



Majority: 9,037 (20.9%) over LibDem 4-way

Description: A safe Conservative seat on the Sussex coast, created in '95, three-quarters from the western half of Worthing's seafront plus Rustington, East Preston and Ferring from splintered Shoreham; the country's top `Costa Geriatrica', with 45% of pensionable age, many on formerly comfortable pensions;

Position: On Select Committee on Standards and Privileges '97-; on Committee on Unopposed Bills (Panel) '97-; President, British-Irish New Consensus '92-; ex: Under Secretary: for Northern Ireland '89-90, for Transport '86-89, for Employment '84-86; PPS: to Peter Brooke '90, to Norman Fowler '83-84, to Cranley

Onslow '82-83; on Select Committees: on Transport '92-97, Violence in the Family '76, Overseas Development '78-79; Vice Chairman, Conservative MPs' Media Committee '92-97; Secretary: Conservative MPs' Foreign Affairs Committee '79-81, Health and Social Services Committee '77-79; President, Conservative Trade Unionists '78-80; Vice President, Federation of Conservative Students '80-82; Chairman: Church of England Children's Society '83-84, British-Uganda Parliamentary Group '79-82, all-party Shelter Group '79-83, British Union of Family Organisations '73- 80; Founder Chairman of Family Forum '80-82; Vice Chairman:, all- party UN Group '81-83, Parliamentary Group for Justice for Road Traffic Victims til '03;; Secretary, all-party Right to Fuel Group '79-83; Treasurer, British-Zambian Parliamentary Group '83- 84;

Outlook: The safely-transported candidate-saint of the pro- European Tory `wets', recently quietened down; his '03 loss of his driving license besmirched the proud record of his crusade against drink-driving which cut the numbers killed between '87 and '93 by 2,000, although "his acid remarks about anti-social drivers have not endeared him to Tories" (Matthew Parris, TIMES); self-described as "the voice of the liberal Establishment"; the errant, quixotic, unpredictable, intelligent, libertarian Tory Leftist; can alternate between an informed mature `wet' and a simple partisan; was shrewd enough to flee marginal Eltham, threatened by major boundary changes, for a new safe-Tory seat on the Sussex's `Costa Geriatrica' before the '97 Labour flood; is a considerable expert on the press, a principled crusader against racism and for peace in Northern Ireland and a refusenik against the Tory Government's abolition of wages councils; he voted against compelling asylum-seekers to accept vouchers; "has acquired a justified reputation as a man zealous in the cause of righteousness" (Ian Aitken, GUARDIAN); "they say that I usually have five ideas, four of which are good and one of which is mad; the trouble is they think I don't know which one it is" (PB); his crusade against drink-driving cut the numbers killed by 1,000 a year between '87 and '93; until he too was sacked, was the only rival to Mrs Currie as a publicity-hungry junior Minister; "madman" (bibulous Auberon Waugh); "vociferous, unpopular, publicity-hungry" (SUNDAY TIMES); a supporter of the EC ; supported ordination of women; before office was the highly rebellious, individualistic, unpredictable and socially-conscious anti-racist Leftish Tory who spent "nine years as a mildly revolting backbencher" (his words); believes that "a Conservative puts country first, constituency second and party next"; eager- beaver; was skilled at winning and consolidating his former constituency until it became hopeless; was intermittently disliked by Mrs Thatcher; behind the scenes he was Virginia Bottomley's chief supporter as a Health Secretary under fire: "he protects her, defends her, advises her without a trace of bitterness or envy; she needs him" (mutual friends); "I am on record as stating that my wife is a better politician than myself; she DESERVES to be more successful" (PB); a member of Bow Group and Tory Reform Group as well as the Monday Club at one time;

History: He joined the Conservatives at 28, '72; contested Vauxhall in GLC election May '73; contested Woolwich West Feb and Oct '74; campaigned for an incomes policy which was by then against Tory policy and that of his union - the TGWU; won by-election, the first to be secured from Labour by Tories June '75; told Mrs Thatcher at their first meeting that he was anti-Smith in Rhodesia July '75; urged Britain to abandon Ian Smith for Zimbabwe's black nationalists Mar '76; urged more funding for NHS Oct '76; lost popularity with Chief Whip when he acted as teller for John Stonehouse after Tories had promised Labour there would be no vote Mar-Apr '76; forced vote on child benefit order July '76; urged full implementation of child benefit scheme Mar '77; attacked DAILY MAIL for false allegation of BL "slush fund" May '77; urged London rates cut to help small businesses June '77; in Tory Reform Group pamphlet, urged a UK resettlement fund for Europeans wishing to leave Rhodesia/Zimbabwe Aug '77; as CPAG supporter, urged child benefit increases Mar '78; visited El Salvador to investigate atrocities Dec '78; as President of the Conservative Trade Unions claimed during the election campaign that workers could trust the Tories May '79; wrote letter supporting proportional representation Apr '79; opposed increases in fees for overseas students Dec '79; abstained from supporting Government on tougher immigration rules Dec '79 and Mar '80; urged patience with Mugabe Government Mar '80; rebelled over child benefits Apr '80; labeled as "false" claim of El Salvador Government that killing of Archbishop Romero was done by others than security forces; attended Romero's turbulent funeral Apr '80; dissented over Iranian sanctions May '80; introduced Bill to give private tenants same right to buy as council tenants June '80; his letter, sent from South Africa, was intercepted by authorities Sep '81; voiced concern about mounting racialist attacks in UK Oct '81; urged Mrs Thatcher to meet Russian peace group Nov '81; said those cricketers who decided not to go to South Africa were making a "significant gesture" Mar '82; rebelled against Government on cut in unemployment benefit Apr '82; warned nurses against support from higher-paid unionists Sep '82; again urged increase in child benefit Oct '82; argued against cuts in pensioners' benefits Nov '82; urged abolition of GLC without regional replacement Feb '83; warned Whips against pandering to Rightwing rebels on immigration Feb '83; told employers it was cheaper to back higher child benefit and lower wage increases May '83; as a cyclist backed Cycle Tracks Bill Mar '84; signed all-party plea for Shcharansky Mar '84; was promoted Under Secretary for Employment Sep '84; announced that 29% of textile and clothing manufacturing employers were underpaying but Government had no intention of prosecuting Feb '85; voted for Enoch Powell's Bill banning scientific research on human embryos while his MP wife, Virginia, voted against May '85; took part in consultation on wages councils, finding no pressure to end them '85; challenged union general secretaries to disclose what steps they had taken to inform their members of their right to contract out of the political levy Aug '85; attacked Ron Todd for using his 1.25m votes in Labour conference to support Arthur Scargill without consulting his members Oct '85; urged company chairmen to take a personal interest in hiring more young people of Afro-Caribbean or Asian origins Dec '85; on BBC's 'Today' programme insisted that better training was part of the answer to ethnic unemployment, pointing out the programme itself had no black faces Dec '85; was switched to more public role as Under Secretary for Transport Jan '86; was impressed by Auberon Waugh's dirge about his sister's death in a car accident Feb '86; urged drunken drivers be treated like muggers Feb '86; brought out a brochure lauding the completion of the crammed and controversial M25 Sep '86; with stronger Labour vote lost 1100 votes from majority while increasing his vote June '87; defended car clamp as deterring many others from parking illegally June '87; toughened regulations for coach strength July '87; defended two-lane Oxford-Birmingham link as saving enough money to build extra village bypasses and avoid covering the countryside with cement and macadam Aug '87; promised fewer cones and delays due to road repairs Aug '87; foretold heavier insurance costs for drunken drivers Nov '87; the Chancellor's outburst after his wife, Therese Lawson, had been arrested for drunken

driving, was an embarrassment Dec '87; complained of whispering campaign against Dr Runcie, then Archbishop of Canterbury Dec '87; warned that "drinking and driving is the equivalent of a King's Cross (disaster) every fortnight" Dec '87; warned that owners might become liable for their cars' offences Dec '87; faced BR's Channel Tunnel link through his constituency Jan '88; said John Gummer's attack on Archbishop of York made the Synod seem like "Parliament on a bad day" Feb '88; backed Stephen Day's Bill to make rear seatbelts in cars compulsory for children Feb '88; opposed restoring capital punishment June '88; promised to replace 1,200 trees felled for Okehampton bypass by 100,000 new trees July '88; 'Cross-Bencher' in the SUNDAY EXPRESS accurately predicted: "the day may dawn when just one Ministerial car pulls up outside the Bottomley household, to sweep Virginia off to some vital Cabinet meeting; Peter, perhaps relegated to the back-benches, will wave her off before finishing the breakfast washing-up and getting on his bike to pedal to the Commons" July '88; opposed danger of allowing drivers with a drink problem to get back their licenses automatically July '88; flew to Japan to find out how they cut deaths of motorcyclists Aug '88; criticised Consumers' Association for scaremongering about dangers of unstable mini-jeeps Sep '88; objected to Social Security Minister John Moore's freezing of child benefit Dec '88; cast the only vote against John Browne's Protection of Privacy Bill Jan '89; was falsely accused by MAIL ON SUNDAY of receiving preferential treatment for protecting his house from a nearby bypass Feb '89; introduced 2nd Reading of Road Traffic Bill, designed to reduce road casualty figures further Apr '89; beat off European Commission proposals that would have eliminated volunteer mini-bus drivers Apr '89; was falsely accused by MAIL ON SUNDAY of obtaining preferential treatment for constituent accused of misconduct in children's home May '89; the Press Commission disallowed his complaint that the HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE EXPRESS headlined his speech as "Bumley's tirade", using the disparaging nickname given him by Nicholas Ridley June '89; approved insurance industry's decision not to pay out to injured drunken drivers June '89; PRIVATE EYE claimed he was being "blacked" by Government drivers - fellow members of the TGWU - for criticising them and insisting on driving himself; was named Under Secretary for Northern Ireland and given responsibility for Agriculture and Environment, including Transport, by Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke July '89; the MAIL ON SUNDAY apologised over its libellous story in May, Sep '89; tried to temper Tory anger against social analysis by Dr Runcie, then Archbishop of Canterbury Oct '89; voted against War Crimes Bill Dec '89; was first Minister to sign up as a member of Conservative Party in Northern Ireland Jan '90; said Northern Ireland's food was more natural and healthy May '90; supported Conservative candidate in by-election for Upper Bann May '90; toured Belfast in wheelchair to test accessibility for the disabled, clashing with storeowner who claimed he could not afford lift to basement June '90; was sacked by Mrs Thatcher as Northern Ireland Under Secretary, because "there is one Minister too many in Northern Ireland" according to him; but "his eccentricity and obsessions created hostility" according to the DAILY TELEGRAPH's correspondent, particularly his partial vegetarianism and his crusades against drunken driving and for the disabled July '90; pointed out that the tax allowances enjoyed by a married man with a large mortgage were worth as much as 12 child benefits July '90; after being sacked, was demonstratively named PPS to Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke Sep '90; tried to be elected to Synod for Southwark but failed; urged national religious broadcasting rather than specifically religious stations Oct '90; backed Mrs Thatcher's proposal to give families an extra 1 a week for eldest child Oct '90; opposed dog registration Oct '90; received apologies and damages from NEWS OF THE WORLD Oct '90; stepped down as PPS to Peter Brooke Nov '90; joined protest against four-lane motorway through Oxleas Wood Nov '90; opposed a contest for the Leadership but expressed disgust at the way the SUN was maligning Michael Heseltine's leading supporters Nov '90; said: "the consequences of smoking are appalling"; "we shall have to squeeze the tobacco companies out of sponsoring sport" Nov '90; demanded

BR introduce automatic safety controls after rail crash Jan '91; was named to European Standing Committee E Jan '91; again warned of threat to Oxleas Wood Jan '91; was still in the Monday Club when it was alleged to have been taken over by racists and near-fascists Feb '91; said: "there is no driving force on this earth as powerful as the ambitions and aspirations of the urban working class" Feb '91; opposed random breath testing because police already could "lawfully stop drivers at random or for any cause and may then require an alcohol test" Feb '91; sought to delay the War Crimes Bill as retrospective and depriving defendants of "the normal safeguards of a fair trial" Mar '91; served as observer of national elections at invitation of El Salvador Government Mar '91; claimed David Owen's endorsement of Tories would give them "half a million votes which would translate into 20 or 30 seats" Apr '91; led Parliamentary motion claiming that "many who voted to avoid the alteration of even a word or a comma in the War Crimes Bill did so with a heavy heart, and wonders why the Labour Party suspended its usual critical judgement of the Government" May '91; said Eltham would be better off in Bromley or Bexley, rather than Labour-controlled Greenwich May '91; took edge off Sir George Gardiner's attacks on overseas political involvements by British charities by pointing out that Christian Aid had been able to correct a "mistake" over attacks on Apartheid when he was a Trustee June '91; backed phasing out of mortgage tax relief at higher rate and also personal allowances July '91; backed civil liberties in El Salvador July '91; opposed double taxation on Woolwich Building Society July '91; settled the last of three libel actions he had fought against MAIL ON SUNDAY, NEWS OF THE WORLD and DAILY EXPRESS Oct '91; complained that Greenwich Council did not pursue poll tax payments from defaulting Labour councillors Oct '91; urged "an authoritative forum of MPs for London" Oct '91; was named to European Standing Committee B Nov '91; began supporting 'New Consensus' movement in Northern Ireland Dec '91; with Labour MP, Harry Barnes, his collaborator in 'New Consensus', launched campaign to establish innocence of those killed by troops on 'Bloody Sunday' in '72 Londonderry shooting Jan '92; opposed National Lottery Bill because problems of raising 750m extra for culture and charities had not been thought through Jan '92; urged tougher rules against drinking by train drivers Mar '92; retained seat with majority down from 6,460 to 1,666, a swing of 5.73% to Labour Apr '92; expressed concern about increasing "the size of a student village from 300 to 2,000 bedrooms" in his marginal constituency June '92; waxed indignant about 'double' taxation levied on Woolwich Building Society June '92; tabled motions against censoring the press June '92; again spoke on Woolwich Building Society taxes July '92; was named to Select Committee on Transport July '92; asked Press Complaints Commission whether INDEPENDENT had breached its code of conduct on intrusions into private lives in disclosing unnecessary details about the Bottomley's first child, born three months before their marriage July '92; described Britain's exit from ERM as "a serious consequence of silly French play with referendums" Sep '92; supported ordination of women Oct '92; opposed end of wages councils because, even if low-paid dropped their wages by a fifth, there would only be an increase of one percent in employment Nov '92; when he suggested MPs froze their pay until unemployment dropped, the INDEPENDENT commented that "the Bottomley household is already pulling in some 81,000 in Parliamentary salaries, so things shouldn't be too tough" Nov '92; questioned Murdoch domination of media Dec '92; complained that nuclear industry was being held to ridiculous safety requirements Dec '92; opposed giving National Lottery advantages over pools Dec '92; opposed imposing probationary restrictions on new young drivers as hard to enforce Jan '93; welcomed John Major's statement that people killed on 'Bloody Sunday' in Londonderry in 1972 had been innocent Jan '93; resisted Government requirement to renew union check-off arrangements every three years Feb '93; again opposed abolition of wages councils Feb '93; welcomed possible choice of Irish-American Tom Foley as Presidential envoy to Northern Ireland Feb '93; complained that Clive Soley thought he was being used by Murdoch newspapers in opposing Soley's press Bill

Apr '93; sought to extend ability of disabled to become driving instructors Apr '93; strongly supported Maastricht treaty Apr '93; urged action against racist organisations after a black youth was killed in his constituency: "I am clear that if this had been the third white youth to be killed, there would have been widespread press calls for effective action" May '93; welcomed end of road proposed through Eltham and Oxleas Wood May '93; voted against Ray Powell's restrictive Shops (Amendment) Bill May '93; opposed Clive Soley's moderate shackling of press: "the price of an open free society is the acceptance of casualties" July '93; co-sponsored Bill to provide pardons for soldiers executed for cowardice in World War I, Oct '93; voted for lesser increase in MPs' pay Nov '93; voted against restoring capital punishment, even for killers of policemen Feb '94; voted to reduce age of homosexual consent to 18 or 16, Feb '94; blamed failure to solve signalmen's strike not on the clumsiness of Railtrack but on RMT sponsorship of Labour MPs July '94; chided The GUARDIAN for an unbalanced story on dentistry Nov '94; defended the Public Interest Immunity Certificate system as a "judge-created system...to allow the release to the judge and, if relevant, to the defence of documents which would normally be withheld" June '95; his changed constituency was shown as Labour's 14th target, with only a 1.43% swing needed to take it Aug '95; opposed dilution of Lord Mackay's divorce proposals as signalling the party had lurched too far to the Right Nov '95; was named to European Standing Committee B Nov '95; he beat George Carman QC, winning 40,000 from the SUNDAY EXPRESS, who also payed 250,000 costs after an eight-day trial, over a story headlined "The Final Betrayal" which attacked him, as a leader of the peace group, New Dialogue, for appearing on the same platform as Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness Dec '95; his adjournment debate on the cost of libel cases showed how Robert Maxwell and BCCI used the law to ban publication of critical information; he also urged immediate correction of wrong stories Feb '96; on the 'chicken run' from threatened Eltham, was selected for redrawn Worthing West which, on a 1992-style vote should have provided him with a 20,000 majority Feb '96; voted against Iain Duncan-Smith's Bill to curb the European Court Apr '96; was Teller in vote against putting a 3% cap on MPs' salary increase and for reduced mileage allowances July '96; he (and Patrick Cormack) abstained when the Tory Government reversed a Lords amendment to give asylum seekers three days grace to lodge a claim for refugee status before they lost their chance to claim welfare benefits July '96; told the DAILY TELEGRAPH that he backed negotiating on the single European currency on the existing 'wait-and-see' basis Dec '96; with Harry Barnes, again urged a new inquiry into 'Bloody Sunday' Jan '97; he signed the advertisement of the European Movement Mar '97; retained new Worthing West by a majority of 7,713, after a notional swing of 9.8% to the second-place LibDems May '97; he described John Redwood as unelectable, backing William Hague for the Tory Leadership May-June '97; was named to the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges June '97; predicted a rise in unemployment Mar '98; he sought a reduction of road traffic Apr '98; he urged a more serious view be taken of drug-taking by the young May '98; challenged Margaret Beckett on low pay June '98; was one of 18 Tory MPs to vote for 16 as age of homosexual consent June '98; voted against timetable motion on Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill Sep '98; he urged a timetable for decommissioning in Northern Ireland Oct '98; he strongly resisted the closed-list system for electing MEPs Nov '98; he co-led an all-party motion opposing the situation where "the poor subsidise the poorest" in council rents because of a 1990 law Jan '99; he co-led a motion criticising the fact that "1,000 children have been murdered, shot, mutilated, physically and psychologically tortured, beaten, intimidated and exiled in 1998 by Loyalist and Republican paramilitaries" Jan '99; with David Prior he urged allowing the use of cannabis for medical purposes Feb '99; he said that in the Lawrence case the police had allowed evidence to be destroyed Mar '99; he strongly supported the Race Relations (Amendment) Bill, citing the racist barriers that doctors of Indian origin still had to overcome within the NHS Mar '00; he asked why 18,000 of the 65,000 in prison should be using illegal drugs May '00; he supported

the ultimately successful appeal against the "grossly excessive" sentence for two charity workers found guilty of knowingly permitting drug-dealing in a hostel for the homeless July '00; he criticised John Bercow for attacking Cherie Blair Aug '00; he urged a reduction in the 500 being contemplated as the charge for appeals against being denied rights to visit Britain Nov '00; he voted for stem cell research Dec '00; he asked Health Secretary hostile questions about the abolition of Community Health Councils Jan '01; he urged smoking be cited as the cause of death on death certificates Jan '01; he voted for self-regulated or licensed fox-hunting Jan '01; he criticised Keith Vaz and his solicitor for not co-operating with Standards Commissioner Elizabeth Filkin and for misreporting the Standards Committee's decision on him Mar '01; he predicted the first black or Asian Prime Minister would be a Conservative Apr '01; he was re-elected, with his majority increased by over 1,300 votes June '01; initially he backed Michael Ancram for the Tory Leadership July '01; he was renamed to the Standards and Privileges Committee July '01; he urged people to avoid sitting in "exposed" seats in buses: "the unprotected seats beside the driver and the middle seat in the back row" June '01; he canvassed for support for a motion complaining Standards Commissioner Elizabeth Filkin had been "stitched up" by Labour Cabinet Ministers in not securing a second term Oct '01; insisting she should have been re-appointed, he wrote successfully to Sir Nigel Wicks, Chairman of Standards Committee, asking him to review the procedures on the renewal of the appointment of Standards Commissioner Elizabeth Filkin Nov '01; he complained that the new ban on Elizabeth Filkin's successor as Standards Commissioner being allowed to speak to the press "sounds like something that would happen in Ceausescu's Romania"; he suggested Martin Bell, a fellow member of the Standards Committee, investigate John Reid, Geoffrey Robinson, Peter Mandelson and Keith Vaz as responsible for having Elizabeth Filkin sacked Dec '01; he effectively accused Commons Leader Robin Cook of being responsible for getting Elizabeth Filkin sacked Feb '02; he raised the problem of Florida's Death Row prisoner, Krishna Maharaj Mar '02; in the debate on adopting the MPs' `Code of Conduct' he opposed depriving MPs of the right to earn outside incomes from occupations like writing or farming or companies they had founded; he also thought that MPs and Ministers would be wise and should be obliged to co-operate with the Standards Commissioner; if a Minister did not, the PM "should sack the Minister without question on the first day"; he dismissed suggestions that ex-Commissioner had leaked information; "the House would not have had its reputation besmirched by the impression, which I share, that someone who gets at the people close to the Prime Minister is likely to suffer from whispering and direct action" May '02; he predicted that if the Tories could win over the uncommitted, they might have a chance at the next election June '02; he said that, "if we go from saying `No' to Saddam to saying `Action Now', not everyone in this House will think that we should have a debate before a surprise attack"; "before Westminster or UN action we all need to ask if it is right, if it is necessary and if it will work"; he also co-asked PM Blair what would happen if a new UN resolution was not passed, whether Parliament would be given a vote and whether regime change was British policy Sep '02; he urged that the "the best way to stand with the people of Iraq, their neighbours and Turkey is for us to go on standing with the United States" Feb '03; after being banned for six months for four speeding offences, he resigned as Vice Chairman of the Parliamentary Group for Justice for Road Traffic victims Nov '03; he strongly objected to the Government cutting short the debate on the Queen's Speech without making clear its intentions about constitutional reforms in the Lords Dec '03;

Born: 30 July 1944 , Newport, Shropshire

Family: Son, Sir James Bottomley, KCMG, ex-UK Ambassador (to South Africa, UN and Geneva), and Barbara Evelyn (Vardon); m '67 Virginia (Garnett), psychiatric social worker who became MP for SW Surrey in '84; "they met when she was 12 and he 16 at her aunt Pauline's Putney home; "in 1967, when Virginia was 19, still an undergraduate [at Essex], they produced their first child Joshua and married three months later" (INDEPENDENT); 1s

Joshua '67, 2d Cecilia '69, Adela '82; "I have mixed Yorkshire and Northern Ireland blood in me" (PB);

Education: Mixed comprehensive in Washington DC, where his father was in the British Embassy; Westminster School; Trinity College, Cambridge University;

Occupation: Economist and Consultant on casualty reduction; Owner: houses in Smith Square, in Milford, Surrey and on Isle of Wight; ex: Chairman, of Appian Traffic Technologies (an Irish medium-tech company fitting infra-red monitors to track cars in and out of car parks) '98-01; Adviser, to International Fund for Animal Welfare '91-94; Personnel Adviser/Director to Ralli (Bowater and Cargill) '79-83; Managing Director: Signs Department Ltd (subsidiary of Mills and Allen) '73-75, Vending Centre Holdings '69-71; Marketing Consultant '71-73; Industrial Relations Officer, BSC '68-69; Salesman, of computer peripherals for Friden Ltd; Lorry Driver, for Wall's '66; Station Porter at Victoria, Barker at Battersea Funfair; Street Cleaner, in Westminster; Transport Driver, in Tasmania, delivering new Holdens from Hobart to Queenstown '63;

Traits: Tall; thinnish; gangling; prominent nose; parted hair; friendly zeal; quixotic solitary; original thinker; "sweetly barmy" (Creevey, INDEPENDENT); "pious as a Jesuit" (Teresa Gorman); "endearingly strange" (TIMES); "he's very other-worldly; he hasn't a clue what's going on around him most of the time" (Virginia Bottomley); "with his little round glasses, schoolboy parting and cheeky smile", "looks like a go-ahead vicar from a seaside postcard; here, you would have thought, is a man who would happily lend you his bicycle clips, and might well inform an inquiring stranger of the prettiest route to the village green"; "little-lad haircut", "all-black digital watch, John Lennon glasses", "smiles more often and less slyly than most of his colleagues", "tendency to bite his nails and to lace up his shoes while facing urgent cross-questions", "a twinge of loopiness" (Craig Brown, TIMES); "holier-than-thou manner" (Chris Moncrieff, EVENING STAR); "obviously insane, or at any rate deranged" (Auberon Waugh, SPECTATOR); "a partial vegetarian...I make an exception for Bovril and...I enjoy Marmite as well" (PB); "I don't eat shellfish" (PB); has a "Cromwellian, puritanical streak; he once sent out for low-alcohol beer with his mobile phone from a restaurant table because there wasn't any on the menu" (fellow MP); courageous; "irrepressible" (EVENING STANDARD); climber (walked up a small mountain in Tanzania with Sherpa Tenzing '63); cyclist; swimmer (ex Parliamentary swimming champion '80, '81, '84, '85, '86, beaten by Jim Spicer in '82, '83, '87; "I swim once a year in the Commons and Lords Gala, which I liked because it meant I could introduce myself as the 'fastest wet in Westminster'" [PB]); sometimes wins the Commons v Lords dinghy sailing race; Commodore, Houe of Commons Yacht Club '03-; the only politician in 70 years to be awarded the Castrol/Motor Industry Gold Medal; footballer; wears NHS specs and TGWU tie; had back trouble in '87; is genuinely caring (an Asian family from Uganda lived with the Bottomleys for 18 months); "Peter was a lonely boy, and he'd come with his rucksack and camp in our garden; he was part of the family" (Peggy Jay, Virginia's aunt); "someone who has attended Westminster Abbey during 46 years" (PB);

Address: House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA; moved from near Lansdowne Gardens, Lambeth, to their Georgian house in Smith Square, Westminster in '91, purchased with help of small inheritance from his grandmother; has homes in 500,000 house near Penelope Keith in Milford, Surrey and in Worthing;

Telephone: 0207 219 5060 (H of C); 01903 235168 (constituency);