30      **Welcome by Austin Mitchell MP**  
*Senior Associate Editor, The House Magazine*
- 09.35      **Chairman's Welcome and Introduction**
- John Healey MP**  
*Chairman, Associate Editor, The House Magazine*
- 09.45      **The Government in Action**
- Michael White**  
*Political Editor, The Guardian*
- 10.15      **The Queen's Speech**
- The Government's Priorities:**  
**Peter Kilfoyle MP**  
*Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service*
- The Conservatives' Response:**  
**Sir Patrick Cormack FSA MP**  
*Editor, The House Magazine, Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Commons*
- The Liberal Democrat Response:**  
**Lord McNally**  
*Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Home Office*
- Q&A**
- 11.45      **Coffee**
- 12.00      **Panel Discussion:**  
**Devolution and the Impact of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Parliaments**
- Rt Hon Dafydd Wigley MP**  
*Leader, Plaid Cymru*
- Rt Hon David Trimble MP**  
*First Minister, Northern Ireland Assembly*
- Seamus Mallon MP**  
*Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland Assembly, SDLP Member for Newry & Armagh*
- Margaret Ewing MP**  
*Parliamentary Leader, SNP*
- 13.00      **Lunch**

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**Chairman: Afternoon Session**

**Dr David Butler CBE**  
*Chairman, The Hansard Society*

**14.00 The Lords' Reform - The Political Perspective**

**Lord Whitty**  
*Under Secretary of State, DETR*

**Rt Hon Viscount Cranborne**  
*Opposition Leader of House of Lords*

**Rt Hon Robert Maclennan MP**  
*Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Constitutional Reform*

**14.45 Economic analysis: Outcome of comprehensive spending review & economic outlook**

**Andrew Dilnot**  
*Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies*

**15.45 Tea**

**16.00 Panel Discussion: The Government's Programme assessed**

**Maurice Frankel**  
*Campaign for Freedom of Information*

**Peter Riddell**  
*Political Commentator, The Times*

**Stuart Etherington**  
*Director, NCVO*

**17.00 Chairman's closing remarks**

**17.15 Close**