

Carrington a man of honour

HOUSE OF LORDS

In tributes to **Lord Carrington** on his resignation as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, he was described, in the House of Lords, as a man of the highest integrity whose departure would be a loss to the House, the Government and the country, but his resignation was in keeping with his sense of duty.

Lord Peart of Workington, for the Opposition said it was not the moment to comment on the events which had lead to Lord Carrington's resignation, but it was a sad day for the House irrespective of party.

He has been an active member of the House for 40 years (he said) and has served us with distinction. Although we have joined battle with him politically in the past, we extend our best wishes to him and hope that we will still see him here and assure him of a genuine welcome.

Lord Wigoder, for the Liberals, said: The country has lost the services of a most able and distinguished Foreign Secretary. It is a sad day for the House because we have lost for the moment a representative in one of the highest positions of the Government who, by his position there, caused such esteem to fall upon the House.

It is a sad day also for the House because members have always found in Lord Carrington a man of friendship, charm and courtesy.

Lord Shackleton (Lab) said: Lord Carrington has followed in the great British tradition by his resignation, and I wish it had not been so. His services here have been almost immeasurable coupled with his charm, wisdom, quickness and skill as a speaker. We all deeply regret his departure.

Lord Windlesham (C) said: Many people would agree he has been one of the best Foreign Secretaries of recent years, irrespective of party. His resignation is worthy of him and characteristic of the man. By this act of selflessness, the British parliamentary system has maintained its honour.

Lord Aylestone, for Social Democratic Party, said: He has proved to be what we all knew him to be, a man of very high integrity and honour.

Lady Young, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Leader of the House, said: This is not the appropriate moment to deal with the issues concerning his resignation. It is rare indeed to find a man who commanded such respect and affection in all parts of the House, and who has done so over so many years.

He is a man of international stature and he will be remembered for his part in the granting of independence to Zimbabwe. In this work the whole House was able to bask in some of his reflected glory.

He was a good friend to me but we all know of his kindness, friendship and, above all, his great sense of humour. At a personal level, he always calls me the "Bossette" and I hope he will be able to do so again.

It was in the selflessness of his going that he was true to his sense of duty and honour.