

Degree of Success 10 Years of the OU – Asa Briggs and the OU Planning Committee

Contributors in clip: Asa Briggs

Clip transcript:

Narrator:

38 Belgrave Square became her base. Here in 1967, Jennie Lee – having overcome all opposition – announced that a committee had been set up to plan for an Open University. One of its members was Asa Briggs.

Asa Briggs:

I was Chairman of the Curriculum & Courses Committee, and we had no models to work on at all. We were starting afresh, and we had little experience of the kind of communications long distance learning aspects of education which certainly interested me profoundly. We wanted to be sure that we could get the right combination of materials to enable the student to learn. We also wanted to get a course pattern which would enable him to learn at his own pace. So we devised a 'building block' system with credits, we put a lot of emphasis on foundation courses in the first year and we then thereafter allowed for a great deal of choice.