

MEETING WITH OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE OF 1922 COMMITTEE

13TH DECEMBER 1977

Present: Edward du Cann Sir Paul Bryan David Mitchell
Kenneth Baker Sir John Hall Sir Nigel Fisher
Patrick Mayhew Mark Carlisle Charles Morrison
David Walder Betty Harvie Anderson Peter Hordern
Walter Clegg Neil Marten Antony Buck
Sir Bernard Braine

1. E. du Cann reported progress of the discussions with Cledwyn Hughes on Members' pay, pensions and allowances. Two meetings already held with Michael Foot. Another scheduled. Legislation promised for the New Year
2. C. Morrison Strategy rather than tactics very important. Position if no clear majority after next election. Believes this will happen (not universally agreed). Supported by Nigel Fisher.
- P. Mayhew Broad strategic aims not widely known.
- P. Bryan Political climate not so easy now, therefore more need for strategic plans.
- K. Baker Any discussions with other parties must be in private. Not despondent about election or the delay before it comes. Regional Conferences?
- D. Walder Devolution may have come before election. Difficult to visualise new situation.
- N. Marten Personal relationships with individuals in minor parties very useful.
- B. Braine Give no hostages to fortune before election. Themes rather than detailed policies are important.
- P. Goodhart No deal with SNP possible. No deal with Liberals wanted UUs possible but mad. We should make more use of new recruits (Prentice etc.)
- W. Clegg Robust attitude to Liberals essential. However, be kind to UUS
- D. Mitchell We should move off economic ground onto general moral principles.
- B. Harvie Anderson If we believe in ourselves we shall win next election well. Does not like SNP!
- M. CARLISLE UUs only people worth keeping close to. Policies can always be stolen, themes cannot. Could we give up a PPB to our converts (Prentice etc.)?
- P. Hordern Themes can bring home to people that we want what they want.
- A. Buck People fed up with "yah-boo" politics. Vision is what is required.

1%

3. E. du Cann

said that there is feeling in the Party that Central Office is not providing the back up that Mrs Thatcher ought to have. There always is this feeling, but more now than usual.

Eda.

14th December 1977