

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 159th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, 20th April 1977, in the Leader's  
Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,  
Lord Carrington, Lord Thorpeycroft,  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior, Mr. Pym,  
Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin,  
Mr. Peyton, Mr. Neave, Mr. St. John Stevas,  
Mr. Maude, Mr. Nott, Mr. King,  
Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Douglas,  
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Hooson, Mr. Jones.

Apologies: Lord Hailsham, Mr. Davies,  
Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Edwards,  
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Taylor,  
Sir Michael Havern.

1. Future Business for the Week 25th April-2nd May

On Monday, 25th April, there would be the conclusion of the debate on the White Paper on Direct Elections to the European Assembly (Mr. Hurd, Mr. Whitelaw). This would be followed by Motions on the European Communities (Definition of Treaties) Order 1977, and on the European Communities (Definition of Treaties) (No.2) Order 1977 (Mr. Blaker).

On Tuesday, 26th April, Mr. R. Corbett would seek leave to introduce his Animal Welfare (Export of Live Animals for Slaughter) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a supply day debate and by a debate on Mobility for the Disabled (Mr. Jenkin, Dr. Vaughan).

On Wednesday, 27th April, Mr. B. Grocott would seek leave to introduce his General Elections (Limitation of Expenditure) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Second Reading of the Price Commission Bill (Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Nott). This would be followed by Motions on Commission Documents R/3247/73, R/3134/74 and R/402/75 on Direct Life Assurance (Mr. Parkinson).

On Thursday, 28th April, there would be the Second Reading of the Finance Bill (Mr. Howell, Mr. Ridley). This would be followed by a Motion on the Southern Rhodesia (United Nations Sanctions) Order 1977 (Mr. Tapsell).

On Friday, 29th April, there would be the Private Members' Motions of Mr. G. Younger, Mr. Graham Page and Mrs. Jill Knight.

On Monday, 2nd May, there would be a supply day debate.

Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion of various points and the following was agreed:

(i) If the Government were to put a method of election for the European direct elections to a vote the Party would have to be given a free vote on the issue.

(ii) The Tuesday supply day should be devoted to a vote on the disabled, in particular, the Government's plan to phase out the trike.

(iii) A reasoned amendment should be put to the Price Commission Bill. The Government's price controls should be attacked because they do not control inflation but do destroy jobs.

Subjects for the Supply Day

Topics for the debate on May 2nd were discussed. It was tentatively suggested that there might be a debate on the construction industry. A debate on unemployment was considered more appropriate for a later date when the figures for unemployed school leavers begin to emerge. It was suggested that ideally a debate on 2nd May should relate to the local elections on May 5th. A debate on the education of 16 to 19 year olds was proposed as the Party has proposals of its own to put forward in this area.

Other business

Mrs. Thatcher gave an account of her visit to the People's Republic of China, to Japan and Hong Kong.

Mr. Maude asked colleagues to study carefully the opinion poll on home affairs issues.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.