

Ex-British House speaker Weatherill dies

by UPI

LONDON - Britain's former Speaker of the House, Lord Bernard Weatherill, who defied Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over televising Parliament, has died. He was 86.

Known widely as Jack, Weatherill died at a hospice in Surrey Sunday after a brief, undisclosed illness, the BBC reported.

He served as speaker from 1983 through 1993, and often clashed with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, but had a more relaxed time with her successor, John Major, The Telegraph reported.

Weatherill led the charge to allow television cameras into Parliament to tone down rowdiness, and despite setbacks, won the bid Oct. 18, 1989.

He was born into a family of tailors on London's Saville Row, and told reporters he always carried his thimble with him "to keep me humble," the Telegraph said.

Weatherill served in the Indian Army during World War II. In 1964, he was first elected to Parliament as Conservative member for Croydon North East, where he served until his retirement in 1992.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.