

THE NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of a meeting of the National Union Executive Committee

Thursday 15th November 1984

The Committee met at 32 Smith Square, Westminster, on Thursday 15th November at 2.15 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Sir Russell Sanderson and the names of members present are recorded.

1) Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman extended a special welcome to Mr. Gordon Shattock and asked members to stand in remembrance of the victims of the Brighton Bomb - Mr. Eric Taylor OBE, Mrs. Jeanne Shattock, Mrs. Roberta Wakham and The Hon. Sir Anthony Berry MP, and also Lord Clitheroe, Lord Geoffrey-Lloyd, Mr. Anthony Shrimley and Mr. C. S. Streatfield, a former Secretary of the National Union.

The Chairman welcomed the new Vice-Chairmen of the party - Mr. Jim Spicer MP (International Office) and Sir Geoffrey Finsberg MBE, JP, MP (London). He also welcomed Mr. Bryan Warner (Chairman of the National Society of Agents) and welcomed back Mr. Gordon Reece as Director of Communications.

The Chairman announced that the Prime Minister would be arriving at 3.45 p.m. to address the meeting.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from 15 members were noted and recorded.

3) Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 1984 having been circulated with the notice, were taken as read and signed as a true record.

4) Matters Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5) Sir Patrick Mayhew

The Chairman introduced Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP, the Solicitor General, who spoke on legal matters relating to strikes, Trade Union law, treason and other topical issues. Sir Patrick answered a number of questions, and was thanked by the Chairman. He then left the meeting.

6) Report from the General Purposes Committee

The Chairman reported on the salient points from the General Purposes Committee held on 14th November. There were no questions, and a copy of the report is lodged with the Minutes.

7) Review of 1984 Party Conference and Consideration of Future Arrangements.

The Secretary presented a report of the Party Conference and referred to the statistics circulated. A copy of the report is lodged with the minutes. The Chairman paid tribute to Dame Pamela Hunter DBE for her Chairmanship of the Conference and this was warmly supported by the meeting. He also expressed thanks to the Young Conservatives for their follow up meeting after the Drug Abuse debate.

Dame Pamela Hunter expressed her thanks to all the helpers, and especially Mr. John Lacy and the stewards, who, because of events, she had not thanked at the Conference on Friday morning.

During the general discussion which followed, the following points were noted:-

- a) It was still difficult to find the ballot boxes.
- b) The Speakers' names on the View Press Board were hard to read.
- c) There seemed to be fewer Television relay sets in the Conference Centre.
- d) Mr. Gordon Shattock said that even those injured by the bomb were convinced of the rightness of the decision to carry on with the Conference.

Future Arrangements

The Chairman said that a meeting with Lancashire police had already taken place, and he hoped to report their recommendations to the February meeting. There was also a discussion on the Security of passes, especially those issued to the Press and outside observers.

8) Consideration of Resolutions received from Constituencies and Areas

The Committee approved action on eight resolutions received since the last meeting, and circulated at the meeting. A resolution from Eastern Area concerning C.P.C. representation at the Central Council and Party Conference was referred to the Standing Review Committee for consideration.

9) Central Council Meeting - Newcastle 22nd/23rd March 1985

The Chairman reported the arrangements recommended by the General Purposes Committee as follows:-

Friday afternoon session to be held in the Crest Hotel.

Saturday morning session in the City Hall.

Saturday afternoon session in the Crest Hotel to take the form of a Forum and Questions and Answer Session - the topic to be decided by the Officers. A Civic Reception in the Civic Centre would be held early Friday evening, Motions for the Agenda to be submitted by 7th February 1985.

The Chairman announced that the recommendation for President to be elected is Rt. Hon. Sir Humphrey Atkins KCMG, MP.

10) The Prime Minister

The Chairman welcomed the Prime Minister to the meeting and invited her to speak. The Prime Minister spoke on the current political situation, dealing with the miners' strike, Trade Union leadership, unemployment figures and trends and other issues. After her speech, the Prime Minister answered questions on a number of topics. She was warmly thanked by the Chairman, and left the meeting at 4.30 p.m.

11) Business for next meeting on 14th February 1985

The Chairman suggested that Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker M.P. should be invited to address the next meeting, and this was agreed.

12) Any Other Business

The Chairman reported a request for affiliation by the newly formed British Conservative Association of Switzerland. This was approved.

The Chairman then closed the formal meeting at 4.40 p.m. and after some others had joined, retiring tributes were paid to the Secretary, Alan Smith OBE, and presentations were made to Mr. & Mrs. Smith by Dame Pamela Hunter and the Chairman.



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Whitehall,  
London, SW 1

23rd November, 1984

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much indeed for finding the time to attend the meeting of the National Union Executive Committee last Thursday. Your speech and answers to questions were much appreciated by everyone present. We had a very good afternoon with a lively session earlier where Patrick Mayhew was dealing with the legal matters concerning strikes and terrorism.

I was very glad that the question of the treatment of Pensions was raised with you, as I find that quite apart from the usual Pensions lobby there are a lot of questions being asked amongst our supporters as to what is happening in this area. Concern has undoubtedly grown and I am glad you were made aware of it.

Yours

Tru.

Russell

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PRIME MINISTER

Meeting with National Union Executive:

Thursday, 15th November at 3.45 pm

1. This is a half hour meeting after Questions, at 3.45 pm at Conservative Central Office.
2. It is the first meeting of the Executive since Brighton.
3. Gordon Shattock, whose wife was killed, is determined to be present although he is not really fit enough.
4. Russell Sanderson has suggested you speak for 10 to 15 minutes, allowing 15 minutes for questions.

Points to include in your opening remarks

- (i) The tragedy of Brighton
- (ii) Current issues:
  - coal
  - abolition of GLC/Mets
  - unemployment
  - overseas aid and Ethiopia
- (iii) In conclusion, pay warm tribute to Alan Smith who is retiring as Secretary of the National Union and welcome Robin Neider (formerly Deputy Central Office Agent in the Eastern Area) who is succeeding him.

Sg.

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

14.11.84