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Objections to proportional representation

It is mischievous to suggest, as the Rev Dr Kenneth Slack does (13 June 1983), that our first-past-the-post electoral system in any way excuses direct action by dissidents. The system is not, as he says, a 'scandal'. It is fully justifiable.

Our system starts with the need of the voters in each constituency to choose their own representative. They want *one person*, who is accessible to them and is *their* MP. They do not want an all-party group of MPs, shared among hundreds of thousands of electors. *My* MP holds his weekly 'surgery' just up the road. I know him personally and occasionally exchange letters with him. He is the person who got more votes in this town than any other would-be representative of the people here.

The House of Commons consists of the totality of such representatives. The global total of votes is irrelevant, since ours is not a presidential system. As an added bonus, our system provides strong government and national stability. Talk of a scandal is misconceived.¹

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¹ *The Times*, 15 June 1983.