

MINUTES of a Meeting in Interview Room G, House of Commons
at 11.45 a.m. on 25 June 1974

ACTION

Present: Sir Keith Joseph, M.P.
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P. (Item 4 onwards)
Nigel Vinson
Alfred Sherman (Item 4 onwards)
Simon Webley (Item 2 onwards)
Julian Bower

1. Incorporation

Separate formal minutes

2. Minutes of Meeting on 12 June 1974

Agreed, subject to elimination of "the Finance Directors of" (Item 1(b)) and possible highlighting of Savings as a separate theme.

3. Offices and Staff

Martin Wassell's title would be Deputy Executive and Secretary. Julia Scott-Barrett was now available forthwith as a secretary, and it was agreed that she should become fully operative on 1 July, the day when 8 Wilfred Street would first be used. The informal internal opening party would be at 6.30 p.m. on 8 July.

4. Sir Keith Joseph's Speeches

(a) Timetable: KJ hoped to make a second speech within, say, 2 weeks

KJ/AS

(b) "Back-up": SW would provide information sheets in support of factual statements in the Upminster speech. KJ was reasonably satisfied with their accuracy subject to Scandinavian tax levels. John Chown was suggested as an appropriate source of information.

SW

AS would draft a reply to Joe Rogaly's article in the FT of 26 June.

AS

5. Press Arrangements

AS would make the preparations for media launching in September, including drafting of briefing material.

AS

6. Input:Output

KJ defined the 4 main activities as:

(a) Commissioning studies.

Included under this heading would be:

(i) collation of Panels to help define the questions to be answered.

(ii) definition of questions

(iii) Preparation of private papers for submission to the Shadow Cabinet and of appropriate publications for circulation to MPs', the Press, etc.

(b) Arranging seminars (disputations) of friends and foes to develop the arguments for and against a social market economy.

(c) Organising "schools" for training debators.

(d) Organising the public debate at all levels.

KJ emphasised his desire to expedite the above.

In the ensuing discussion the following were agreed:

(1) Main Thesis

One of the main objectives would be to argue the case for "Social market economics" on a philisophic and moral basis (bearing in mind the remit to relate all of this to international comparisons), i.e., to prepare an overall thesis setting out the arguments both for and against. This should be supported by a series of appropriate questions and answers.

AS would have the task of preparing all this. JB would liaise with AS on compilation of Socialist literature

AS
JB/AS

(ii) Underlying Themes

"Wealth and Income" : "The Sextet" : Savings

SW circulated a "CPS Study Outline" on selected economic data on five countries. It was agreed that this should be progressed excluding Belgium and with Sweden added.

SW

SW would involve ICI and Unilever. KJ would write to BAT but defer approaching RTZ. He had been promised co-operation by the Dutch and French Embassies.

KJ

SW explained that he was having difficulty in commissioning research on Protection of Savings because of Brian Griffiths' exam paper commitments. Graham Hallett was suggested as an alternative.

SW

The whole question of capital and savings was to form the main subject at dinners to be organised by KJ on 10 and 11 July, predominantly to involve MPs. A senior financial controller would be present and it was suggested that it might be appropriate to include a Treasury official and an economic journalist.

KJ

SW circulated a note describing unpublished research by Kristen Monroe (University of Chicago) on the influence of economic conditions (employment, inflation and income), on political support.

It was explained that the base year for OECD was now 1972 and, following Mrs. Thatcher's query about the international effect of rapidly increasing inflation since then, it was agreed that SW would approach Wilfred Beckermann (subject to blackball within 3 days!).

SW

Unemployment

KJ would ask Sam Brittan who would be suitable to involve with SW on this subject.

KJ

AS circulated "Workers to the Work?" by John Salt.

Intervention Case histories

SW would contact Frank Broadway and Edwin Brookes as potential candidates for undertaking research into case histories.

SW

Education

KJ and MT considered that education would need to be included particularly in relation to attitudes to and preparation for work. MT agreed to give further thought to the definition of what was required.

MT

Examples included: teachers' attitudes and education syllabuses.

KJ would try to involve Rhodes Boyson, M.P., and Joe Rogaly was suggested as a potential writer.

KJ

It was agreed that any Panel discussion should include headmasters, recruiting officers (KJ agreed to write to an appropriate Personnel Director), trade unionists and social workers.

KJ

(iii) "Tutors"

KJ would negotiate that Jock Bruce-Gardyne and Peter Utley should be hired as "tutors" for six months.

KJ

7. Date of next meeting

A 3 hour meeting to be arranged (preferably in the evening or on a Sunday (MT)).