

Confidential

MINUTES OF CPS GENERAL MEETING ON 21st OCTOBER, 1974
AT 12.30 p. m.

Present: Sir Keith Joseph
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Nigel Vinson
Adam Ridley
Martin Wassell
Alfred Sherman
Simon Webley
Julian Bower
Gerald Frost
Peter Utley

Apologies for absence : David Mitchell

Item 1

ACTION

The minutes of the meeting on 28th August were approved.

Item 2

NV reported that Brian Worth was pressing ahead with acquisition of charitable status for CPS's research work.

NV

Item 3

It was agreed that we should aim to hold an opening day in last week of November. AS and MW to recommend to next meeting what form opening day should take. Meanwhile AS and MW would prepare a statement about Centre for release to press a day or two before opening

AS
MW

Item 4

MW reported on staff situation. Gerald Frost had joined CPS on 9th October as a research assistant working primarily to AS. Rochfort Young would be joining us on 1st November as a research assistant working to MW and SW. A third secretary, Miss Judy Smyth, had also been engaged since last meeting. Interviews were still proceeding for a third research assistant.

Item 5

KJ would be sending out invitations to join Advisory Council in next few days with aim of having a few acceptances by opening day.

KJ

...../.....

Item 6

ACTION

NV reported on Centre's financial position. Centre had received £64,000 and had been promised £42,000 for next year; there was currently £20,000 on deposit in bank. Would like a budget of £90,000 p. a. Agreed that we would immediately recommence fund-raising. Running costs £4,000 to £5,000 per month.

KJ
NV
MW

Item 7

SW reported on the research commissioned to date and on the formation of the expert groups. All present would be written to shortly by a) SW, enclosing a research progress report and b) by MW, asking for nominees for the research groups. MW would also circulate a list of companies that had agreed to help Centre with its research work.

SW
MW
All

Item 8

KJ spoke on his paper on public education. He mentioned he had approached Jock Bruce-Gardyne with a view to the latter assisting Centre part-time in training of disputants/debaters. Jock considering offer. It was agreed that we should proceed with disputations in universities and other institutions of further education by enlisting help of hand-picked sympathisers who would identify protagonists for our cause. PU and MW to begin searching for sympathisers.

PU
MW

PU reported that a trial disputation would take place in Centre in November with following proposition:

"that it is no part of the function of Government to bail out private industries in financial trouble;

- a) is the rule valid? and
- b) is Ferranti an exception?"

David Howell and Sir Fred Catherwood had agreed to oppose the motion; it was hoped Jock Bruce-Gardyne and Barry Bracewell-Milnes would propose it. Basil de Ferranti had agreed to participate and had kindly provided information for a CPS staff brief for the debaters. Date was yet to be arranged; all present would be notified in due course.

AS
PU
GF

Item 9

KJ reported that he had written to a number of leading individuals from a range of business sectors inviting their agreement in principle to a discussion over lunch or dinner in the near future. Aim would be to foster among participants an understanding of problems of business as a whole.

Item 10

ACTION

MW's credo briefly discussed. Agreed all present would submit written comments directly to MW

All

Item 11

AS reported he would proceed with charts and diagrams when material for them was ready.

AS

Item 12

It was agreed Directors would report on Centre's progress to donors by Christmas at latest. Progress reports would thereafter be sent out at regular intervals.

KJ
MT
AR
NV

Item 13

It was agreed, at NV's suggestion, that a paper be drafted outlining the sort of broad policy programme which we considered most likely to foster the development of a social market economy. This would enable us to focus our research programme. MW to supervise drafting.

MW

Item 14

It was agreed that an editorial board with powers to authorise publications be set up composed of KJ, AS, SW and MW. It was agreed that no research would be published without prior expert evaluation.

AS

Item 15

There was no other business.

Handwritten signature: Kam / 0342

MW:jsb
24.10.74.