



Laurie Pavitt Archive

(PAVITT)

Name of Creator: Pavitt, Laurence Anstice (1914-1989) politician and co-operative movement activist

Extent: 6 Folders

Administrative/Biographical History: Laurence Anstice Pavitt (1914–1989) was a Labour and Co-operative Party politician. Pavitt was a lifelong pacifist and a conscientious objector in the Second World War. He was secretary of the British Federation of Young Co-operators 1942-46 and general secretary of the Anglo-Chinese Development Society 1946-52. He served as a councillor on the Municipal Borough of Ilford 1949-52 and was national organiser of the Medical Practitioners' Union 1956-59.

Pavitt was Labour Co-operative Member of Parliament for Willesden West from 1959 to 1974, and for Brent South from 1974 until he retired in 1987. He was parliamentary private secretary to the Foreign Secretary from 1965, and was an Assistant government whip from 1974 to 1976.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Lesley Pavitt, 29 January 2020.

Scope and Content:

Papers regarding Laurie Pavitt, Labour and Co-operative Party MP for Willesden West from 1959 to 1974, and for Brent South from 1974 until his retirement in 1987 (1933-1990)

System of Arrangement:

No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Adlib catalogue and copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

PAVITT/1	Conscientious Objection	1933-1989
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Papers regarding Pavitt's Conscientious Objector status and tribunal process, [1933-1989]

- printed declaration, 25x32cm, from the Women's Co-operative Guild stating 'under no circumstance whatever will I take part in, or help towards, the propagation of War', signed by M. Pavitt, Fred Pavitt, Laurie Pavitt and Dora Blow, (1933)
- typescript memoir by Pavitt's wife, Rosina Walton Pavitt, recounting their lives as Conscientious Objectors 1937-1943 (3pp)
- Pavitt's registration card (1943)
- typescript papers of the Application to Local Tribunal by a Person Provisionally Registered in the Register of Conscientious Objectors (April 1940); Pavitt's Notice of Appeal against the Local Tribunal's Decision (October 1940)
- 'The Tribunal: Monthly Organ of the Fellowship of Conscientious Objectors', vol. 1, no 5 (May 1940)
- certification of Pavitt's having joined the Peace Pledge Union on 22 December 1936
- typescript 'Pacifism and the Labour Party' by Pavitt (3pp)
- typescript 'Wapping in Wartime', a speech given by Pavitt to the Wapping History Club (3pp)
- typescript 'Pacifism is Positive', identified as 'an article written in the early days of the 1939/45 war by Laurie Pavitt', with an addendum added in 1989 (2pp)

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PAVITT/2	Minister of Parliament	1971-1988
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Papers and press clippings regarding Pavitt's career and concerns as MP for Brent South, including his championing of the National Health Service, [1971-1988]

Includes:

- Parliamentary Report for Brent South Labour Party, written by Pavitt (November 1986)
- Parliamentary Report for Brent South Labour Party, written by Pavitt (February 1987)
- 'Three Blades of Grass', article regarding Israeli Socialism, written by Pavitt (n.d.)
- photocopy of typescript speech given by Pavitt

at the 26th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Lusaka, Zambia

- press clipping, Pavitt's review of Jack Ashley's book 'Journey into Silence'
- typescript 'Comparison of the Position Before and After the Introduction of the National Health Service' (April 1971)
- typescript 'Ideas for the Future of the NHS'
- NCC.4. Working Paper: 'The National Health Service and its Consumers' by Pavitt in his role as Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Health Group
- photocopy of pages from Hansard regarding Pavitt's contributions to a debate about the NHS (13 November 1986)
- photocopied press clipping, 'A Man with a mission' regarding Pavitt 'waging a war on the tobacco companies', World Medicine (18 September 1982)
- photocopied press clipping, 'Labour of love: for nearly three decades nurses have had an informed parliamentary champion in Laurie Pavitt', Nursing Times (03 September 1986)
- press cutting, 'Guest Editorial: Integration in services for the hearing impaired' by Laurie Pavitt, British Journal of Audiology vol. 22 (1988)
- typescript paper that begins, 'There is a basic injustice for all prescription charges' (c.1988)
- photocopied press clipping, letter by Pavitt to The Times, 'Reform of the NHS' (12 February 1988)

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PAVITT/3

Co-operation

1940-1981

Papers and press clippings regarding the Co-operative movement, [1940-1981]

Includes:

- typescript 'lecture to celebrate the International Co-operative Day 1980 in Barcelona'
- Pavitt's series of articles for Co-operative News on 'Personalities who have contributed to the Co-operative Movement' including Dick Lewis, Walter Padley, Tony Crosland, Sir Stafford Cripps, Bill Lawn, Jim Peddie, George Bickers, G D H Cole, Mrs C S Ganley, Dr E C Fairchild, Morgan Phillips, Sir Frederick Messer, Will Watkins, Alfred Barnes, Harriet Slater, Arthur Hemstock, George Lansbury, Arthur Jupp, Joe

Reeves, Wullie MacShane (1981)
 - press cutting, 'Is Youth Against the War?'
 regarding Pavitt when he became new national
 president of the British Federation of Co-
 operative Youth, Co-operative News (06 April
 1940)
 - booklet, 'Co-operation, Economic Planning and
 Personal Freedom – the Doctrine Re-stated' by
 W P Watkins (London Co-operative Societies'
 Joint Education Committee, (1953)
 - 'Co-operative Youth' vol. 1, no 10 (December
 1940)

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PAVITT/4	Anglo-Chinese Development Society	1978-1990
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Papers regarding Pavitt's political interests and
 activism in China, [1978-1990]

Includes:

- newsletter of the International Committee for
 the Promotion of Chinese Industrial
 Cooperatives (ICCIC) No 9 (20 April 1990)
- booklet, 'Photos by Rewi Alley' (1985)
- booklet, 'Photos by Rewi Alley' (1986)
- press clipping, 'Behind the Bamboo', Co-
 operative News (23 August 1978)

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PAVITT/5	Correspondence	1937-1987
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Hand-written letters from Parliamentary
 colleagues and others, [1937-1987]
 Includes letters from Lewis Mumford (1951 and
 1989), Enoch Powell (1987), Edward Boyle
 (1968), Edward Heath (1984), James Callaghan
 (1987), Sir Francis Avery Jones (1986), Neil
 Kinnock (then Leader of the Opposition, 1985),
 Bernard 'Jack' Weatherill (Speaker of the House
 of Commons (1983-1992), George Thomas
 (Speaker 1976-1983), Dora Gaitskill, Trevor
 Clay (General Secretary of the Royal College of
 Nursing, 1988), Harold Wilson (1968), Barbara
 Castle (1972). Also a printed Christmas card
 from George and Miss Lansbury (1937), and a
 photocopied typescript list of attendees at a
 lunch for Bertrand Russell, which included Pavitt
 and his wife.

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

PAVITT/6

Memorials and personal documents

1937-1990

Includes:

- Order of Service for the service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Laurence Anstice Pavitt, St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, (15 February 1990)
- typescript address given at Pavitt's memorial service by Peter Shea (3pp)
- photocopied press clipping, 'Memorial services' mentioning some of those who attended Pavitt's service, including Lord Callaghan, Paul Boateng, Michael Foot, The Times (16 February 1990)
- press clipping, obituary for Pavitt, The Times (19 December 1989)
- press clipping, obituary, The Guardian (19 December 1989)
- press clipping, 'Appreciation: Laurie Pavitt' by Reg Freeson, The Guardian (20 December 1989)
- photocopied press clipping, 'In Memoriam' The Daily Telegraph (16 February 1990)
- printed invitation from 'Rose and Laurie' to a party at St James' Hall, Forest Lane, E7 (12 June 1937)
- photocopied press clipping, 'Laurie Pavitt: compassionate and concerned', The House Magazine no 91, vol 4 (12 March 1979)
- typed playscript, 'The Kessingland Story' (n.d.)

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