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I joined LSE as an undergraduate after training as an accountant at Ford Motor Company in the second year of the new BSc Econ degree. This had a general first year course with an examination at the year end and a two year more specialist component. I specialised in Industry and Trade. This was a small group of fewer than twenty, among whom, unusually for LSE at that time, women were well represented. The structure of the degree was new, made up of interesting courses, such as organisational decision making. It was good time to study Industry and Trade as empirical studies of market structure were coming to be important. Basil introduced this type of material into his lectures and also showed that economic analysis could help solve practical, commercial and governmental concerns in the area. Basil was a superb lecturer, clearly in command of his subject. His lectures made note-taking easy, then important to students. We got no teaching aids. Basil was obviously important in implementing a new approach to the subject which had been rather dominated by practical examples and normative analysis.

After the degree I went back to Ford but returned after a year to the School as researcher looking at capital budgeting supervised by Basil and Harold Edey, an accounting academic. At the time LSE was able to match my industrial salary. After about a year I became a lecturer in accounting. Basil was the chair of the interview panel and made it clear that the sole purpose of the panel was to say my salary would not be increased.

With his interest in accounting and especially accounting history, Basil got on very well with the accountants at the School. Indeed, Professor Will Baxter, then the only professor of accounting at LSE, had taught Basil in South Africa at the University of Cape Town, and, unusually for Will, thought him very bright and something of a prodigy with a first article on company dividends at 22 and so attracted him to LSE.

One memory I have of my early days on the staff at LSE was of writing an article in a Festschrift dedicated to Will Baxter edited by Basil and Harold. The article was on measuring long run performance in organisations and allowed me to use my just acquired knowledge of finance and capital budgeting with lots of equations running to some 40 pages. Basil and Harold took one look at this and reduced it to seven pages.

When I returned to the School in 1985, Basil had just retired and was very happy to talk about things of interest in his clear way - always maintaining his free market views. One thing he kept up in retirement was his consultancy with a firm of lawyers. He hardly talked about this but I suspect he had major impacts on many important cases.

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