

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY NO. 1..

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

78TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 15th October, 1975
in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 77th Meeting - attached ✓
2. Future Business
3. The House of Lords and the Housing Finance
Special Provisions Bill }
4. Parliamentary Strategy for the Remainder of
the Session ✓
5. Any other business

Conservative Research Department
24 Old Queen Street, London SW1

CFP/GSB
13.10.75

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 78th Meeting held at
5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 15th October 1975
in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons

- Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)
- Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,
Lord Bailsham, Mr. Maudling,
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Lord Carrington,
Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Peyton,
Mr. St. John-Stevas, Mr. Heseltine,
Mr. Raison, Mr. Maude,
Mr. Buchanan-Smith, Mr. Edwards,
Mr. Neave, Mr. Younger, Mr. Fowler,
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Jopling,
Lord Thorneycroft
- Mr. Atkins
- In attendance: Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Shelton,
Mr. Patten, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson
- Apologies: Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Prior

1. Proposed Business for the week 20-27th October

On Monday 20th October there would be a debate on the Report of the Finer Committee on One Parent Families, Command No. 5629 (Mr. Fowler, Mr. Clarke). This would be followed by the remaining stages of the Inheritance (Provision for Family Dependents) Bill (Mr. Awdry) and proceedings on the Iron and Steel Bill (Mr. Awdry).

On Tuesday 21st October Mr. Russell Fairgrieve would seek leave to introduce his Referendum (No. 2) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the remaining stages of the Scottish Development Agency (No. 2) Bill (Mr. Buchanan-Smith and Mr. Taylor) and if there was time, a debate on Scottish Affairs. There would also be proceedings on the Recess Elections Bill.

On Wednesday 22nd October Mr. D. Hoyle would seek leave to introduce his Factories Act 1961 (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule and this would be followed by Lords amendments to the Industry Bill (Mr. Heseltine, Mr. King).

On Thursday 23rd October there would be the remaining stages of the Welsh Development Agency (No. 2) Bill and, if there was time, a debate on Welsh Affairs (Mr. Edwards, Mr. Wyn Roberts). This would be followed by proceedings on the Cinematograph Films Bill (Mr. Higgins).

On Friday 24th October there would be the remaining stages of the Hare Coursing Bill (Mr. Mather). There would be a free vote.

On Monday 27th October there would be a Supply Day.

2. Matters Arising on Business

After a short discussion it was decided to devote the whole of the Supply Day on 27th October to debating the National Health Service, on a motion to reduce Mrs. Castle's salary.

There was a discussion on whether we should vote later that evening with the Labour Party's Manifesto Group, if the Government refused to accept their amendments to Mr. Foot's current amendments to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill. It was thought that the Manifesto Group's amendments would not significantly change the Bill but if they were carried it might be thought that the Lords had a less strong case for insisting on Lord Goodman's amendments. It was agreed that we would not vote for any of the Manifesto Group amendments and this would leave us free to vote against Mr. Foot's amendments.

Lord Carrington reported that the Liberal peers would not vote with us if we tried in the House of Lords to insist on amending the Housing Finance (Special Provisions) Bill. He also thought that few, if any, of the Cross-bench peers would vote with us if we took this line and the almost unanimous view of the Independent Unionist Peers the previous evening had been that they should make a stand on the Goodman amendment while allowing the rest of the Housing Bill to pass.

3. Parliamentary Strategy

There was a short discussion. It was suggested that members of the Shadow Cabinet should support back benchers who made good points in debates or question times.

4. Foreign Affairs

Mr. Maudling raised the question of liaison with our representatives at the European Parliament. It was agreed that it was important to coordinate the approaches of our delegation at Strasbourg and our Front Bench at Westminster under the general direction of the Shadow Cabinet. There had been a difference of approach over Mr. Callaghan's attitude to OEC energy policy. It was agreed that we should not oppose Mr. Callaghan's line and should suggest to Mr. Kirk and his colleagues that they should be cautious in pressing their announced attack on Mr. Callaghan in the European Parliament. Mr. Maudling's new European Machinery Committee should improve liaison in the future and we should continue to press the delegation to take up the offer of involvement with the policy making exercise.

5. Prayer against Regulation on Direct Grant Schools

It was agreed that we should move a prayer in the Lords against the regulation on Direct Grant Schools but at the same time we should make clear that, even though we intended to press our arguments to a vote in the Lords at this stage, we would not oppose the regulation if it was returned by the Commons.

6. Other Business

It was agreed that there should be an early Shadow Cabinet discussion on metrication.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.