

Regents' Lecturer Norman St. John-Stevas

December 29, 1983

The Right Honourable Norman St. John-Stevas, Conservative Member of Parliament for Chelmsford and former Leader of the House of Commons, is scheduled to serve as a Regents' Lecturer in the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego during January.

St. John-Stevas, a well known broadcaster and journalist in England, will present two public lectures during his tenure on the San Diego campus. The first, scheduled for Thursday, January 12, will be on "The Dilapidation of Imperialism: The Falklands, Grenada, Nicaragua." The second, set for Tuesday, January 24, will be on "The Decline of Congressional Government in Britain and the U.S." Both lectures will begin at 8 p.m. in the Humanities-Library Auditorium on the Revelle College Campus.

St. John-Stevas has spent nearly 20 years as a member of Parliament and has served as a member, as secretary or as spokesman for a number of Parliamentary committees. He has also published a number of books on law and edited the works of Walter Bagehot. Born in 1929, St. John-Stevas studied at Ratcliffe and Fitzwilliams College, Cambridge, where he was president of the Cambridge Union (the university debating society), and obtained a first-class honours degree in law in 1950. He subsequently attended Christ Church, Oxford, where he received a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Civil Law. He was a Blackstone and Harmsworth Scholar in 1952 and a Blackstone Prizeman in 1953.

In 1957 he received a Ph.D. from London University, won the Cambridge Yorke Prize with an essay on legal reform, received a Fulbright Award and was made a Visiting Fellow of the Yale University School of Law. He received a doctorate from Yale in 1960 and, while studying in the United States, was made a Fund for the Republic Fellow.

He joined the staff of "The Economist" in 1959 to edit the collected works of Walter Bagehot and later became the legal, ecclesiastical and political correspondent. He also served as legal adviser to Sir Alan Herbert's committee on book censorship and worked on the drafting of a bill to protect serious works of literature which became law in 1959. In 1961 he was appointed editor of the quarterly publication, "The Wiseman (Dublin) Review."

St. John-Stevas was elected to Parliament for Chelmsford in 1964 and from 1969 to 1972 served as Secretary of the Conservative Parliamentary Home Affairs Committee, in 1971 as a member of the Conservative National Advisory Committee on Policy, and as a member of the Executive of the Conservative Parliamentary Committee. In November 1972 he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department of Education and Science, becoming Minister of State for the Arts in that department one year later. He held that post until the change of government in March 1974.

Following the general election of May 1979, St. John-Stevas was appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Leader of the House of Commons and Minister for the Arts, posts which he held until 1981.

St. John-Stevas has published a number of books, including "Obscenity and the Law" (1956), "Walter Bagehot - A Study of His Life and Thought" (1959), "Life, Death and the Law" (1960), "The Right to Life" (1964), and "The Agonising Choice" (1971), and has edited "The Collected Works of Walter Bagehot" (1966-81) in 13 volumes. His latest book, "Pope John Paul II: His Travels and Mission," was published in April 1982.

While he is in residence at UCSD, St. John-Stevas will present a series of colloquia to students in the Department of Literature in addition to his public lectures.

For more information contact: Public Information Office, 452-3120

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