



HOUSE OF LORDS,
S.W.1.

10th February, 1950.

Dear Helsby

The Office of Lord Great Chamberlain, the Great Officer of State who has charge of the Palace of Westminster, is hereditary, being descendible in "tail general". This means (among other things) that when a holder dies leaving no son and more than one daughter, the right to the office is vested in two or more persons as co-heirs. The duties then have to be performed by deputy.

The duties have now been performed by deputy for very many years. The procedure is for the co-heirs to nominate by unanimous consent a person to act as their Deputy to execute the duties of the office, and for that Deputy to petition The King for His Majesty's approval of his nomination.

The present Deputy is Lord Ancaster, and he wishes to relinquish his office owing to age and infirmity.

The present co-heirs are the Marquess of Cholmondeley, the Earl of Ancaster and the issue of the late Marquess of Lincolnshire, and they have agreed to nominate Lord Willoughby de Eresby (Lord Ancaster's son) as their deputy in the place of Lord Ancaster, and for that purpose have completed Deeds of Nomination.

In accordance with usual practice Lord Willoughby de Eresby has now sent his Petition and the supporting Deeds of Nomination to this Office. They are in order, and accordingly I forward them herewith.

The next step is for the Prime Minister, if he thinks fit, to put forward Lord Willoughby de Eresby's name to The King for His Majesty's approbation, and, when His Majesty has signified His pleasure, for you to instruct the Home Office to prepare a Warrant signifying The King's approval of the selection of Lord Willoughby de Eresby for the office of Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain.

Lord Ancaster and Lord Willoughby de Eresby hope that the Warrant will be issued before the Opening of Parliament, as the Deputy has the duty of receiving The King on that occasion.

When the Home Office receive your instructions, they will need the enclosed documents for the preparation of the Warrant. I am sending a copy of this letter to Strutt at the Home Office.

Yours sincerely
A. E. C. Laper

L. N. Helsby, Esq., C.B.