

In May 1971, Sir Geoffrey Howe, ~~then~~when the Solicitor-General for England and Wales, ~~addressed the Second Reading Committee of the House of Commons-~~ addressed the House of Commons on the Land Registration and Land Charges Bill in 1971. He stated<sup>1</sup>: ***“A trade has grown up in recent years in order to please tourists mainly from North America- and sometimes to please those North Americans who still live over there, whereby they are- able to purchase a ‘square foot of Old England’ for a comparatively modest sum.”<sup>2</sup>. This trade has been developing over the last four or five years, and some enterprising people have been disposing of these square feet of old England for a price which seems to range between about 4 dollars and 10 dollars per square foot.”*** He had little problem in principle with this development and mused that “[o]n a modest scale, I suppose- praised the potential benefits of selling souvenir plots for fundraising in the following terms ***“it helps the balance of payments and it gladdens the hearts of our continental cousins and enables them to obtain a splendidly medieval looking deed of title, which, no doubt, they display at some appropriate place in their homes.”<sup>2</sup>*** ~~He did have a concern, however.~~ However he also expressed concerns about the burden that registering these titles would- impose on the Land Registry. He anticipated ~~more than 1 million- that many millions of plots would~~might be sold and ~~it would require a large amount of resources to register all these plots.~~ registering them might in turn impose a considerable burden on the registration process.

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<sup>1</sup> Hansard: HC Debate 19 May 1971, cols 1466-1467, available at

<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1971/may/19/land-registration-and-land-charges-bill>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* col 1467.