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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The attached note on the Allocation of the "Short Money" by Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Angus Maude is for discussion at tomorrow night's meeting of the Leader's Consultative Committee.

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CFP/SMW  
6.5.75

ALLOCATION OF THE "SHORT MONEY"

1. We were asked by colleagues to discuss with the Chief Whips in both Houses, and with Central Office, the allocation of the £150,000 which the Government have made available to improve the research and support services available to the Opposition. Sir Geoffrey Howe joined our discussions.
2. We had to take account of a number of factors:-
  - (a) The burdens on colleagues are considerable and increasing, and a number need much more help than they are given at present.
  - (b) The Research Department must be strengthened. An improved and more effective Research Department would give more help to the Shadow Cabinet.
  - (c) The Party organisation is in a difficult financial situation.
  - (d) When the minimum requirements of the Leader's and Whips' Offices are met, and the cost subtracted from the £150,000 total, only about half that amount is left for helping the Shadow Cabinet. It is difficult to give a very great deal of help to many colleagues individually out of this total and, while there are obviously some priorities, it is not easy to distinguish between the claims of one colleague and those of others on the limited available resources.
3. We make the following proposals to colleagues:-
  - (a) Additional help to Shadow Ministers should be provided in the main through a strengthened Research Department rather than through the appointment of a number of personal assistants to individuals. The Research Department will be strengthened primarily in two ways. First, some new staff will be recruited. Second, there will need to be some salary increases, not least to take account of inflation, in order to prevent some of the better people at present in the Department from leaving. Together, these steps should raise the general quality of staff in the Department. The precise ways in which recruitment is carried through, and the dispositions which follow it, will obviously depend on discussion between individual colleagues and the Chairman and Director of the Department. In practice, the work of the Research Department is already heavily weighted towards Shadow Cabinet work. While the Department has a number of other important functions, it may be that there should be some further reorientation of its work in this direction.
  - (b) We recognise the demands made by routine correspondence on Shadow Ministers' time and secretaries. We propose the establishment of a secretarial pool under the direction of the head of the Leader's Office to work for the Shadow Cabinet. This pool would consist of five secretaries who would be allocated to work for specific Shadow Ministers on matters connected with the discharge of Shadow Cabinet responsibilities.

4. Under our proposals the available £150,000 would be distributed in the following way:-

Leader's Office	-	c.	£50,000
Whips' Offices in both Houses	-	c.	£13,000
Secretarial pool for the Shadow Cabinet	-	c.	£12,500
Research Department; salary increases	-	c.	£31,000
Research Department; additional recruitment	-	c.	£30,000

The small sum left over will probably in practice be needed to meet increases in costs under some of the above heads.

KEITH JOSEPH

ANGUS MAUDE