

Mr. Bell:

SPEAKER STRONGE MEMORIAL

I had a further meeting with Lord Moyola yesterday. On this occasion he was accompanied by Lord Brookeborough. Both were at Stormont on other business.

Lord Moyola told me that he was going ahead with the idea of raising funds for a memorial. The Stronge family (through Mrs Daphne Kinghan) were in support of the plan and the cost would not be prohibitive (probably under £500).

Both Lord Moyola and Lord Brookeborough asked for an assurance that any commemorative plaque would be placed in a prominent position - such as on the wall in the entrance vestibule to the other (west) side of the war memorial. They asked that this matter be brought to your attention. Lord Moyola was aware of the letter which the then Secretary of State wrote to Sir John Biggs-Davison on 27 April. This indicated that approval would be given for a plaque to be erected in an appropriate place in the Parliamentary precincts at Stormont.

Lord Moyola did not press for clerical or administrative assistance once I had made it plain that such help could not be put at his disposal. Lord Brookeborough thought the whole thing should be organised and partly financed by the Northern Ireland Office. An up-to-date list of members of the former Northern Ireland House of Commons who had served in Parliament during Sir Norman's tenure of office as Speaker was supplied. The ceiling for subscriptions was fixed at £5. Any balance needed would be made up by close friends of the late Speaker.

No letter would be sent out until I had informed Lord Moyola that the preferred location for the memorial had been approved by you. As a courtesy he would thereupon notify the Secretary of State of his plans.

J A D KENNEDY
Clerk to the Assembly

19 November 1981

cc. Dr. Quigley