

Lord JUDD

Mr Chancellor,

Today we are honouring Lord Judd, Baron Judd of Portsea. An outstanding contributor to public life and to our University. A parliamentarian for most of the last 52 years, he has seen momentous change in the world and brought wisdom to bear on our academic community over the last 14 years.

Frank Judd was born in Sutton in Surrey in 1935. He was educated at the City of London School and at the London School of Economics, an organisation with which he has been associated ever since, acting as a governor for 30 years.

Social justice and the importance of an international perspective have been central to him throughout his life, and have shaped everything that he has done. These passions were moulded by his mother's labour activism, his father's internationalism and his religious upbringing. He joined the labour party in 1951 and has been a member ever since.

He first stood for parliament in 1959 in his home seat of Sutton and Cheam, a seat his mother had stood for unsuccessfully in 1945 and 1950. He was elected to parliament as the MP for Portsmouth West in 1966, a source of great pride. In 1974, and following boundary changes, he was elected as the member for Portsmouth North, clear evidence

of a move northwards, albeit a very slow one, that would bring him eventually to Newcastle.

Portsmouth was a city that he would continue to have close links with being granted the freedom of the city in 1995. The good news is that he hasn't befallen the same fate as his predecessor as a Freeman of the City Judge Jeffreys who was famous for his "ferociously brutal conduct when presiding as judge" and who died in the tower of London in 1689. For the record, although Judge Jeffreys was my ancestor in no way are our personalities the same.

Frank Judd rose rapidly within the labour party, in government in the late 60s, becoming Personal Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

The decade brought a changed world and the 1970s were a time of great turbulence. A referendum on membership of the EU, a weak Conservative government surviving from week to week and a Republican President in the USA facing impeachment.....Isn't it reassuring to think that none of those things could happen today.

Frank Judd was close to the very heart of the Labour Party and as the 70s dawned had become Harold Wilson's Personal Private Secretary. What tales he could tell. His recollection, though, was of a good man, a warm man happy to have intellectual discussions about important matters. A man who was, at the same time, happy to bounce Frank's young children on his knees in the back of the battered family Volkswagen.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for someone representing a city where the navy plays such a critical role he has strong links with the armed forces. He himself was in the RAF on a short service commission in the 1950s during national service. He was a shadow defence minister and then, following the return of the labour government in 1974, Under-Secretary of State for the Navy. He is honorary life president of the Friends of the Royal Naval Museum and HMS Victory.

His final role in the labour government, by this time under James Callaghan, was as Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, bringing to bear the international perspective inherited from his father. His ministerial career was, however, cut short by the loss of the 1979 election. Adversity sometimes creates opportunity though and as Director of Voluntary Services Overseas from 1980-1985 and Director of Oxfam from 1985-1991 he could put into practice his ideas about making the world a better place.

His parliamentary career was not, however, over and in 1991 he was elevated to the House of Lords as Baron Judd of Portsea. He remains an active contributor to the House of Lords serving on many of the important committees. In writing this citation I discovered the Hansard web-site which tells you the contribution of Members of the House of Lords going back to 1800, which is a long time to have been there in anyone's book! Hansard tells me that Lord Judd has spoken 1181 times and voted 752 times. For comparison, and entirely randomly, this is 1181 and 751 times respectively more than Lord Archer. What this suggests, however, is an extraordinary level of commitment to parliament and to public service.

Lord Judd's links with Newcastle began in 2004 when he joined Court. I wonder whether in Newcastle he saw something of Portsmouth. Two cities sharing a strong maritime tradition.

For the last 14 years he has been an important friend of the university both internally and externally. He has been a champion of the university in the corridors of power. A friend in high places. His greatest contribution, however, has been within the University where he has been a wise friend and advisor. Our Societal Challenges, of course, resonated completely with his world view; the need to help those people who are in danger of being left behind. To help them to help themselves. The importance of the built environment that we live in is an essential element of life. Our focus on the importance of sustainable development within our cities can only have been sharpened by the former MP for Portsmouth, a city that boasted the Tricorn Centre, voted the most hated building in Britain and described by Prince Charles as a "mildewed lump of elephant droppings".

GK Chesterton said that "Education is simply the soul of a society when it moves from one generation to the next". As educators we need to be aware of the moral imperative to contribute to the society we are part of. Lord Judd has, over more than 50 years of public service helped make the world we live in a better place. He has also helped us understand as a university our place in society and our obligation to the future.

Mr Chancellor, for his outstanding contribution to the vision of our university and its development over a decade and a half I commend Lord Judd for the award of an Honorary Fellowship.

Citation by David Jones, 30th September 2018