

(X) de Bruyn was HOFFIE's Private Secretary from 1939-43. He spoke of H's punctuality and told the following story:- Once someone wanted to see H. and H. was fully booked. The person insisted and said to H. on phone, "I shall only take a minute of your time." "Very well," said H., "in that case I can see you at one minute to 10." And on the dot H. was ready to see him, and the interview was over at 10 precisely. de B. won a bet of a new hat in consequence. H. had a marvellous way of getting rid of people. If anyone rang him up during a cricket broadcast, he had the greatest difficulty in restraining himself and not being rude.

de B. thought H. was the best after-dinner speaker he had heard. He had a wealth of stories. H. was amused by a notice of an annual general meeting which stated that there'd be the usual speeches by the usual speakers. One of the stock jokes about H. was that he'd been 12 for 4 years. At Leif Egeland's wedding where H. was best man, H. and L. made some amusing speeches and were very witty, (conjugal incapacity).

de B. said H. was an ideal person to work for, kind and considerate and a very hard worker. H. would rather drive the car himself than keep his chauffeur up, or would go home in a bus rather than call his driver out late at night. de B. said H. was very strict about the use of the car for non-official purposes. Also never expected de B. to be at the House when they were sitting at nights. Once when de B. suggested flying to Pretoria and asked H. about it, H. said, "You must ask your wife."

Once when Opposition was gunning for Harry Lawrence and he was not in the House, H. said to de B., "You must find HL and bring him here at once."

H. was very fond of playing games, but not with women. He did not eat anything red, like beetroot, and tomatoes. He had a healthy appetite. He never wanted his mother to worry. He would ring her up as soon as he arrived anywhere..

There were two things H. refused to open - a Cinema Hall and an Art Exhibition. The only exception he made to this was to open a Cinema in Greenside because it was his constituency.

If Mrs. H. had been out, H. was always interested to know what the people she had visited had said and done. de B. thought H. was keen on political gossip.

At Oxford in H's time it was thought safer for SAs to get engaged to SA girls before going to Oxford, but although Hearhoff and I did this, they both broke off engagements and married English girls.