



Some texts to think about

Text A

The English Constitution—that indescribable entity—is a living thing, growing with the growth of men, and assuming ever-varying forms in accordance with the subtle and complex laws of human character. It is the child of wisdom and chance. The wise men of 1688 moulded it into the shape we know, but the chance that George I could not speak English gave it one of its essential peculiarities—the system of a Cabinet independent of the Crown and subordinate to the Prime Minister. The wisdom of Lord Grey saved it from petrification and destruction, and set it upon the path of Democracy. Then chance intervened once more; a female sovereign happened to marry an able and pertinacious man; and it seemed likely that an element which had been quiescent within it for years—the element of irresponsible administrative power—was about to become its predominant characteristic and to change completely the direction of its growth. But what chance gave chance took away. The Consort perished in his prime; and the English Constitution, dropping the dead limb with hardly a tremor, continued its mysterious life as if he had never been.



1 Text B

2 //₄ in */ this job / Anne we're //₁ working with */ silver //

3 //₁ now / silver / needs to have */ love / [*/₁ yeah //]

//₃ you */ know / the //₄ people that */ buy silver */₁ love it //

4 */₁ yeah //₁ guess they */ would //

5 */₁ yeah //₁ mm / well */ naturally I / mean to / say that it's */₁₃ got a / lovely

*/ gleam a- / bout it you */ know //₃ and / if they come */ in they're

//₁ usually / people who / love / beautiful */ things //

6 //₁ so / you / have to be / beautiful */ with it you / know

//₁ and you */ sell it with / beauty //

7 */₁ um //

8 //₁ you / I'm */ sure you know / how to do */₄ that // oh but you */ must //

9 //₁ let's hear / let's hear / */ look / you say

*/₁ madam //₅ isn't / that */ beautiful //

10 //₄ if / you sug- */ gest it's / beautiful //₁ they */ see it as / beautiful //



Text C

The Chamber of the House

The present Chamber of the House of Commons was designed by the late Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and was opened in 1950. It replaced the Chamber designed by Sir Charles Barry, first used by the Commons in 1852, and destroyed by German bombing in 1941. The Commons acquired their first permanent home in 1547, when St Stephen's Chapel was made available. It was used by the House until 1834, when it was destroyed by the fire which ravaged almost the whole Palace of Westminster. The lower chapel of St Stephen's survived the fire, and is now known as the 'Crypt Chapel'. St Stephen's Hall, through which visitors approach the Central Lobby, is on the same site and is the same size as the old Chamber.

In its shape and size the present Chamber is almost a replica of Barry's, though its decoration is less ornate, and larger galleries have been provided for visitors. The general seating arrangements of the House are in effect merely an enlargement of those in use over four hundred years ago in St Stephen's Chapel, when Members sat in the choir stalls, and the Speaker's Chair stood on the altar steps. There are 650 Members of Parliament; but there is seating accommodation (including the side galleries) for only 437. This restriction is deliberate: the House is not a forum for set orations; its debates are largely conversational in character; and for many of them — highly specialized in theme, or of a routine nature — few Members are present, many others being engaged on other Parliamentary duties in the Palace of Westminster. Thus, a small and intimate Chamber is more convenient. Conversely, on great occasions, when the House is full and Members have to sit in the gangways, or cluster round the Speaker's Chair, at the Bar and in the side galleries, the drama of Parliament is enhanced, and there is, as Sir Winston Churchill once put it, 'a sense of crowd and urgency'.



1 Text D

2 //₂ shall I / tell you / why the / North / Star / stays */ still? //

3 */ //₁ yes */ //₁ do.

4 //₄ ^ because */ that's //₁ where the */ magnet / is

5 and it //₁ gets at- */ tracted //₁ by the */ earth

6 //₄ ^ but the */ other / stars */ //₄ don't

7 so */ //₄ they //₁ move a- */ round //