

SECTION 3

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVOLUTION 1885 - 1978

- 1885 Secretaryship for Scotland established, with responsibility for education, health, poor law, local government, fisheries, police, prisons, roads and public works. (Secretary for Scotland Act).
- 1897 Scottish Trades Union Congress founded.
- 1912 Scottish Board of Agriculture founded.
- 1919 Scottish Board of Health founded, with Parliamentary Under-Secretary.
- 1926 Scottish Secretary becomes full Secretary of State.
- 1934 Scottish National Party formed.
- 1937 Gilmour Committee report on Scottish Administration (Cmd.5563).
- 1939 Scottish departments (Agriculture, Education, Fisheries, Health, Prisons) vested directly in Secretary of State.
St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, opened.
- 1945 Motherwell won by SNP (Robert McIntyre) in April by-election, defeating Labour. Lost in General Election.
Scottish Office takes over forestry, loses National Insurance.
- 1946 Scottish Council (Development & Industry) formed.
- 1954 Balfour Commission report on Scottish Affairs (Cmd. 9212).
Electricity transferred to Scottish Office.
- 1955 Food, animal health, appointment of J.P.s transferred.
- 1956 Roads and bridges transferred.
- 1961 Bridgeton by-election, 16th Nov. SNP wins 18.7% of votes.
- 1962 West Lothian by-election, 14th June. SNP wins 23.3% of votes.
Scottish departments reorganised. Scottish Development Department formed.
- 1965 Highlands and Islands Development Board founded.
- 1966 Plaid Cymru wins Carmarthen by-election.

- 1967 Pollok by-election, 9th March. SNP wins 20.2% of vote.
Hamilton by-election, 2nd Nov. SNP (Winifred Ewing) wins seat with 46.1% of vote.
- 1968 May. Major SNP gains in local elections. They win 37.2% of vote in Glasgow.
May. "Declaration of Perth" — Edward Heath announces establishment of Douglas-Home Committee.
Passenger road transport and sea transport transferred: Scottish Transport Group founded.
December. Crowther Royal Commission on Constitution appointed.
- 1969 September. Wheatley Commission reports on local government reorganisation (Cmnd. 4150).
Gorbals by-election, 30th Oct. SNP wins 25% of vote.
- 1970 Ayrshire South by-election, 19th March. SNP wins 20.4% of vote.
General Election. SNP contests 65 seats out of 71 and wins 11.4% of vote. Loses Hamilton but gains Western Isles.
Douglas-Home Committee reports, recommending elected Scottish Assembly.
- 1971 February. White Paper: "The Reform of Local Government in Scotland" (Cmnd. 4583).
Stirling and Falkirk by-election, 16th September. SNP wins 34.6% of vote.
- 1973 Scottish Economic Planning Department formed.
Dundee East by-election, 1st March. SNP wins 30.2% of vote.
October. Report of Royal Commission on Constitution (now chaired by Kilbrandon) published, with Memorandum of Dissent by Crowther-Hunt and Peacock (Cmnd. 5460).
Govan by-election, 8th November. SNP (Margo MacDonald) wins with 41.9% of vote.
- 1974 February 28th. General Election. SNP contest 70 seats, wins 21.9% of vote, loses Govan but gains Argyll, Banff, Aberdeenshire East, Dundee East, Moray and Nairn, Stirlingshire East and Clackmannan.
March. Queen's Speech: Government "will initiate discussions in Scotland and Wales on the report of the Royal Commission on the Constitution and will bring forward proposals for consideration". Lord Crowther-Hunt appointed Minister of State, Privy Council Office with responsibility for devolution.

- May. First elections to Scottish regions and districts.
- June. White Paper "Devolution within the U.K.: some alternatives for discussion" published.
- June 22nd. Scottish Executive of Labour Party rejects devolution proposals.
- September. Special Scottish Labour Conference overturns Executive decision.
- October 10th. General Election. SNP wins 30.4% of vote, gains Angus South, Dunbartonshire East, Galloway, Perth and East Perthshire.
- 1975 Scottish Development Agency founded.
- Industry powers transferred to Scottish Office.
- November 27th. Devolution White Paper "Our Changing Democracy" (Cmnd. 6348) published.
- 1976 August. "Devolution to Scotland and Wales: Supplementary Statement" (Cmnd. 6585) published.
- Main changes: at least two Assembly seats for all constituencies; Assembly alone to nominate Chief Executive; U.K. Government to be able to object to Assembly Bills only if causing "unacceptable repercussions" on non-devolved matters, and unable to take back devolved powers; judicial review of Assembly legislation to be allowed; Assembly power to surcharge rates dropped; SDA operations, administration of the courts, private law, regulation of teaching and legal professions to be devolved.
- November 29th. Scotland and Wales Bill published.
- December 9th. "Devolution — the English dimension" published.
- December 16th. Bill given second reading by 292-247 after Government concedes referenda once Bill is enacted.
- 1977 January 13th - February 15th. Committee stage of Bill on floor of the House: three clauses and referendum clause approved. Only amendment agreed: Orkney and Shetland each to have one Assembly member.
- February 22nd. Motion to guillotine proceedings defeated by 312-283.
- April. Manpower services transferred to Scottish Office.

July 26th. Lord President's statement in Commons: separate bills for Scotland and Wales in next session; head of Executive retitled "First Secretary"; premature dissolution of Assembly to be possible on vote of two-thirds of members; legislation on maladministration, teachers' pay and rent regulation to be devolved; block grant to be fixed for "a number of years" by percentage formula; "independent advisory board" on devolution financing; "Joint Council" between Government and Executive proposed.

"Devolution — Financing the Devolved Services" (Cmnd. 6890) published.

November 4th. Scotland Bill published.

November 14th. Bill given second reading by 307-263.

November 16th. Guillotine motion carried by 313-287.

November 22nd. Committee stage begins. Clause I (declaration on unity of U.K.) removed by 199-184.

December 7th. Clause 40 (national pay policy) removed by 290-107.

1978 January 25th. Cunningham amendment that "if it appears to the Secretary of State that less than 40% of the persons entitled to vote in the referendum have voted "Yes" . . . he shall lay before Parliament the draft of an Order in Council for the repeal of this Act" carried 168-142.

Grimond amendment that if Orkney or Shetland vote "No" in referendum "the Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament the draft of an Order in Council providing that . . . the Act shall not apply to them, and providing also for the establishment of a commission to recommend such changes in the government of that area or those areas as may be desirable" carried 204-118.

February 14th. During report stage, Dalyell's new clause stipulating that if Parliament is dissolved before the referendum is held, it must be deferred until three months after polling day, approved 242-223.

Canavan amendment to remove "40% rule" defeated 298-248.

February 22nd. Bill given third reading by 297-257.

March 15th. Bill given unopposed second reading in Lords.

April 4th. During committee stage, Lords vote 155-64 for additional member voting system.

May 17th. Lords' committee stage ends, after Lords vote to withdraw from Assembly responsibility abortion, aerodromes, forestry and afforestation, inland waterways and road passenger service licensing.