

11
CONFIDENTIAL

COPY NO.....

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

BOTH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday 29th October, 1975

in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 79th Meeting - attached.
2. Future business.
3. Any other business

Conservative Research Department,
24 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1

GFP/MEM
24.10.75

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 80th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 29th October 1975, in the
Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Lord Hailsham, Mr. Maudling,
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Gilmour,
Lord Carrington, Mr. Jenkin,
Mr. St. John-Stevas, 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. Shelton, Mr. Patten,
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson

Apologies: Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,
Mr. Prior, Mr. Peyton, Mr. Heseltine

1. Proposed Business for the Week 3-10th November

On Monday 3rd November there would be a debate on the First Report of the Select Committee on Procedure (Session 1974-75) on European Secondary Legislation (Mr. Peyton). This would be followed by a debate on the Report of the Ranton Committee on the Preparation of Legislation (Cmd. No. 6053) (Mr. Peyton).

On Tuesday 4th November Mr. David Steel would seek leave to introduce his Transport (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a motion on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973 (Amendment) Order (Mr. Neave) and by motions on the Social Security (Contributions Re-Rating) Order and on the Social Security (Contributions) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations (Mr. Fowler).

On Wednesday 5th November Mr. Richard Wainwright would seek leave to introduce his Anti-Dumping Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by Lords Amendments to the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill (Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Gray) and by a motion on the Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Mr. Fox).

On Thursday 6th November there would be consideration of any Lords Message on the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill (Mr. Prior, Mr. Rayhoe). This would be followed by a debate on EEC Documents (R/2145/75 and R/2228/75) on the Community Budget (Mr. Howell, Mr. Shaw) and by a motion on the European Communities (Definition of Treaties) (No.2) Order (Mr. Blaker).

...../ On Friday

On Friday 7th November there would be a debate on Aid Policy when Command Paper 6270 and EEC Documents S/406/75 and S/407/75 would be relevant.

On Monday 10th November there would be a debate on Foreign Affairs (Mr. Maudling, Mr. Tugendhat).

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion about voting on the motions on the Social Security (Contributions Re-Rating) Order and on the Social Security (Contributions)(Consequential Amendments) Regulations. Even if the minor parties voted against these motions, it would be difficult for us to oppose a measure designed to raise about £600m to pay for higher benefits; without these additional funds the borrowing requirement would rise still higher. On the other hand, it was desirable to support the self-employed in their campaign against discriminatory treatment. It was agreed that Mr. Atkins and Mr. Fowler would examine the motions to see if it was possible to vote on the self-employed issue without opposing the remainder, or to register our dislike of the provisions affecting the self-employed in some other way.

Lord Carrington reported that the Lords hoped to have a debate on the Direct Grant Schools Order before prerogation, but this might not be possible because of the press of legislation that still had to be dealt with and particularly the further consideration that was to be given to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill.

Mr. Jenkin reported that a number of important Lords amendments to the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill would be debated on Wednesday 5th November, such as those to protect the private sector, provide compensation for the abrogation of existing licence rights and prevent the regulations being used to oblige companies to agree to participation. This Bill was one of the three key nationalisation bills of the current session and we had previously fought it vigorously. After a short discussion, it was agreed there should be a running three line whip which might be reduced to a two line whip for less vital amendments.

It was agreed there would be a three line whip on Thursday 5th November for consideration of the Lords' message on the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill.

3. Other Business

Mrs. Thatcher reported that a Conservative backbencher had written to suggest that in the event of an MP dying as a result of a terrorist incident we should agree to a truce, as in war time, in the ensuing by-election. It was agreed that we should reject this proposal: truces had not in fact worked well during the war.

4. Future Meetings

There would be meetings of the Shadow Cabinet at the usual time on Wednesday 5th November, and at 4.45 p.m. on Wednesday 12th November, when it was hoped to devote most

of the time to discussing Devolution, on which a short paper would be circulated. There would be a meeting at 4 p.m. on Tuesday 18th November, when the Queen's Speech would be discussed.

The meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.