



Inventory

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Correspondence and papers, 1942-78, of George McArthur Lawson (1906-78). George Lawson (henceforth in this list GML) was born in Edinburgh. His education was cut short by the First World War and the death of his father in 1915, and he started work as a shop assistant in the city while studying and working in the evenings as a voluntary tutor for the National Council of Labour Colleges (NCLC). From 1937 to 1940 he was a full-time NCLC tutor in the East of Scotland, and served as the West of Scotland NCLC Organiser from 1940-50 when he was appointed Secretary of Edinburgh and District Trades Council. In 1954 he was elected as Labour MP for Motherwell, and represented Motherwell, and Motherwell and Wishaw, until his retirement in Oct 1974. GML served as a Labour Whip (1959-64) and held office as a Government Whip (1964) and Deputy Chief Whip (1966-7). He continued to be very active in public life from 1974 to his death in July 1978, particularly as Director (1976-8) of the 'Scotland Is British' campaign formed to oppose the government proposals and legislation for devolution to Scotland, and this aspect of his career is the subject of a large section of the surviving papers.

Other political and personal interests of GML well represented in the papers include: the Scottish steel industry; the campaign in favour of the European Community; nature conservation and the Nature Conservancy Council, Scottish Committee; and the work of the National Trust for Scotland, particularly in the West of Scotland. Included also (file 67) is some correspondence of Mrs Margaret Lawson. Letters from constituents on personal matters are not included in the papers, but there are some subject files on public constituency issues and matters of interest to GML, and two letters, 1920-1, of J T Walton Newbold, briefly MP for Motherwell, given to him.

The papers have been arranged in a numerical file sequence as under:

1-6	EARLIER PAPERS
7-29	SUBJECT FILES
30-41	STEEL INDUSTRY
42-64	'SCOTLAND IS BRITISH' CAMPAIGN
65-70	OTHER DEVOLUTION PAPERS
71-83	NATURE CONSERVATION
84-86	EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS
87-91	NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
92-94	PRESS-CUTTING BOOKS AND PRINTED MATERIAL

1-6. **Earlier Papers**

1. Letters (2), 1920-1, presented to GML, of J T Walton Newbold (MP for Motherwell and Wishaw, 1922-3), to John Kelsey and to the joint Independent Labour Party branches of Motherwell, Craigneuk and Wishaw.
2. NCLC papers: papers, 1948, on a lecture series comprising 'A Criterion of Socialist Practice'; 'The Changing Role of the State'; and 'More Democracy or Less', with some later notes on the first topic.

Arthur Woodburn, 'The Working of Parliament': text to accompany an NCLC film.

Christine Millar, 'The Scotland Burns Knew': text for NCLC film.

- 3-4. Film strips of the above lectures.
5. Further NCLC lectures/course notes/reports, n.d. but probably 1940-50, on the following topics:
 - (i) West of Scotland Labour College 'Enquiry into the various Political Parties of the Workers and the differences between them'.
 - (ii) Synopsis of lectures at NCLC Summer School for young trade unionists on 'The History and Policy of the Trade Union Movement'.
 - (iii) Paper on 'The Issues Confronting the Trade Unions.
 - (iv) Paper on 'Trade Union Problems'.
 - (v) 'Planning Full Employment No.1'.
 - (vi) Heads for talk 'Of What Does the Working Class Movement Consist?'
6.
 - (i) 'The Socialist Clarity Group' questionnaires to trade union activists, 1942.
 - (ii) Article of GML, 1949, entitled 'Who Is For Europe's Independence?' for Plebs magazine, with related letters.
 - (iii) A copy of article 'What Socialism Means' by GML in Forward, 13 May 1950.
 - (iv) Heads for a talk 'Are Strikes Necessary?', n.d.

7-29. **Subject Files**

7. 'Articles and Notes', 1962, 1969, n.d.
8. Athletics and Sport: letter and cutting, 1965.

9. Art and Drama: papers, 1965-7.
10. Robert Burns: letters, notes etc, 1957-75, n.d.
11. Cricket: Motherwell Cricket Club Centenary Dinner, 1973.
12. Crime and criminal statistics, 1973.
13. Education: papers, 1964-9, 1973.
14. Environment: a file of correspondence and papers on the extraction of gravel and sand from the bed of the River Clyde, 1969-70.
15. 'Industrial Devolution': Scottish Council (D & I) paper, 1974, and press cuttings, 1976-7.
16. Labour Party:
 - (i) Parliamentary Labour Party Benevolent Fund, 1958, 1968.
 - (ii) National Executive Committee and Annual Conference papers [mostly printed], 1960, 1968, 1971-2, 1977.
17. Labour Party:
 - (i) Hamilton Constituency Party Standing Orders, n.d.
 - (ii) Hamilton District Party papers, 1975-7.
18. Labour Party: Scottish Council papers, 1971-4.
19. Labour Party: Strathclyde Regional Party, 1976-7.
20. Motherwell Civic Club and provision of teenage sports activities in the burgh, 1967.
21. Notes, possibly for lecture or article on 'Marx and the Marxists', n.d.
22. 'Oil and Scotland': papers, 1973-5.
Clydeport Container Terminal, Greenock, 1967.
23. Letters/articles/reports to the press by GML, 1950-67.
24. Retirement, 1974: letters from friends and wellwishers.

25. Miscellaneous letters, 1974-5.
26. Scottish Civic Trust: inauguration, 1967.
27. Scottish Trades Union Congress: correspondence, 1968, on appointments to public bodies.
28. Smiths Industries Ltd and General Time Ltd: undercutting by Eastern Bloc clock imports etc, 1964-7.
29. Proposed Strathclyde District General Hospital: correspondence and papers, 1959-74.
- 30-41. **Steel Industry**
30. Correspondence with Betty Harvie Anderson MP on steel questions, 1975-6.
31. Letters from ministers (Harold Lever; Gordon Campbell; John Davies; Sir John Eden; Peter Walker; Tom Boardman; Lord Beswick; Tony Benn) on the Lanarkshire steel industry, 1969-74.
32. Correspondence with the papers relating to Colvilles Ltd, 1966, 1968.
33. Correspondence with British Steel Corporation officials, including Lord Melchett (Chairman) and Monty [later Sir M] Finniston (Chief Executive), 1971-4.
34. Correspondence and papers on the future of the local steel industry with Motherwell and Wishaw Town Council, 1971-4.
35. Correspondence with Iron and Steel trade unions, including local branches, 1958, 1966, 1971-4.
36. Correspondence with John Williams (Wishaw), Ltd, 1972.
37. Letters and papers, 1969-75, chiefly on steel production figures.
38. GML typescripts of articles on steel, n.d.
39. (i) British Steel Corporation news releases, 1971-3, and Review of 1972.
(ii) Steel reports from other organisations, 1971-3.
40. Papers on the Hunterston Ore Terminal, 1973.

41. Steel press cuttings, 1971-4.
- 42-64. **'Scotland Is British' Campaign**
42. Campaign committee papers and related correspondence, 1976-7.
43. Correspondence with MP's and ministers, 1976-7.
44. Letters of support and/or response from MP's and others, 1976-7.
45. Correspondence of GML with individual campaign supports, 1976-7.
46. Replies to enquiries and other correspondence, 1976-7.
47. Cuttings and follow-up letters to possible supporters, 1976-7.
48. A similar file relating to persons or organisations indicating opposition to devolution in the press and media, 1976-7.
49. Letters to trade unions, and photocopy of letter from the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 1976-7.
50. Correspondence with BBC Scotland and with the National Governor for Scotland (Professor Alan Thompson), 1976-7.
51. Letters from pro-devolutionists, 1976-7.
52. GML's postage expenses etc, as Campaign Director, 1976-7.
53. Speaking engagements of GML to discuss devolution (including meetings organised by Tyne and Wear County Council), 1976-7.
54. Press articles by GML, campaign press releases and related papers, 1976-7.
55. 'Issues: possible development': a file of cuttings and notes.
56. Articles by GML ('The Chiel') in the Motherwell Times, 1976.
57. Opinion poll surveys for the Anti-Devolution campaign by Charles Barker Scotland Advertising Ltd, 1977-8.
58. Cuttings, 1974-7; opinion polls.

59. Cuttings, mostly 1977: press coverage of the Anti-Devolution campaign.
60. Cuttings, 1976: editorials on devolution.
61. Cuttings: Labour and the Assembly, 1975-6.
62. Cuttings and a few papers: activities of the Scottish National Party, 1975-7.
63. Cuttings: devolution (general), 1976-7.
64. Miscellaneous notes and cuttings of GML, ca. 1975-7.
- 65-70. **Other Devolution Papers**
65. Earlier papers, 1962-70, on Labour Party policy on devolution and related issues, including some Scottish Council documents.
66. Leaflets of the Labour 'Scrap the Assembly' Committee and the 'Labour Vote No' campaign, ca. 1975-8.
67. Correspondence and papers of Mrs Margaret Lawson, 1978-9, mostly relating to the 'Scotland Says No' campaign.
68. Another miscellaneous file of devolution cuttings notes and papers, ca. 1975-7.
69. A collection of printed papers and reports (5) of the Labour Party, Scottish Council, 1958-73, mostly relating to the devolution issue.
70. Pamphlets (8) mostly on devolution (for and against); Tam Dalyell: Why not all Scots support proposals for an Edinburgh Assembly.
 Dick Douglas: Together We Stand: The Case For the UK.
 Alex Eadie and Jim Sillars: Don't Butcher Scotland's Future.
 Alex Eadie, Harry Ewing, John Robertson, Jim Sillars: Scottish Labour and Devolution.
 Labour Party: Exposed: the Truth About the SNP.
 Labour Party: The Menace of Separation.
 George Robertson: Chairman's Address, 63rd Annual Labour Party Scottish Conference, 1978; with letter to GML.
 David Steel: Out of Control: A Critical Examination of the Government of Scotland.

Nature Conservation

71. Correspondence and papers, 1973, relating to the Nature Conservancy Council Bill.
72. Papers of the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) Scottish Advisory Committee, 1972-6.
73. NCC Scottish Committee papers, 1977-8.
74. NCC Scotland: reports and papers, 1975-7, on the Rhum National Nature Reserve (NNR).
75. Reports etc on other NNR's:

Ben Lawers: Management plan for 1975-9.
Inchnadamph: guide, 1963.
Inverpolly: purchase proposals, 1976.
Loch Leven: management plan, 1974-8.
Morton Lochs and Tentsmuir: guide n.d.
Rassal Ashwood and Isle of May: information leaflets.
76. Sites of Special Scientific Interest Review: 2nd Draft Report to Steering Committee, November 1976.
77. Conservation in Easter Ross: a draft prospectus, 1972.
78. Reports and papers on Glen Tanar Pine Forest, and on Coho Salmon, 1976 and 1977 respectively.
79. Review of NCC public relations and information services, 1975.
80. Papers on national planning guidelines and on a park system for Scotland (includes some National Trust for Scotland papers), 1977.
81. Site lists and copies of plans of Lanarkshire SSSI's.
82. Correspondence with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, 1975.
83. Papers relating to NCC response to the Devolution Bill, 1976-7.
- 84-86 **European Community Campaigns**

84. Papers, circulars and other literature on the Labour Committee for Europe, 1972-7.
85. Papers relating to the 'Scotland in Europe' campaign, 1976-7.
86. General correspondence, papers, cuttings, leaflets etc, on the European Community issue, 1975.
- 87-91. **National Trust for Scotland**
87. Correspondence with Trust officers, 1973-6.
88. Correspondence relating to Dalserf Parish Church, 1977-8.
89. Papers of the Trust Glasgow Advisory Panel, 1975-7.
90. Greenbank House and Garden appeal, 1975-6.
91. Correspondence relating to Chatelherault, Hamilton, 1974-7.
- 92-94. **Press Cuttings and Printed Material**
92. (i) Annual Report(s) of Edinburgh and District Trades Council, 1949-55, 1958 [includes the centenary history of the Council], 1968.
(ii) Programme for a May Day Festival of Unity and Sport, 1953.
(iii) Menu and toast list for the Council Centenary Dinner, 20 March 1959.
93. Press cutting book kept by GML while Secretary of Edinburgh Trades Council, 1950-4.
94. Press cutting book relating to the campaign for a Scottish steel strip mill, 1956-8.