



American Friends of The London School of Economics

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AFLSE Newsletter

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1987

PATEL ON THATCHER

LSE Director I.G. Patel gave AFLSE members his assessment of the Thatcher government's impact on British politics at our fourth annual dinner on June 26. It appears that a new consensus has emerged, Dr. Patel said, including enduring shifts in economic and political power in Britain. But he concluded that shifts are "not all that new" and not all that much of a move to the right.

Dr. Patel, a Cambridge-educated economist, spoke on the "Economics of the New Right" after more than three years at his Houghton Street vantage point. He maintained that modern democracies set limits on major political and economic changes and that such limits have applied to the Thatcher revolution.

Privatization really got under way, in Dr. Patel's view, as part of an attempt to reduce public sector borrowing. Selling shares in British Petroleum, he noted, led to less government debt. It was not an attempt to encourage competition nor an ideological commitment to rolling back socialism. And, according to Dr. Patel, privatization under Mrs. Thatcher has not represented a major change in the way traditional Conservative governments have operated. Like former Conservatives who intervened to control the economy, Mrs. Thatcher's government, despite its rhetoric has been using traditional interventionist means for economic management.

Dr. Patel listed three major changes for which the new right is responsible. These, he said, are: control of inflation, the weakening of trade union power and privatization. These changes, Dr. Patel said, do not mean a large-scale dismantling of the welfare state, the announced goal of the rhetoric of the new right. No government will allow totally free and unfettered competition. This becomes apparent in international trade economics. In this arena, Dr. Patel said, any Conservative government would be just as interventionist as a Labor government.

On LSE affairs, Dr. Patel reported that the 1980s Fund is only £50,000 short of its £2 million target. And he also an-

nounced that LSE students had won three out of thirty-three scholarships created by a Japanese grant to the World Bank.

The buffet dinner was held at the British Embassy following a reception hosted by Ambassador Sir Antony Acland. David Sahr, incoming AFLSE president, was master of ceremonies. He thanked his predecessor, Wendy Weinberg, for arranging the dinner and thanked Michael Barrett, outgoing British cultural attaché, for his assistance to AFLSE. Mr. Sahr also expressed gratitude for Mrs. Weinberg's many accomplishments as AFLSE president, including publication of the directory of American friends, the growth of local chapters and the expansion of the newsletter. He also introduced Jennifer Pinney, LSE external relations and appeals officer, who accompanied Dr. Patel.

Ray Goodman ('39) thanked David Knox ('49), a vice president of the World Bank and active member of the AFLSE board of directors, for his service to AFLSE. David is returning to England after many years with the World Bank and Ray presented him with an LSE scarf.

Jane Siegel ('82)

EIGHT NEW AFLSE SCHOLARS AT WORK

Three of the eight AFLSE scholars for 1987-88 are seeking degrees in international relations, two more are pursuing European studies and the remaining three are working in the fields of politics, public administration and international history.

Priscilla Taylor, scholarship committee chairwoman, reports that the new scholars were uniformly surprised and delighted to receive their larger-than-advertised awards as they set off for this autumn's term. The AFLSE board of directors voted to increase the amounts of the awards from \$2,500 to \$3,400 this year in recognition of the continuing rise in tuition fees at LSE and in order to maintain our grants at approximately half the cost of tuition.

Three of the new scholars are seeking the M.Sc. in international relations:

residential housing, as well as shops, offices, studios and workshops, and cultural and leisure facilities. The School is purchasing a lease on an 1,800 square meter plot at a preferential price from the developers, Butlers Wharf Limited, who want a student presence on the site as a contribution to an integrated and socially mixed community. The architects, Conran Roche, have designed the School's building and are being advised by a School working party.

The new building will enable LSE to offer housing to 28 per cent of its fulltime students. That's a far better share than in the past and improves the School's current housing opportunities when compared with other major colleges of the University of London. The School wants to keep student rents reasonable by raising some of the building costs from contributions. It will also raise revenues by renting these modern new, strategically-located accommodations to visiting academics, education groups and conference delegates during School vacations.

The cost of the LSE residence is estimated at £6 million. The School plans to borrow £4 million by mortgaging the Butlers Wharf site and building. It will furnish another half million or so from School funds. It wants to raise £1.5 million from private sources of support by October 1988. Large donors can have their name on a flat, a study-bedroom or even the entire building if they contribute the whole £1.5 million. Further information is available from the LSE Appeals Office, Houghton St., London WC2A 2AE, U.K.

AFLSE's executive committee has decided to assist the School in raising funds for Butlers Wharf. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the AFLSE, addressed to its headquarters at 1497 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 104, McLean, VA 22101.

'YES, MINISTER' & LSE

Many AFLSE television viewers, particularly around the Nation's Capital with its high concentration of politicians and civil servants, have been beguiled by the British television series, "Yes, Minister," on the Public Broadcasting System. One of the two principal characters, James Hacker, minister of administrative affairs in a British government of unspecified political persuasion, is an LSE graduate. As such, he is depicted as ignorant of Greek, Latin and other classical lore and is the frequent foil of his Oxbridge aides in the senior civil service.

"Oh, yes, you were at the LSE," says Sir Humphrey Appleby, the permanent secretary in Minister Hacker's department, when Hacker stares blankly at the camera after a learned Appleby witticism.

Needless to say, LSE is only one source of humor in "Yes, Minister." Its central theme is the mongoose-cobra relationship between politicians and bureaucrats, the contest about who really runs a government. Jim Hacker occasionally bests Sir Humphrey but mostly the firm — some would say dead — hand on the tiller of the ship of state belongs to the bureaucrat.

The series, which recently completed its second run on WETA-TV in Washington, garnered a select but faithful audience from points as varied as the Pentagon, the capital's think tanks and the Justice Department. According to *The New York Times*, former Attorney General Elliot Richardson was an

enthusiastic fan. Television scripts, by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay, have also been published here by Salem House as a book.

Produced several years ago by the BBC, "Yes, Minister" has a sequel yet to run in this country. In it, Jim Hacker has been kicked upstairs — the sequel title is "Yes, Prime Minister." He's not the first person with strong LSE affiliations to reach those giddy heights.

NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS

The ATLANTA chapter held a dinner on July 22, attracting a score of friends from across the Southeast. Terry Stam-atopoulos ('75), a member who is also the Greek consul in Atlanta, arranged a Greek dinner at the city's Greek center. Chapter Chairman Wayne Gantt ('82) reported on Director Patel's Washington address the month before and there was discussion of the Butlers Wharf project. Wayne is also planning a November meeting at which Kenneth Bourne, LSE professor of international history, will speak.

The BOSTON chapter's planned fall events include a wine tasting party at the law offices of Sullivan and Worcester in Boston on Nov. 5, Guy Fawkes Day. And chapter members will attend an Armistice Day observance at Boston's St. Paul's Cathedral in cooperation with the British Officers Club of New England. A Christmas dinner is planned for Dec. 2 at Sudbury's Wayside Inn, commemorated by Longfellow and now the oldest operating inn in America.

The chapter intends to hold a reception in late winter, possibly in February, for new students headed for LSE, as well as for academics going to and from the School. Cochairwomen Regina Hurley ('82) and Helen Hoving ('84) have been active in getting the program under way, with hopes of reaching many of the 635 AFLSE members and potential members throughout New England. They attended a meeting at the British Consulate General for presidents and heads of British organizations in New England on Sept. 28. That led to the Armistice Day joint observance with the British Officers Club and they view their contacts as steps toward cooperative ventures with other groups.

The NEW YORK chapter plans a November phonathon (date not fixed at this writing) and Chairman Mark Stone ('83) hopes to beat last year's funding record by raising money enough for one and half scholarships. Mark also hopes to raise more funds than the Washington chapter does in its annual phonathon; he says there are now 2,000 AFLSE members and prospects in the New York metropolitan area. The chapter plans a late fall outing to the Wave Hill Mansion, a country home with gardens and sculptures in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. Tea and biscuits will be served. And the chapter hopes for another theater party, courtesy of Producer Frederick Zollo ('76), who arranged a similar affair last year.

Earlier this fall about 40 New York members snapped up tickets for the first day of the New York Open Tennis Tournament, a popular group event. The chapter held a successful informal gathering at the apartment of Cochairwoman Candice Foss ('82) when a change in Director Patel's schedule forced him to cancel his New York appearance on June 28.

- Charles K. Armstrong (B.A., Yale '84) of Kent, Washington, has been teaching English in China for the past year.
- Pam Baldinger (B.A., Tufts '84) of Bethesda, Md., taught English in Taiwan before moving to Washington, D.C. to handle public relations and advertising for Beijing-Washington, Inc., which is China's agent for U.S. and European electronics firms.
- Kathleen M. Hamel (B.A., Holy Cross '86) of Santa Ana, Calif., has been a caseworker for Indochinese refugees with the International Rescue Committee.

Two scholars are studying for the M.Sc. in European studies:

- Andrée C. Dumermuth (B.S.F.S., Georgetown '87) of Allandale, Fla., just graduated first in her class at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service.
- Gillian S. Martin (B.A., Ohio State '86) of Columbus, Ohio, has been taking postdegree courses.

The three other AFLSE scholars are as follows:

- Susan Giamo (B.A. '81 and M.A. '86, Wisconsin-Madison) from Madison, Wis., is enrolled for the M.Sc. in politics. She has been working part-time in the Wisconsin Student Association health insurance office.
- Mitchell P.V. Glavin (B.Sc. in biology and B.Sc. in humanities, MIT '87) from Quincy, Mass., completed the double-degree program at MIT and is now enrolled in the M.Sc. public administration and public policy program at LSE.
- Takemi Ueno (B.A., Harvard '87) from East Williston, N.Y., is studying for the M.A. in international history at LSE.

1986-87 AFLSE SCHOLARS REPORT

The scholarship office has received a number of reports from last year's scholars giving the flavor of their year's experience and passing along tips for future students at LSE. In addition, Jane Plakias, who manages the scholarship office and administers the application process, visited LSE in June and talked with four of the scholars: Sara Jill Cooper, Catherine Epstein, Ruth Gordon, and Elise-Noël McMahon.

Sara Jill Cooper had these comments on the industrial relations M.Sc. program and the LSE in general:

Not only are the professors extremely competent, but the variety of students, from all over the world, truly enhances the educational experience. The professors are very encouraging and approachable, which increases my commitment to the program. Also, the students really help each other, and I spend quite a lot of time with study groups in preparation for exams.

Sara Jill, who spent one term sharing a flat with another student before moving into International Hall, recommends that students apply for dormitory space as soon as they are accepted at LSE. She says the opportunity of meeting other

foreign students at International Hall both enriched her educational experience and helped her studies (five other people in her program also lived in the hall).

Ruth Gordon, who was studying in the international law department, had the following observations:

I am truly enjoying London which is a vast exciting city. There is plenty to do - museums, galleries, theatre, films, concerts, fairs and exhibitions, clubs, and just about anything else you can think of. Almost every event and place of entertainment has concessions for students, so prospective students can look to a city with unlimited possibilities that are affordable.

I have found my colleagues in the international law program diverse and fascinating. Our discussions cover a range of issues and problems facing the world as do our course materials. My classmates and the materials presented in my courses have generally broadened my informational base and view of the world in a manner I do not think I would have gained in any other institution. I believe attending LSE for my LLM was one of the best decisions I have made in my life and I am eternally grateful to AFLSE for helping me realize this goal.

I have decided to stay on in London for a year or so and obtain employment with an American law firm, bank or other company. I am certain this will increase my prospects of employment in the international law area upon my return to America.

A BEQUEST FOR AFLSE

The AFLSE has recently been named a beneficiary of a generous bequest under the terms of a trust agreement. Jeffrey Weinberg, AFLSE fund appeal chairman, has expressed our thanks, noting that such aid will help a future outstanding American graduate student study at LSE in the face of the sharp rise in tuition costs during the last decade.

Such trust agreements and other forms of bequests help perpetuate AFLSE's ability to continue the scholarship program. A donor continues to receive income during his or her lifetime from the assets placed in the trust but AFLSE and other designated philanthropic enterprises will automatically benefit when the donor's estate is settled. We hope other members of AFLSE will consider establishing similar bequests.

BUTLERS WHARF, STUDENT HAVEN

LSE has produced impressive plans for a modern new student residence in Butlers Wharf, just east of Tower Bridge on the south bank of the Thames.

The six-story building will house 281 students, increasing the School's student accommodations by 37 per cent. The plans call for a system of "homes," or flats. Each flat will be self-contained, with six individual study-bedrooms, a shared kitchen-living-room area for self-catering, and bathrooms. The rents are to be "realistic" and it is hoped the residence will open in January 1989.

The LSE residence will be part of a striking inner-city development at Butlers Wharf, a 7.4 acre site that will contain other

The CHICAGO chapter is meeting Nov. 2 to hear George Stigler ('47), University of Chicago professor of economics and winner of the 1982 Nobel Prize for economics. Dr. Stigler is also director of the Center for the Study of the Economy and the State. The Exchange National Bank of Chicago is host for the talk.

The SAN FRANCISCO chapter will hear Dudley Baines, lecturer on economic history at LSE, at a meeting Nov. 10. Mr. Baines is a visiting teacher at the University of California at Berkeley and author of a recent book, *Migration in a Mature Economy*, the subject of his talk.

The WASHINGTON chapter has invited Robert Hunter ('69) of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, to speak on December 8. Dr. Hunter, received his Ph.D. from LSE and also taught there. He was on the staff of the National Security Council in the Carter Administration. Site for the meeting has not yet been fixed.

Chapter Chairwoman Karen Harasymiak ('83) says this year's holiday party will be held Jan. 8 in the Rotunda of the British Embassy.

The chapter heard Dr. Robert Litwak, director of international security studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, on Oct. 27. Dr. Litwak discussed Soviet policies in the Third World under Mikhail Gorbachev. The talk was held at a conference room of David Sahr's law firm, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge.

About 50 chapter members and guests heard Nien Cheng discuss her book, *Life and Death in Shanghai*, a best-selling memoir of her imprisonment under China's cultural revolution. Ms. Cheng and her husband attended LSE in the 1930s. In China working for the Shell Oil Company, she was denounced as a British spy during the cultural revolution and pressed to

confess. When she refused, she was imprisoned, where she continued to maintain her innocence through 6 1/2 years of solitary confinement. Following President Nixon's visit to China she was released and eventually won rehabilitation. Ms. Cheng spoke at the Washington home of Edith Boehler ('83) on September 29, autographing copies of her book.

During Washington's spring program, Christopher Hitchens spoke on "Is Secrecy the British Disease?" A contributor to *The Nation*, *The New Statesman* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, Mr. Hitchens argued that Britain's Official Secrets Act and government policy have drastically eroded freedom of information. The meeting, on May 27, was at the home of Ann Schneider ('63) in Washington. On June 9 Jane Siegel ('82) opened her Arlington home to a talk by Andrew Wedeman on Chinese foreign policy. Mr. Wedeman's book, *The East Wind Subsides: Chinese Foreign Policy and the Origins of the Cultural Revolution*, has just been published.

FORTHE RECORD

Paul Volcker ('52), now free of responsibility for the fate of the dollar, has agreed to head the National Commission on Public Service. The former Fed chairman has taken the voluntary position because he sees a need for talented and committed recruits for the civil service.... Yale Law Professor Joseph Goldstein ('50) weighed in during the fray over Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court with a pro-Bork article on the op-ed page of *The New York Times*. He argued that Judge Bork was no threat to civil rights....

Going to Turkey? AFLSE President David Sahr ('77) reports an exchange of letters with Omer Feyzoglu of the Turkish Friends of LSE, based in Istanbul, expressing interest in strengthening contacts between members of the two groups.



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