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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Einutes of the 83rd feeting held at 5.00 2.m. on Tuesday 18th November 1975 in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons

Present:

Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph Er. Ehitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph Lord Hailsham, Mr. Haudling Sir Geoffrey Howe, Er. Gilmour Lord Carrington, Hr. Frior Er. Peyton, Er. St. John-Stevas Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Raison Mr. Laude, Mr. Buchannn-Smith Mr. Edwards, Mr. Neave Er. Younger, Er. Fowler Ers. Oppenheim, Hr. Joyling Lord Thorneycroft

Mr. Atkins

In attendance: Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Patten

Mr. Ridley. Er. Nicholson

Apologies: Mr. Jenkin

Programme for the Debate on the Address

After a discussion it was agreed to devote the four full days on debate on the Address to the following subjects: Thursday 20th November - Industry and Prices Friday 21st November - the Realth Service Konday 24th November - Education Tuesday 25th November - the Economy

It was agreed that our criticism of the Government's proposals for dook labour might be made in the debate on Tuesday 25th November. We would move amendments to the Address on both Londay and Tuesday. We could explain to the Press that we were not seeking to debate devolution during these debates, as we expected a full debate on this subject bllowing publication of the White Paper on Thursday 27th November.

2. The Health Service Dispute

There was a discussion. It was agreed that in commenting on the dispute we needed to balance expressions of sympathy for the junior doctors and consultants with our general position, as set out by Mr. Whitelaw in his broadcast on 21st August in reply to Mr. Wilson's broadcast on the Government's anti-inflation programme. In this we pledged that we would not give comfort or encouragement to industrial action against the Government's measures. In commenting on the Health Service dispute we would deplore the circumstances in which the dispute had arisen; emphasise that we were opposed to any group using their monopoly power toponalise the innocent and that all such groups

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ought to practise restraint at a time of extreme danger for the economy; but that, on the other hand, we should urge the Government to listen to the reasonable case but by the doctors Government to listen to the reamonant connection of the doctors and consultants. We should also contrast the firm position now tamen by Mrs. Castle and Mr. Foot with their position on pay claims under the comparative Covernment, especially that of the hospital anoillary workers'in 1973, and with Mrs. Castle's reactions to NUFE's industrial action over pay-beds.

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The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

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