

T100

Why we should keep the Lord Chancellor

If we abolish the office of Lord Chancellor we shall deprive the unwritten British constitution of one of its most brilliant and useful features. It is unsatisfactory to have a complete separation of powers between judiciary, executive and legislature, because this does not allow for the settling of disagreements between them.

The British genius has been to evolve, over the centuries, a Cabinet office, that of Lord Chancellor, which allows its holder to intercede at the centre and put forward and defend the views of the judiciary at the heart of government. This is of inestimable value constitutionally.

Those who consider this office an anomaly, and want to get rid of it, do not understand its nature. I fear that applies to many of the so-called "reforms" instituted by Mr Blair.¹

© F A R Bennion

www.francisbennion.com

¹ *The Times*, 14 June 2003 (lead letter). Stanley Brodie QC wrote of this: 'Francis Bennion is entirely correct in saying that the centuries-old office of Lord Chancellor is of inestimable constitutional value' (*The Times*, 23 June 2003 (lead letter)).