

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNIONISTS HELD AT 11 AM 16th JULY 1983  
AT CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE, 32 SMITH SQUARE LONDON SW1

Present: Mr. Tim Renton MP (President)  
Mr. Robert Atkins MP (Vice-President)  
Mr. Geoff Campbell MBE (Chairman)  
Sir Fred Hardman MBE (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs. Joy Bushby (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. Peter Lane JP (President, National Union)  
Mrs. Margaret Daly (Hon. Secretary)  
Mrs. Mary Phillips (CCO Staff).

As per attendance book:

Miss M. MacDonald, Mr. I. Humphrey, Mr. A. Shotliff, Miss M. Murcott,  
Mr. Jim Gregson, Mr. P.M. Walker, Mr. K. Wootton, Mr. K. Still,  
Miss J. Keeble, Mr. R. Holder, Mr. K. Thornber, Mr. R. Dixon,  
Mr. K. Brown, Mr. M. Bloxsome, Mr. J. McLeod, Mr. G. Woodhouse,  
Mr. J. Malloch, Mr. C. Colver, Mr. G. Cox, Dr. E. Gurney,  
Mr. D. Dougherty, Mr. T. Ham MBE, Mr. E. Thorogood, Mr. R. Catherall,  
Mr. E. Eyton, Mr. J. Nish-Purdie, Mr. J. Farquhar, Mr. T. Crellin,  
Mr. G. Robinson, Mr. K. Williams, Mr. M. Skeats, Mr. K. Daly,  
Miss B. Waddell, Miss C. O'Leary, Mr. A. Sillitoe, Mr. J. Gall,  
Mr. R. Brown, Mr. D. Fryer, (?).

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mr. Geoff Campbell welcomed Mr. Peter Lane JP to the meeting. He then welcomed Mr. Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Employment. As Mr. Clark had to leave in order to attend another engagement, Mr. Campbell asked if he would address the meeting straightaway.

Mr. Alan Clark

Mr. Clark said he was standing in for Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, who sent his apologies for not being able to come to the meeting. Mr. Clark said it was a pleasure to meet the members of the Committee, especially after a General Election victory which was, in a very large measure he believed, due to themselves. He outlined the important role of CTU in the next 4/5 years.

Mr. Geoffrey Campbell thanked Mr. Clark and resumed his opening address by saying the general election had been a great victory and he wished to add his thanks to the staff of Conservative Central Office for all their efforts and to the staff in the area offices. Mr. Campbell congratulated the Party Chairman on our victory also Mr. Tim Renton, President of CTU, and Mr. Robert Atkins, Vice-President of CTU on their re-election and Roger Gale and Andrew Rowe on their election to Parliament. He hoped they would soon be joined by many more of our members.

Apologies

Mrs. Daly said apologies had been received from:

Mr. Tony Garner, Director of Organisation who asked that his thanks to Mr. Campbell be recorded; Dame Shelagh Roberts MEP; Mr. Ben Patterson MEP; Mr. Tom Peet who was unable to take leave to attend as he had used up his annual leave during the

election campaign; Mr. Peter Bottomley MP who asked that his congratulations be given to CTU for excellent election result and the work CTU did for the campaign; Mr. Roger Gale MP, Mr. Frank Russell, Mr. David Sinnott, Rt. Hon James Prior, MP Mr. James Buchanan, Mr. Roger Saunders, Mr. Reg Humphrey, Mr. Gravells, Rt. Hon Norman Tebbit MP, Mr. Peter Gruen, Mr. Ron Porter, Mr. Michael Buxton.

#### Minutes of the meetings of 26th February and 25th March 1983

The Minutes of these meetings were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### Emergency Motion

The following emergency motion was proposed by Mr. Geoffrey Campbell:

'This meeting of the CTU National Committee welcomes the Government's White Paper outlining proposals for legislation on democracy in the trade unions.

Bearing in mind that over 90% of the five million trade unionists who voted Conservative in the General Election are members of TUC affiliated unions, it calls on the TUC General Council to accept the invitation from Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment to discuss his proposals to safeguard the democratic rights of trade union members.'

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman summarised the activities of the CTU both in the U.K. and Europe during the last twelve months. He thanked all his Officers, the members of the Committee, and CCO and Area staff for the support he had received during his term of office.

At the conclusion of Mr. Campbell's report Mr. John Nish-Purdie asked that the National Committee reflect the depth of gratitude and thanks the Committee owed to Geoff Campbell and that these thanks be minuted as a permanent record, and that the thanks of the Committee to Mrs. Campbell be recorded, for her support to the Chairman over the past three years.

#### Elections

The Committee had previously agreed to suspend the Rules so that Mr. Tim Renton MP and Mr. Robert Atkins MP should remain in office for another year as President and Vice-President respectively.

Ballots took place for the following elections and the results were:

Chairman: Miss Joy Bushby.  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Alan Paul, Mr. Tom Peet MBE  
General Purposes Committee: Mr. Ray Holder, Mr. David Sinnott  
Mr. Jim Gregson, Mr. Ken Thornber  
Members Mr. Ken Wootton, Miss Meg MacDonald.

Co-opted Members

Mr. Ron Catherall, Mr. Ted Eyton  
Miss Brenda Utting, Mr. Harry Johnson  
Mr. Les Stapleton.

National Union G.P. Committee

Mrs. Joy Bushby  
Mr. Tom Peet MBE  
Mr. Alan Paul.

National Union Executive Committee

Mr. Jim Gregson.

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Mr. Tim Renton, President, said he wished to add his thanks to Geoff Campbell, and mentioned the many hours of work that Geoff had devoted to the CTU, and the travelling involved. The CTU owed a great deal to Geoff's own personality and the support that his wife had given him.

Mr Renton spoke of the past and future work of the CTU and its place nationally; the CTU he felt was on its way and much of that was due to Geoff Campbell.

Mr. Robert Atkins on behalf of the Committee thanked the President for the work he had done over the last three years; he had been a tower of strength in the House. Mr. Atkins said how grateful he was for the CTU vote; it was essential that Parliament recognised the importance of the CTU.

General Purposes Committee

Alan Paul gave a report of the General Purposes' Committee meeting which had been held immediately prior to the AGM, and said how significant the trade union vote was in the General Election.

It was hoped to hold a CTU Reception in the House, and to involve more closely the Backbench Employment Committee.

It had not been possible to fix dates for the coming year as the National Union Executive had only published their calendar that week. The next meeting of the GP Committee would fix dates for the year.

The question of the CTU Conference had been raised and it had been suggested that a two day conference should be held over a weekend and the Prime Minister asked to attend.

The Bottomley Cup submissions had been assessed and the winners would be presented with the cup during the AGM meeting.

#### Hon Secretary's Report

Mrs. Daly reported on the arrangements for the CTU reception during the TUC conference in September. It was being held on the 8th September at the Claremont Hotel and CTU members were welcome. Mr. Tebbit took this gathering very seriously and one of his Ministers would attend. It was hoped the Chairman of the Backbench Employment Committee would also attend.

The reports by CTU members to CCO during the election campaign had been invaluable and she thanked them all.

#### Party Conference

Arrangements had been made for a CTU Strategy Meeting on the Monday evening, 10th October, and a reception at lunchtime on Wednesday 12th October.

Mrs. Daly asked that ideas for fringe meetings should be submitted as soon as possible.

Margaret Daly reported that every Conservative MP elected had had a letter waiting for him on his arrival in Parliament. There was a very encouraging response and up to that time over 150 MPs had replied, quite a number of whom have said they will try to set up CTU groups locally where none exist at present.

#### Opting Out Forms

A request was made from the floor that Opting Out forms should be printed in the CTU newspaper and this was agreed.

#### The Bottomley Cup Presentation

Mr. Renton welcomed Mr. Peter Lane, Chairman of the National Union. Mr. Lane said he had particularly wanted to come along during his year of office as it gave him the opportunity of paying tribute to the CTU. He congratulated the Officers on their election and commiserated with those who had not gained places. He particularly wanted to give the thanks of the National Union to Geoff Campbell 'one of the great gentlemen of the party'. The CTU was now a very important part of the Party.

Mr. Lane then presented the Bottomley Cup to the Greater London Area, having first explained the criteria on which the assessment was based. He congratulated the winners and Mr. Ken Wootton, Chairman of GLACTU, accepted the cup on their behalf.

Sir Fred Hardman, attending his last meeting as Vice-Chairman, stressed the importance of the CTU in the Conservative Party. He paid tribute to Geoff Campbell for all his work and wished the CTU and all its members the very best for the future and thanked the members for the work they had done.

The meeting closed for lunch.

Afternoon Session

The meeting reconvened at 2 pm with Joy Bushby in the Chair.

Reports from Specialist Groups and Areas

Reports were given on CTU representation at the NALGO Conference in the I.O.M. by Alan Paul, on the CPSA Conference at Brighton by Meg MacDonald and the ASTMS Conference at Bournemouth by Ken Daly.

Mr. Daly mentioned the Loudon Parkin case and said it had proved scope for corruption arising from the Trade Union Act of 1918 and should provide guidelines for Norman Tebbit.

Mr. Geoff Campbell reported on the CTU delegation's visit to Europe and said the Europeans wanted to see greater liaison with CTU. EDG wanted to set up a liaison committee. The National Committee agreed that those members of the delegation to Europe should be the Conservative representatives to such Committee.

Motions for National Committee

From the West Midlands Area

- (1) 'The Committee regrets the apparent lack of response by H.M. Government faced with the tariff discrepancies between the exports of the British and Spanish motor industries.'

The motion was carried unanimously.

- (2) 'This Committee urges H.M. Government and the Minister concerned to take urgent action in the development of inshore fishing industry in the South West. It is felt that not enough is being done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to avert a major demise to this much needed source of employment.'

After discussion this was amended to read 'in the U.K.' not 'in the South West.'

Motion was carried.

From the East Midlands Area

'This Committee invites the General Secretaries or their Deputies from British Telecom Unions to present their views on the recently published White Paper (now the Telecommunications Bill).

Mrs. Daly reported that East Midlands said they had agreed this two meetings ago but it was lost in transit.

Record: No one to propose as East Midlands representatives did not attend afternoon session.

From ASTMS Group

'This Committee is concerned at the minute flow of new trade unionists' names from many constituency associations. It is clear that members are not being asked if they are trade unionists when they pay their Party subscriptions.

This Committee urges the Party organisation to act now to remedy this fundamental deficiency and to report regularly on progress achieved.'

Motion was carried.

From the Civil Service National Specialist Group

- (1) 'This Committee expresses reservations over the Government's policy on privatisation in general and the privatisation of functions in the Civil Service specifically and calls upon the CTU National Committee to establish a working party to look at these policies objectively and produce a report by the end of 1983'

This motion was amended to read as follows;

'This Committee whilst supporting the Government's policy on privatisation in general (and the privatisation of functions in the Civil Service specifically) calls upon the CTU National Committee to establish a working party to look at these policies objectively and produce a report by the end of 1983'

This motion was carried as amended. It was agreed that Mrs. Bushby, the Chairman of the National Committee, should set up a working party.

- (2) 'This Committee expresses grave concern at the Government's proposed cuts in the pay of Probation Service trainees to take effect in September 1983 which is likely to undermine the quality of recruits and is already causing serious damage to industrial relations and morale within the Service.'

In view of the Government's pronouncements about the importance of the Probation Service within the law, order and protective services, this Committee urges the incoming Home Secretary to restore these cuts and to consider possible alternative savings in consultation with the Joint Negotiating Committee for the Probation Service and the Probation Officers' trade union.

This motion was lost.

The Resolution on MPs' pay sent in by the GLACTU Advisory Committee was not moved, a member asking that the meeting should move on to next business and this was agreed.

Motions for the Party Conference

From Mr. Geoff Campbell MBE

'This Conference condemns the attitude of some union leaders of making it "as difficult as we possibly can for people to contract out of the political levy". (Gavin Laird, (AUEW)), and calls upon the Government to protect the rights of individual trade union members by allowing regular ballots on the existence of trade union political funds and by ending the "contracting out" system of the political levy.'

The question of the length of time between regular ballots was the subject of considerable discussion; however the motion was carried as proposed.

From Civil Service National Specialist Group

- (1) 'This Conference views with concern the lack of progress in securing a long term pay system within the Civil Service and urges all Parties to work for a fair comparison based on the old system of PRU.'

Motion carried.

- (2) 'This Conference supports the policy of privatisation where appropriate. However, it urges the Government to ensure that full consultation takes place with all parties before implementation and with special consideration to national security and the protection of services to the public.'

Motion carried.

From Communications Group and Mrs. Joy Bushby (Composite motion)

'This Group congratulates the Government on its 'proposed Trade Union legislation and urges Conference to show full support for these important reforms. Conference, seeking a constructive role for trade union reforms in the building of an efficient and growing economy, wanting more modern and democratic institutions capable of properly representing the interests of trade union members, calls upon the Government to implement its White Paper proposals on trade union reform at the earliest possible moment.'

Motion Carried.

From Mr. Alan Shotliff

'This Conference, mindful of the Government's commitment to tackling the causes of unemployment, calls on the Government to continue its programme for the removal of obstacles to job creation and to pursue its policies for economic growth based on controlling inflation.'

Motion carried.

The second motion proposed by Mr. Shotliff on trade union reform was withdrawn as covered by Mr. Campbell's motion already passed.

An additional motion was proposed as follows:

'This Conference objects to non-politically affiliated trade unions using member funds for politicaly motivated publicity campaigns, and believes that the remedies available through the Courts are impracticable and unsatisfactory in relation to individual union members. It calls upon the Government to take appropriate action.'

Motion carried.

Any Other Business

Mr. Fryer reported on the TUC Conference on Pension Funds. He said the subject of pressure being put on Trustees of Pension Funds to invest their funds in risky ventures was raised but it was reported that trade union members who are trustees have the same views on this as people in the CTU and the idea was not popular among trustees.

The subject of low pay was briefly discussed.

The meeting closed. Members are to be informed by post of next meeting date, time and place.