

CONFIDENTIALMinutes of Management Meeting
23rd January 1980

Present: Lord Thorneycroft
The Earl of Ancram
Mr. McAlpine
Mr. Bowis
Mr. du Cann
Lord Denham
Mr. Garner
Miss Hooper
Mr. Howarth
Sir Charles Johnston
Mr. Knapp
Mr. Reece
Sir Anthony Royle
Mr. Ryder
Mr. D. Smith
Mr. Stradling Thomas
Miss Varley

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1. Mr. Stradling Thomas reported on the business in the House of Commons for the following week which would include: Monday, Debate on East/West Relations and the crisis in S.W. Asia; Tuesday, Debate on Gas Prices, Consideration of Timetable Motion for Education (No.2) Bill, Motion on the Income Tax (Excess interest as distributions) Order; Wednesday, Debate on National Heritage Bill, Debate on Motion on Provision of Milk and Meals (Education) Regulations; Thursday, Debate on Report of Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution relating to Agriculture and Pollution; Friday, Private Members' Bills; Monday, Debate on Welsh Affairs.
 2. Lord Denham reported on the business in the House of Lords for the following week which would include: Monday, Petroleum Revenue Tax Bill (Money Bill), 2nd Reading, Bees Bill, 2nd Reading, INMARSAT (Immunities and Priviledges) Order 1980; Tuesday, Reserve Forces Bill (HL)(Consol.), Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill; Wednesday, Debate on Gas and Electricity price increases; Thursday, 8 Scottish Order Confirmation Bills - 3rd Reading, Petroleum Revenue Tax Bill (Money Bill) - 3rd Reading, European Communities (Definition of Treaties) (Multilateral Trade Negotiations) Order 1980.
 3. Mr. Garner reported on the forthcoming by-election to be held in Southend East. Selection procedure for a candidate was in process; the Liberals had chosen David Evans, who previously fought in Southend West, and the first of his leaflets had been produced. Robin Nelder was to be the Election Agent; a survey canvass would start at the weekend to ascertain local worries.

The Chairman asked for specific thought to be given to the speakers that would visit the Constituency; Sir Ian Gilmour would be an ideal person.

AG

Mr. Garner outlined the appointments for City Agents; it was agreed that the formula was a good one. A Deputy Director had been appointed for Scotland, which was now split into three areas, each with a Deputy Director.

4. Miss Varley reported on the forthcoming Local Government Elections. They were being treated as National and the Chairman had chaired a meeting at the Central Office, which had been attended by the Secretary of State at the DOE, and representatives from all parts of the Party, including Communications and Research. It had been a helpful meeting. There would be elections in 36 Metropolitan Districts and 103 non-Metropolitan Districts. Control of the AMA was the biggest concern, which at present we held by one seat only. The Environmental Ministers had played an excellent part in the Campaign and had met 75% of the District Leaders in the country; they were now meeting Leaders of the Local Government Associations. A meeting would be held in Rugby with the Leaders of the Marginals, which would be attended by the Chairman and the Secretary of State at the DOE.

JV AG
PT

5. Mr. Howarth reported on the welcome that Research Department had received by the members of Central Office. There would be two Briefing Notes this week; one on steel and one on the increase of gas prices.

6. A discussion took place on the public relations aspect of Government announcements; it was agreed an improvement was needed, and plans were underway to discuss this aspect.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th February at 9.15 a.m.