

Confidential

MINUTES OF CPS GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 1974
AT 12 NOON

Present: Sir Keith Joseph
Nigel Vinson
Adam Ridley
David Mitchell
Martin Wassell
Alfred Sherman
Simon Webley
Jock Bruce-Gardyne
Peter Utley
Gerald Frost
Rochfort Young

Apologies for absence: Mrs. Margaret Thatcher

KJ welcomed J. B-G and RY to their first CPS General Meeting.

ACTION

Item 1

The minutes of the General Meeting held on 21st October 1974 were approved.

Item 2

NV reported on meeting he and Brian Worth had had with Lord Nathan to examine proposal for CPS to acquire charitable status. Nathan of opinion that charitable status perfectly possible and respectable provided a number of conditions (none difficult) are met. NV pursuing Nathan's advice on details; 8 to 12 weeks' timescale envisaged.

NV

Item 3

It was agreed that in first week of December CPS should issue to Press Association and news editors of national dailies a short press statement describing origins, objectives, funding, management and working arrangements of CPS; it would be accompanied by a version of credo. Recipients of press statement to be invited to fix appointments to see KJ/MT/NV/AR individually for more detailed information on CPS if desired. Meanwhile, KJ, NV, MW and J. B-G to arrange to visit all critical opinion-formers in media on Burnett's list plus Ian MacIntyre and George Fisher.

KJ
MT
NV
AR
MW
JB-G

Item 4

MW reported on staff situation. Rochfort Young had joined CPS on 1st November as research assistant working primarily to SW. RY responsible under SW for research programme, liaising with researchers and expert groups, organising meetings of Economic Forum; also link-man for useful contacts made by all CPS staff. Jock Bruce-Gardyne would be joining CPS on 18th November on half-time basis to organise and direct talks and debates in universities, polytechnics and especially teacher training colleges. Steven Rankin would be joining CPS on 9th December as research assistant working to MW and J. B-G.

Item 5

KJ reported on Advisory Council. Of twelve persons that had so far been approached, four to date had accepted, three had declined, and five had still to reply.

KJ

Item 6

NV reported that fund raising had recommenced, but that response had not so far been as encouraging as might have been hoped. It was agreed that NV would see Sir Arnold Silverstone/Lord Chelmer to reassure Central Office about CPS fund raising.

NV

Item 7

SW reported on research programme to date and undertook to circulate an updated programme to all. AR agreed to write a conceptual paper to guide commissioning of research on Ownership and Wealth - Creation and Dispersal. SW undertook to enquire further about Prof. Wilhelm's "Alternatives to Marxism" proposal and generally to ensure that CPS was not picking up proposals which SSRC had already turned down. RY would contact Walter Eltis with a view to preparation of paper on structure of employment in UK. MW would write to McKinsey's to reopen lines of communication and seek advice on Entrepreneurship study.

SW
AR
RY
MW

Item 8

KJ reported on public education. J. B-G had been engaged to take charge of penetration of further education institutions and possibly sixth forms; to organise debates and bring together a panel of debaters; and to work towards a number of public disputations on a sustained basis. PU would continue to be responsible for small private debates, initially in front of like-minded audiences but subsequently in front of opinion-formers of all persuasions. AS would be responsible for the written word but also for ensuring that all output, both written and spoken, is linked consistently to

ACTION

CPS research programme and other forms of input. MW to draft a short standard disclaimer for CPS's publications. MW, AS, PU and J. B-G to form small sub-committee to determine how debates and disputations can be organised so as to most effectively influence opinion-formers.

MW
AS
PU
J. B-G

Item 9

MW reported that KJ had invited ten people to participate in first meeting of Economic Forum and that response had been very good; eight had accepted, only one had declined, and one was still awaited. It was agreed AR should attend all meetings of Economic Forum to provide economic expertise. MW to try to arrange first meeting early in New Year. MW to suggest a name from clearing banks for KJ to invite.

Item 10

MW introduced second draft of credo. He thanked all for very useful suggestions but pointed out conflict between comprehensiveness and brevity. Agreed AS or GF should draft shorter and punchier version for press. Meanwhile MW to do third draft of definitive version after receipt from all of comments on second draft.

MW
AS/GF
ALL

Item 11

PU and GF said that arrangements for Ferranti debate on 28th November were proceeding well. Hotelier sympathiser to be asked to provide accommodation. GF to circulate his background paper on Ferranti very shortly. PU to meet four protagonists to discuss procedure with them. Suggested and generally thought desirable that second debate of this type should be about government relations with nationalised industries. Ferranti debate to be taped and note to be done (excluding confidential information) extracting broad principles and policy conclusions to form part of our general input work.

PU
GF

Item 12

MW to write to Directors-General of three leading trade associations to suggest cooperation on studies of industrial sector/government relations along lines of Chemical Industries Association report.

MW

It was agreed that next General Meeting would be held early in the New Year on a date to be arranged.

MW:jsb
22.11.74.