

Michael Meacher (1939-2015)

By *Alexander Baron* - Oct 21, 2015



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Michael Hugh Meacher was born at Hemel Hempstead on November 4, 1939. Although from a middle class background, he was always a Labour man, and strictly old school. After graduating with a diploma in Social Administration, he may have carved out an academic career, but after contesting the 1966 General Election unsuccessfully and a 1968 by-election, he was elected as MP for Oldham West in 1970, retaining the seat until his death.

Although he was never destined to hold the highest office, he was Shadow Minister of State for Transport, for Overseas Development, for Social Security, for Employment, and

perhaps most significantly for Environmental Protection; he campaigned on climate change long before it became fashionable.

Meacher was one of countless people who were conned by the war on Iraq, and voted for it, but later admitted that it was the biggest mistake of his political career.

He was also a vociferous opponent of the money creators, and opposed what he and many others called **socialism for the banks** (and capitalism for everybody else).

He was married and divorced, siring two sons and two daughters. He died on October 20 after a short illness, and will be sadly missed both within and outside the Labour Party.