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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

118TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday 23rd June 1976, in the Leader's
Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 117th Meeting - attached.
2. Future Business.
3. Forthcoming Events.
4. Continued discussion of Social Services
Policy Groups' Report (LCC/76/117) -
previously circulated.
5. Any Other Business.

Conservative Research Department,
24 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

JMD/SMH
22.6.76

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 118th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd June 1976, in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons

(F)

Present:

Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,
Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham,
Mr. Maudling, Sir Geoffrey Howe,
Mr. Prior, Mr. Pym, Mr. Gilmour,
Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Peyton,
Mr. St. John-Stevás, Mr. Heseltine,
Mr. Raison, Mr. Maude,
Mr. Buchanan-Smith, Mr. Edwards,
Mr. Neave, Mrs. Oppenheim,
Mr. Biffen, Lord Thorneycroft.

Mr. Atkins

In attendance: Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley,
Mr. Douglas, Mr. Ridley,
Mr. Nicholson.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 28th June - 5th July

On Monday, 28th June there would be a Supply Day with the subject to be decided. This would be followed by Motions on the Iron Casting Industry (Scientific Research Levy) (Amendment) Order (Mr. King) and on the Horticulture Capital Grant (Variation) Scheme (Mr. Costain).

On Tuesday, 29th June Sir Brandon Rhys Williams would seek leave to introduce his House of Lord Reform Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Recommittal Motion on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill (Mr. Peyton and Mr. Heseltine). There would be a Three Line Whip.

On Wednesday, 30th June Mr. Ian Gow would seek leave to introduce his Sale of Council Houses Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the second day of the Remaining Stages of the Education Bill (Mr. St. John-Stevás and team). There would be a Two Line Whip.

On Thursday, 1st July there would be the third day of the Remaining Stages of the Education Bill (Mr. St. John-Stevás and team). There would be a Three Line Whip.

On Friday, 2nd July there would be Motions on Northern Ireland Orders relating to Emergency Powers, Interim Period Extension (Mr. Neave and Mr. Biggs-Davison).

On Monday, 5th July there would be a Supply Day with the subject to be decided.

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion on procedure over the recommittal Motion on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill on 29th June. It was agreed that we should press the Government to put down the Motion so that there might be an identical repeat of the disputed vote with the Speaker having to vote with us in the event of a tie.

3. Subjects for Supply Days

There was a discussion and it was agreed that:

(i) We should debate Child Benefits on our Supply Day on 28th June on a Motion for the Adjournment of the House. Mr. Jenkin and Mr. Kenneth Clarke would be our speakers.

(ii) We should stress that while we accepted the principle of redistribution within the family from husband to wife, no family should be disadvantaged as a result of the implementation of the scheme. In the event of certain families being so disadvantaged, we should stress that it was the Government's duty to resolve this problem without increasing expenditure, and that if they required resources they should obtain them at the expense of certain of their controversial and irrelevant Bills.

4. Immigration

There was a discussion and it was agreed that:

(i) Mr. Whitelaw would discuss the report of the Immigration sub-committee with the Home Affairs Committee on Monday, 28th June, along with a wide range of proposals. He intended to bring his proposals before the Shadow Cabinet on Wednesday 30th June, so that we should be in a position to debate immigration on the Supply Day on 5th July. In that debate we would urge the Government to adopt the various proposals we were making.

(ii) Mr. Whitelaw would raise at Home Office Questions the following day the allegations raised by Mr. Chapman Pincher relating to immigration control. He had advised the Home Secretary of his intention and would seek to gain maximum publicity.

(iii) Mr. Whitelaw would inform Lord Hallahan of the line he was proposing to take in the proposed Supply Day debate for use in a debate which was expected in the House of Lords.

5. War Widows

Sir Geoffrey Howe raised the question of how we would advise our backbenchers to vote in the Standing Committee on the Finance Bill on an Amendment proposed by Mr. Kilroy-Silk, a Labour Member, to exempt 51 per cent of war widow's pensions from tax. There was a discussion and it was agreed that a decision would be taken on the subject at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.