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## THE RT HON LORD GEORGE-BROWN, PC

When created a Life Peer in the 1970 Resignation Honours after Labour had gone out of office, the former Mr George Brown first changed his surname by deed-poll and then took the title of Lord George-Brown, thus preserving the name by which he had been known all his life, first in trade union and Labour circles and then nationally and internationally, as a Minister of successive Labour Governments and for a quarter of a century as a member of the House of Commons.

He was born in Southwark, London, in September 1914. His father, another George Brown, was a member of the Executive of the Transport and General Workers Union and in his early days a long distance lorry driver. The younger George left his secondary school before he was sixteen, and worked as a clerk in the City of London and as a salesman in the West End while continuing his education by evening study with the Workers' Educational Association and other similar bodies. He was later for eight years district organiser for the Transport and General Workers' Union.

His first political experience came at the age of eight, when he distributed handbills in the general election of 1922 for the Labour candidate for North Southwark, Mr George Isaacs, to whom years later he was to be Parliamentary Private Secretary. He became at eighteen vice-chairman of the Streatham Labour Party and a member of the National Committee of the Labour League of Youth.

He was first elected to Parliament in the 1945 general election as MP for Belper, and held the seat until 1970. After nearly two years as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr Isaacs, then Minister of Labour, he held the same position with Lord Dalton, when the latter was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Lord George-Brown's first ministerial appointment came in October 1947, when he became Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In April 1951 he was appointed Minister of Works and at the same time was created a Privy Councillor.

After his Party had gone into Opposition he was from 1955 to 1964 (with the exception of the year 1958-59) a member of the "Shadow Cabinet", or Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party, becoming Vice-Chairman and Deputy Leader in 1960. When Labour returned to office in October 1964 he was appointed First Secretary of State and Minister for Economic Affairs, his main responsibility being for the working out of the prices and incomes policy, besides economic planning in general. From April 1966 he was also concerned with the economic aspects of Britain's relations with Europe.

Lord George-Brown has long been interested in overseas affairs, having as a trade union official travelled and made many contacts in Europe and the United States. As a Member of the House of Commons, before joining the Government, he represented Britain on the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Western European Union, and was a Vice-President of the latter. From August 1966 he was Britain's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs until March 1968, when he resigned, while remaining Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

As Foreign Secretary Lord George-Brown travelled widely, meeting heads of foreign governments or foreign ministers individually or at multi-national conferences in the United States and Canada, in Russia and in most of the countries of Western Europe. After resigning ministerial office he was appointed to represent his Party on the international Action Committee for a United States of Europe, and he also made a number of unofficial journeys overseas. He is one of the vice-presidents of the British Council of the European Movement, and a member of the Labour Committee for Europe.

*/Deceased*

Defeated in the Parliamentary general election of June 1970, Lord George-Brown accepted a Life Peerage and returned to Westminster in the autumn as a member of the House of Lords. He has latterly been at work on two books, his autobiography and a book on Socialist theory and the Labour Party. He is married and has two daughters; he met his wife when as Miss Sophie Levine she was a fellow-member of the Labour League of Youth.

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