

CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

192ND MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, in
the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

ACENDA

1. Future business.
 2. Forthcoming events.
 3. Any other business.
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CFP/MMM
20.2.78

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 192nd Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, in the Leader's
Room at the House of Commons

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (In the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,
Lord Thorneycroft, Sir Geoffrey Howe,
Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Peyton,
Mr. Davies, Mr. Neave, Mr. Heseltine,
Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Maude,
Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nott, Mrs. Oppenheim,
Mr. King.

Mr. Atkins

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Lord Ferrers, Lord
Denham, Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley,
Mr. Patten, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham, Mr. Prior
Mr. Pym, Mr. Taylor.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 27th February - 6th March

On Monday 27th February there would be a Supply Day.
This would be followed by a Motion on EEC Documents R/2962
and R/2963/76 on the Jurisdiction and Judgements Convention
(Mr. Percival).

On Tuesday 28th February Mr. Ian Gow would seek leave to
introduce his Community Land Act (Repeal) under the 10 Minute
Rule. This would be followed by the Remaining Stages of the
Housing (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Bill (Mr. T. Taylor)
and the Remaining Stages of the Civil Aviation Bill (Mr. Parkinson
and Mr. Tebbit).

On Wednesday 1st March, Mr. Reginald Eyre would seek leave
to introduce his Council Tenants Charter Bill under the 10
Minute Rule. This would be followed by the 1st Allotted
Day of the Committee on the Wales Bill (Mr. Pym and team).

On Thursday 2nd March there would be the 2nd Allotted Day
of the Committee on the Wales Bill.

On Friday 3rd March there would be the Private Members'
Bills of Mr. Dalyell, Mr. Farr and Mr. Hughes.

On Monday 6th March there would be Motions on Northern
Ireland Orders relating to Appropriation, Industries Development,
Property, Rehabilitation of Offenders and Sexual Offences
(Mr. Neave and Mr. Biggs-Davison).

2. Subjects for the Supply Day

There was a discussion on the choice of subject for
the Supply Day on 27th February, and reference was made to the
banning of the National Front's march in Ilford on the coming
Saturday, 25th February. It was agreed that we would debate

law and order, with particular reference to London and other metropolitan areas, on a motion to reduce the Home Secretary's salary. Mr. Whitelaw and Mr. D. Howell would speak, and efforts would be made to obtain a good attendance.

3. Future Business

There was a discussion on future events in Parliament and the future programme of Shadow Cabinet discussions. The following points were agreed:

i) On Monday, 27th February, there would be a meeting of the Leader's Steering Committee at 5.00 p.m. to discuss the Research Department's strategy paper and related papers. This would be followed by a meeting of the Leader's Consultative Committee at 6.00 p.m. to discuss the remaining unresolved points in the Immigration paper.

ii) Mr. Whitelaw would introduce his paper containing proposals on law and order to the Leader's Consultative Committee on Wednesday, 1st March.

iii) It was noted that our proposals for the House of Lords were being printed and would be published in three to four weeks. It was agreed to have a future discussion on the publicity for this publication.

iv) We also needed to discuss our policies on rates and council house sales on an early occasion.

v) It was important not to surrender any of our Supply Days as we were likely to need to make maximum use of them in the early summer. We should therefore not surrender a Supply Day for debating the Public Expenditure White Paper although it was understood that the Government would only allow one day of Government time for this debate. We should press the Government to give time for a debate on Rhodesia. Education and hospital waiting lists were suggested as subjects for a whole or half Supply Day before Easter, and the steel industry could be discussed after the Select Committee had reported.

vi) We should seek to ensure that our members of the Select Committee on Immigration agreed on a particular line. As it was understood that Mr. Whitelaw would take part in a major broadcast discussion on immigration on 9th March, it might be desirable to publish our proposals shortly before then.

4. Protectionist Tendencies

Mr. Nott reported on the likelihood that, before long, France and the United States, and possibly other countries too, would take action against Japanese imports and that this issue might well have come to the fore by the time of the General Election. There was a discussion and it was agreed that while it would probably not be appropriate to take a specific line in any draft election Manifesto, we would need to give consideration to what we should say in speeches and in dealing with inquiries from constituencies encountering difficulties as a result of Japanese imports.

The Meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.