



1922
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Note of a Meeting with the Officers and Executive of the 1922
Committee, on Tuesday 13th May, at 4.15 p.m., House of Commons.

PRESENT: Mrs Thatcher
 Chief Whip

 Mr. du Cann
 Sir John Hall
 Hon. Charles Morrison
 Mr. Godman Irvine
 Mr. Goodhart
 Mr. Baker
 Mr. Biffen
 Sir Bernard Braine
 Sir Paul Bryan
 Mr. Carlisle
 Mr. Clegg
 Sir Nigel Fisher
 Miss Harvie Anderson
 Mr. Hordern
 Mr. Marten
 Mr. Rees

Edward du Cann made a few opening remarks, expressing appreciation that the meeting was taking place and assuring Mrs Thatcher of the entire support of the Officers and the Executive. He asked if three subjects could be raised and proposed to call on various members to make points in connection with them.

The Economy. Questions were asked and points made, as follows:-

Hall asked questions about inflation, public expenditure, authority of Government and Trade Unions.

Baker suggested we should confine ourselves to setting a tone without going into too much detail.

Goodhart. Not too much detail about possible public expenditure cuts (c.f. 1930)

Hordern agreed with above. We should be seeking a doctor's mandate. We should not come down on the side of a wholly monetarist policy, nor commit ourselves to a statutory incomes policy.

Marten asked how we proposed to control militant Trade Unions.

Harvie Anderson asked if we have enough contacts with Trade Unions. Rates should also be cut.

Bryan. The ground is now nearly prepared for our message to be put over and well received.

Carlisle. Many people outside Parliament now wanting a statutory incomes policy.

Mrs Thatcher replied to this discussion, expressing her own provisional views and confirming that these were to be further discussed with the Shadow Cabinet in the immediate future.

Coalition, Support for Government, Electoral Reform, etc.

Morrison asked what contingency plans we have. Could Conservative Party govern alone? Upon what terms would we help the present



Government? His own view was against a Coalition but in favour of support from outside for sensible measures.

Fisher would welcome coalition and also electoral reform.

Clegg. Support from outside only.

Harvie Anderson would like a Government of the centre, but doubtful about any form of P.R.

Godman Irvine. Doubtful about P.R. He has a Danish wife, whose experience of that country has put him off P.R.

Biffen. A rallying of the moderates means a rallying of the middle classes. This is not national unity. P.R. just as likely to produce instability as stability.

Goodhart. Does not like a single transferable vote system, but this ought to be studied.

Baker. Did not see how coalition could come about. We are more likely to be asked to support certain measures (e.g. wage freeze) from outside. We should study electoral reform.

Hordern. Coalition of centre unlikely to produce any effective government. We should have more confidence in ourselves. Does not like P.R.

Rees. Supports a Bill of Rights as an alternative to electoral reform.

Carlisle. We are most likely to be asked to help from outside.

Morrison. The real problem is how to encourage the country to deal with the 5% who are wreckers.

Mrs Thatcher replied to this discussion, saying that it had been very helpful, that no conclusions had been reached by the Shadow Cabinet but that all these points would be taken into account.

There was not time for any discussion about Party organisation and strategy which, it was agreed, could be left until a further meeting, which Mrs Thatcher hoped could be arranged shortly after Whitsun.

11th May 1975

Humphrey Allkins