

RED BARON VERSUS BLUE KNIGHT

This was at a time when Baron Crespo and I became good pals; we really became good friends and we still are. He, of course, was my serious opposition. He stood and he did a lot of campaigning with little glossy booklets and so on, saying how marvellous he was and how important it was to vote for him. So we had a lot of joking over that, but of course he was Baron Crespo and I was then, in the early days, Sir Henry so I was a knight. I think it was he himself who talked about the Red Baron and the Blue Knight and that started and it stuck from thereon. I mean there were a lot of nicknames and, you know, with a name like Plumb, for instance, I was always associated with fruit and so on, and I suppose associated with agriculture to a large extent. Nicknames were strange, but I mean the knighthood was something that was strange to a lot of continental members. They could not get used to Sir Henry, or S'Henry as they used to call me, so they used to call me Sir Plumb. It was very strange, but that is of course a good old British tradition and one that perhaps they begin to understand now a little better because that is part of what the European Parliament is about in a very small way.