

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

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Chairman of the Party: THE RT HON THE LORD THORNEYCROFT

Deputy Chairman: ALISTAIR McALPINE

Vice Chairmen: SIR ANTHONY ROYLE KCMG MP
THE BARONESS YOUNG

4th October 1979

Dear Prime Minister.

You may remember that when you asked me to take on the task of Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party with particular responsibility for Candidates, you requested me to look into the system of Candidate Selection, in order to see if we can improve the quality and methods of our selection of members of Parliament for both Westminster and Europe. I now submit a paper setting out the result of my enquiries. The recommendations have the broad support of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Party, and the Chairman of the National Union.

If you approve my ideas in principle, I would propose to explain the new scheme to the Parliamentary Party and the Constituencies during the course of the next few months, with a view to commencing the new scheme in the first half of 1980.

Yours
Anthony

Sir Anthony Royle

Could I have a talk with
Sir Anthony Royle. I am a little
worried about some aspects of these
proposals. No

CS

5th October 1979

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf
to acknowledge your letter of 4th October.

I will ensure that she sees this as soon
as possible.

~~Handwritten signature~~

Miss Sally James
Political Office

Sir Anthony Royle KCMG MP

TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM SIR ANTHONY ROYLE

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ORGANISATION.

SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES FOR WESTMINSTER AND EUROPE

PROBLEM.

The current system of Parliamentary Candidate selection has not been reviewed in depth for many years. It has become apparent that a new look is needed at the system. The Prime Minister therefore requested the Vice Chairman responsible for Parliamentary Candidates to review and seek to make improvements in the current procedures and make recommendations to her and to the Chairman of the Party.

Could have been better put } This paper has therefore been drafted with the knowledge that the Prime Minister wishes to improve the quality of Members of Parliament in both Westminster and Europe and that any amended system will be responsible for building and developing the Conservative Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons and the European Parliament in the last two decades of the twentieth century.

BACKGROUND.

1. Westminster's Parliamentary Candidate selection has been virtually unchanged since 1945, except that in 1972 the Chelmer Report included a recommendation that all "accepted" Candidates have the right to request the Vice Chairman to circulate their name to any vacant seat. The Guidance Booklet to Constituency Associations has been revised over the years, most recently with an Addendum covering European Candidates.

The National Union are fully involved in working with the Vice Chairman and the key elements in the current system are as follows:

- (i) An interview with the Vice Chairman;
- (ii) If accepted by him, completion of an application form and an interview with a "Panel" consisting of an MP and at least two members of the National Union. The Panel write independent reports on each Candidate;
- (iii) Candidates' names go before the Standing Advisory Committee of the National Union for approval at meetings held from time to time;
- (iv) If accepted, the applicant is placed on the List of Approved Candidates.

This List is available to a Constituency Association seeking a Parliamentary or European Candidate.

2. The interview procedure by the Associations is incorporated in Guidelines published and circulated by the Standing Advisory Committee (Annex 1).
3. Prior to a selection the Association Chairman and Area Agent usually visit Central Office and discuss the list of possibilities with the Vice Chairman. It is sometimes possible to influence the choice of Candidate at this stage, though much depends on the Chairman and his position of influence in his Association.
4. Current Candidates' applications at the 31st July 1979 are as follows:

	<u>Westminster</u>	<u>Europe</u>
Candidates who fought and lost the last Election	228	18
On the Approved List	464	153
Awaiting Interview	268	86
Being Processed	91	-
	<u>1,051</u>	<u>257</u>

5. At the moment all Candidate selection is frozen with the exception of by-elections.

This will continue until a decision has either been reached to retain the current arrangements unaltered or to make amendments to them.

Another factor is the massive Boundary Review due in 1981/2. There is obviously a need to avoid adopting Candidates in constituencies involved in major boundary alterations.

ARGUMENT.

What are we trying to achieve ?

- (i) Improved quality of Candidate;
- (ii) Greater satisfaction by Candidates that the system is not "fixed" against certain types of applicant;
- (iii) Modernised selection procedures;
- (iv) Involve industry and commerce in our Candidate selection.

Options.

If these four points are accepted, it seems that we have three options:

- (i) Do nothing;
- (ii) "Root and Branch" reform of the entire selection system, including Association procedures;
- (iii) Radical reform of Central Office procedure for admission to the Candidates' List, but making no alteration to Association procedure.

(i) Do nothing.

We have 4+ years in Government and time to embark on some reform, even if experimental. This opportunity will not occur for another five years and I have therefore rejected this option.

(ii) "Root and Branch" Reform.

It would not be possible to embark on a radical reorganisation of the system at Association level for obvious reasons. If such a reform included proposals such as a "primary" it would inevitably cause major controversy and anyway would not, in my view, improve either the quality or the numbers of the applicants. It might, however, be worth considering updating the Guidelines to Associations.

(iii) Radical Reform of the Central Office Procedures.

It would not be wise to remove Candidates from the current List. It has been tried before and such action creates great resentment and unnecessary aggravation. It would therefore seem advisable to keep those who wish to remain on the List in position but try to achieve some form of internal priority for them. I have concentrated on improving the methods of selection for the Approved List.

I have had consultations with a wide range of experienced people who have been involved in Parliamentary Candidate selection over the years. I have also completed discussions with the National Union, the Chairman of the Party and Central Office Directors, including a visit to the Army Officer Regular Commissions Board. I now propose:

- (i) Improving selection at the start and modernising the system in Central Office;
- (ii) Updating the procedure by moving away from the twenty-minute interview with the Vice Chairman and the Standing Advisory Committee Panel;
- (iii) A radical change for all new applicants, entailing a residential Selection Board which will stretch the Candidates and make them perform.
- (iv) We should consider including in our selection procedure some people from outside the political world e.g. industry or the universities and professions, thereby removing criticism that we are out of touch with our supporters in business and commerce. It will also encourage companies to allow, and perhaps help, their executives to stand for Parliament and encourage candidates from a wider field.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A Proposed New System of Selection

1. Administration.

- (a) Streamline records and modernise filing system. The highest calibre staff to be employed: two executives and a secretary.
- (b) Retain those on present List.
Letter sent to them asking if they wish to continue receiving vacancies: institution of Suspended List.
Carefully check through those remaining on active List and grade them as in Paragraph 3(c).
- (c) Redraft form sent to potential Candidates. A further questionnaire requiring more precise information and follow with a detailed check on credentials.
- (d) Concentration on security and confidentiality.
- (e) National Union to redraft, as necessary, the "Notes for Guidance on Procedure for Selection of Parliamentary Candidates."

2. A New Attitude to Possible Candidates.

It is not possible to set out a Candidate specification because we obviously desire to draw our future MPs from the broadest possible background and experience. Different areas require different Candidates: but Parliament also needs a wide spread of age, experience and intellectual ability. Four main points need stressing:

- (a) Positive approaches by Vice Chairman or Nominees to suitable Prospective Candidates e.g. go out and look for men and women who are suitable to serve the Party as Candidates.
- (b) Encourage industry/professions to be on the lookout;
- (c) Encourage more older/experienced Candidates to apply;
- (d) Need for good calibre Candidates from North/Midlands.

3. Vetting Procedures/Interviewing System etc.

- (a) All applicants for the List to be encouraged to have a talk with the Area Central Office Agent as a first step, the intention being that the Central Office Agent could explain the procedure for applying to go on the List and the procedure usually adopted by constituencies when selecting a Candidate.

The Central Office Agents' knowledge and experience should be used. They should in general be advised and consulted when applications are considered. They will be informed of procedures and be able to give advice to applicants.

- (b) Those recommended by the Vice Chairman to be invited to attend a Parliamentary Selection Board (see Annex 2). This would take the form of a 24-hour residential conference of instruction as well as selection.

The Vice Chairman would interview, if necessary, potential applicants prior to the Parliamentary Selection Board and he would also be able to excuse applicants from attending the Board in special circumstances.

It would not be possible, in view of the numbers involved, to put Approved Candidates now on the List through the Board. All new applicants will have to attend. Exceptions could be made if specially requested by an Approved Candidate.

- (c) At the end of the Parliamentary Selection Board potential Candidates would be assessed as follows:
- (i) Suitability for recommending to the SAC including:
 - Desirability for Europe/Westminster;
 - Potential by-election candidature;
 - Safe/Marginal/Hopeless seats;
 - Geographical considerations.
 - (ii) Doubtful cases;
 - (iii) Not suitable.
- (d) The names in all categories in (c) above would be submitted to a meeting of the SAC for final decision.

4. Guidance to Constituencies

- (a) Include oral comments in strict confidence from the Vice Chairman to Central Office Agents when sending constituency lists.
- (b) Chairman of Association and Agent invited to meet the Vice Chairman to discuss list in cases of by-elections, safe seats and critical seats, if necessary.
- (c) Review guidance to constituency selection committees (more time, Vice Chairman's nominees to be interviewed etc.)

**NOTES ON PROCEDURE FOR
THE ADOPTION OF
CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES
IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

*Issued under the authority of the National Union's
Standing Advisory Committee on Candidates*

Revised 1978
with an addendum concerning
candidates for the European
Parliament.

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ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES

The selection of a parliamentary candidate is one of the most important and responsible tasks which a constituency association has to undertake. Whether he wins or loses, the candidate's bearing and behaviour will affect the reputation of the Conservative Party in his constituency. In a closely contested election the issue may well be determined by his personal qualities and performance. Ultimately the Party's capacity to govern the country must depend on the calibre of its representatives in Parliament.

Subject to certain Party rules each association has freedom to select the man or woman of its choice. The purpose of this pamphlet is to assist associations in discharging their responsibility in the interests both of the country and of the constituency.

The candidate-association relationship

A candidate is precluded by the Party's rules from making any contribution towards his election expenses other than his personal expenses, and in some cases those too are defrayed by the association. He may subscribe up to a maximum of £25 a year to his association during his candidature and up to a maximum of £100 a year when elected to Parliament, but in no circumstances may the payment of a subscription be made a condition of adoption.

These rules enable an association to make its choice of candidate on merit alone and from the widest possible field. It is important, however, that they should not be allowed to impair the status of the candidate or the independence of the Member of Parliament. The association must not regard the candidate or M.P. as a delegate or as one who is under some financial obligation.

Burke's words still hold good today:

"Your representative owes you not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion. . . , authoritative instructions, which the Member is bound blindly and implicitly to obey, though contrary to the dearest convictions of his judgment and conscience, are utterly unknown to the laws of the land, and against the tenor of our constitution.

The Central Office

At the Central Office questions relating to candidates for English and Welsh constituencies are handled by a Vice-chairman of the Party Organisation.

All would-be candidates are interviewed in the first place by the Vice-chairman. The second stage is an interview by a panel consisting of Members of Parliament and members of the National Union.

The information gained from these interviews is placed before the Standing Advisory Committee on Candidates by the Vice-chairman. He maintains records of all potential candidates approved by the committee.

Neither the Vice-chairman nor the Committee has any jurisdiction over candidates in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

The Standing Advisory Committee on Candidates

This committee is a committee of the National Union, and came into being in 1935. The authority of this body was emphatically endorsed by resolution of the Party Conference at Brighton in 1948, and by the Maxwell Fyfe Committee on Party Organisation, whose report was approved by the Central Council in 1949. Additions, clarifications and alterations were recommended by a review committee under the chairmanship of Lord Chelmer and adopted and approved by the Central Council in 1972. At the Central Council meeting in April 1978 it was resolved that the three Vice-chairmen of the National Union should be members of the Committee.

The Committee is now constituted as follows:

Chairman of the National Union who shall be Chairman of the Committee.

The three Vice-chairmen of the National Union.

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Union.

Chairman of the Women's National Advisory Committee of the National Union.

Chairman of the Conservative Trade Unionists' National Advisory Committee of the National Union.

Chairman of the Young Conservative National Advisory Committee of the National Union.

Chairman or a Deputy Chairman of the Party Organisation.

Chief Whip of the Party in the House of Commons, or a deputy.

Chairman of 1922 Committee, or a deputy.

Hon. Secretary of the National Union.

(Hon. Secretary of the Committee)

The Committee is also empowered to co-opt the Area Chairman when a case of particular difficulty affecting a constituency in his Area is under consideration.

The Standing Advisory Committee examines the qualifications and record of all those who wish their names to be included in the official list of approved potential candidates and of any others, not on the list, whom constituencies may wish to consider for an impending vacancy. It is empowered to withhold or withdraw approval from any candidate or would-be candidate who is not considered suitable, or in cases where the financial rules are being broken or there have been serious irregularities in the adoption procedure.

If the endorsement of the Standing Advisory Committee is refused and the constituency adopts him in spite of this, the candidate will not be regarded as an official Party candidate at the next election. He will not receive the usual letter from the Leader of the Party commending his candidature to the electorate, nor will he be eligible for help from Central Office in the way of speakers or publications. If elected he will not receive the Party Whip.

Sequence of adoption procedure

Before explaining more fully the method of adopting a candidate, it may be helpful to show at a glance the procedure approved by the National Union, and which should be followed when a vacancy for a parliamentary candidate occurs.

(1) The Chairman of the association will ask the Vice-chairman of the Party

Organisation, through the Central Office agent for the Area, for a list of potential candidates.

(2) The Vice-chairman will notify all potential candidates on the list of approved candidates of the constituency association about to take action for selecting a candidate.

(3) The Vice-chairman will submit to the chairman of the association through the Central Office Agent for the Area a list of approved candidates who have applied to be considered. The list will be accompanied by biographical details. The chairman of the association will ensure that any local names, who are not on the approved list, are added before the list is submitted to the selection committee.

(4) The association's selection committee will consider all names upon this list and, according to the number of applicants, will invite those considered suitable to come to the constituency for interview.

(5) From these the selection committee should choose not less than three to appear before the executive council of the association. The executive council will vote by ballot. If the committee wishes to include an applicant not on the approved list, then approval must be obtained from the Standing Advisory Committee on candidates prior to final selection.

(6) If an overall majority of the executive council supports one candidate, then that candidate should be recommended to a general meeting of the members of the association for adoption. If there is no overall majority, or if the executive council so decides, then it should recommend more than one candidate for consideration by the general meeting.

The person approved by the general meeting of the association becomes the prospective parliamentary candidate for the constituency.

(7) When Parliament is dissolved or a writ for a by-election is moved, another general meeting takes place at which the candidate is formally adopted, and the word "prospective" in the title is dropped.

No constituency should be left for long without a candidate. Without a champion on whom to focus their loyalties and their endeavours, voluntary workers often tend to become disheartened and apathetic.

When it becomes apparent that a constituency will have to find a new candidate, the chairman of the association should first study the association rules which govern the processes of selection and adoption and these rules should conform with the rules approved by the National Union. (See Central Office Organisation Series — Model Rules).

An early meeting of the selection committee should be called to acquaint themselves of the approved procedure.

Whether local names are under consideration or not, the Vice-chairman of the Party Organisation should be asked to submit a list of candidates. This will ensure that the constituency has a wide range of choice.

At this stage it is mutually helpful if the chairman can pay a visit to the Central Office and discuss the position with the Vice-chairman. He ought to take the Central Office Agent for the Area into his confidence and enlist his assistance.

If any officer of the association or any member of the selection committee wishes his name to be considered, he should take no part whatever in any of the proceedings of the committee or of the executive council. He should be treated on exactly the same basis as any other applicant.

There are many advantages in a local candidate; he lives on the spot, he may have an unrivalled knowledge of the constituency's problems and may already command much support among electors. But there are sometimes drawbacks in a local choice. To the prospective constituents weakness may be as well known as virtues, and unless he is an outstanding man there may be jealousies and factions which could undermine the unity of the organisation.

One of the chairman's first considerations must naturally be what type of candidate is most likely to win the seat and to serve the constituency with distinction. But he should also bear in mind (particularly if the seat is held with a good majority) the wider needs of the Party in Parliament. It may be that Conservative representation in the House would be greatly strengthened by the addition of another woman or trade unionist, or there may be some individual of exceptional qualifications whose experience would be of particular value. It may be that in the interests of the Party in that area some distinguished Party personality should be invited to stand in order to give support to surrounding constituencies. The Vice-chairman will always be ready to advise on such matters.

Preliminary interview by chairman

It may not always be possible for the chairman of the association to have a private talk with each person on the short list before the selection committee meets, but there are obvious advantages in such an arrangement. The opportunity can then be taken to ask any questions which it might be embarrassing for the candidate to answer before a committee. There may be some personal background or domestic complications which ought to be disclosed. The question of subscribing to the association should never be raised until after adoption. If the chairman is asked about it he should say that it is left to the candidate to do what he feels he can afford within limits laid down.

Interviewing of candidates

The number of potential candidates who apply to have their names included in the list will naturally depend on the type of constituency concerned, and the prospect of success at the next election. In the event of a large number of applicants, the selection committee should set up a series of panels to recommend those who should be interviewed by the selection committee. In these circumstances the number selected should be at least twelve, and probably not more than twenty.

Constituency selection committees should be briefed, with the assistance of the Central Office Agent, so that there is a clear understanding of the respective responsibilities of candidate, Member of Parliament and association.

The short list should not be made public.

The executive council should not make its selection on the basis of interview alone. The council should meet all the candidates on the short list, preferably over a weekend, as well as at the interview itself.

They should be required to make a speech and must be given reasonable time to develop their theme. It is suggested that twenty minutes, with ten minutes for questions, is a reasonable period. Only one candidate should be in the hall at a time, and those who have been interviewed, or are waiting their turn, should if possible be accommodated in separate rooms.

Spouses of candidates should not be invited to participate until the short list is decided and should not at any stage be asked to make a formal speech.

The chairman should use every endeavour to ensure that all applicants have a fair and equal chance of selection on their merits. Pressure from influential quarters and any form of canvassing, whether for or against, should be severely discouraged. It is unlikely that the employers of any applicant would offer to finance the candidature or to subscribe heavily to association funds, but if such a suggestion were made it would be contrary to the spirit of the Party's rules and should be rejected on that account. For the same reason the Party does not approve the financing of its candidates by any trade association of employers.

It is the duty of the chairman and the selection committee to satisfy themselves that those whose names are to be submitted to the executive council are in a position to nurse the seat adequately and that they intend to do so. They should not, however, be unreasonable in their demands or they may lose a first-class candidate. Character, ability and personality will prove much more important and electorally valuable than unlimited leisure or the means to purchase a house in the constituency.

The selection committee and the executive council must be careful not to be swept off their feet by sheer oratory. Speaking ability is important and an inarticulate candidate may be a handicap, but speaking improves with experience. Character, past record, and political knowledge are much more important. Although ambition is a laudable characteristic, the committee should satisfy itself that a would-be candidate is actuated by a genuine desire to serve the community and not primarily by self-interest. His record of voluntary work for the Party may help them in coming to a conclusion on this matter.

It would be wrong however to refuse to consider an applicant who had a very limited political background, if he had already distinguished himself in other fields and clearly had the ability to make a useful contribution to the work of Parliament.

The Candidate's religion is not stated on the biography supplied by Central Office. This information can, however, be obtained by application by the Constituency Chairman or Chairman of the Selection Committee, if required. Religious prejudices should in no circumstances be allowed to sway the judgment of the Selection Committee.

For the sake of clarity the masculine gender has been used throughout this pamphlet. It should be borne in mind, however, that the advice it contains applies equally to women candidates. From time to time the Party has passed resolutions urging the need for more women and more trade unionists to be adopted. There is no doubt that our Party wants more women M.P.s and more trade unionist M.P.s.

Ballots by selection committee and executive council

Voting should be by ballot. Assuming that the selection committee is interviewing twelve candidates and wishes to submit three names to the executive council, it can

either hold a single ballot and send the first three names forward, or if the voting is close it can hold further ballots, eliminating each time the candidate at the bottom of the poll, until the required number are left.

In the executive council, if an overall majority supports one candidate, then that candidate should be recommended to the general meeting of members of the association for adoption. In this event it is desirable, if possible, to get a unanimous vote for the winner after the ballot has been announced.

If there is no overall majority, or if the executive council so decides, then it should recommend more than one candidate for consideration by the general meeting.

In circumstances in which potential candidates are being considered together with the sitting Member of Parliament, it would be normal for the name of the Member automatically to be included in the list to be considered by the executive council.

After the selected candidate has spoken and answered questions at the general meeting a resolution should be put to the meeting in the following terms:-

"That this general meeting of members of the... Conservative and Unionist Association hereby adopts A.B. as prospective Conservative candidate for the constituency and pledges its wholehearted support to secure his return to Parliament at the next election."

It occasionally happens that the executive council is not satisfied with the choice of candidates put forward by the selection committee, or that a general meeting does not approve of the choice of the executive council. In either case the proper procedure is to move that the matter be referred back. This must be done before the ballot is taken if it happens at the executive council, and before the resolution of adoption is put if it occurs at the general meeting. If the reference back is defeated the proceedings must continue.

Meetings of the selection committee and the executive council, and the subsequent general meeting, must be called strictly in accordance with the rules of the association, the rules approved by the National Union and the accepted rules of procedure at meetings must be followed. Any irregularity may invalidate the whole proceedings and lead to serious complications and internal disruption. *The chairman should maintain complete impartiality.*

Treatment of applicants

Occasionally damage has been done to the reputation of a constituency association as a result of failure to make proper arrangements for would-be candidates who come for interview. It is inevitably something of an ordeal, and things are not made easier if they are treated like applicants for a junior post; if no attempt is made to offer them hospitality; if they are summoned for some hours before they are needed and are herded together for long periods of waiting; or if they are subjected to impertinent personal questions.

The ideal arrangement is to get one or more members of the association to be responsible for meeting the candidates and their wives, entertaining and transporting them, and looking after them both during and after the meeting of the committee. There have been cases where applicants have never heard from a constituency after going there for an interview. Unsuccessful candidates should be notified by letter on the day following the interview or meeting at which they are eliminated.

Redistribution of parliamentary seats

The need for selecting a prospective parliamentary candidate will sometimes arise from redistribution of parliamentary constituencies. In this event, the sitting Member must be understood to have the right to submit himself for selection for any constituency which may incorporate any part of his old constituency, although there may be a Member for another part of the constituency. He must also have the right to submit himself for any other constituency where a vacancy is notified.

ADDENDUM TO "NOTES ON PROCEDURE FOR THE ADOPTION OF CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES IN ENGLAND AND WALES" TO GIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE IN THE CASE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (on a "first past the post" system).

(1) General

The "Notes on Procedure for the Adoption of Conservative Candidates in England and Wales" shall apply unless varied by this Addendum.

(2) The Euro Constituency Council shall be substituted for the Constituency Association where appropriate.

(3) Candidate — Constituency Relationship

A European Member of Parliament may subscribe annually to his Euro Constituency Council up to a sum equal to a maximum of 5 per cent of his Euro-Parliamentary salary.

(4) Standing Advisory Committee on European Candidates

The National Union has established a Standing Advisory Committee on European Candidates similar in constitution to that of the Standing Advisory Committee for England and Wales except that the Chairman of the 1922 Committee is omitted and the Chief Whip of the Party's Group in the European Parliament together with another Member appointed by the Group, and the Chairman of the International Office Overseas Committee are included.

(5) Adoption Procedure

The Selection Committee should choose not less than five applicants to appear before the full Euro Constituency Council which in turn should select at least three candidates to be recommended to a General Meeting consisting of a minimum of 25 members appointed from each U.K. Constituency Association involved.

The following to be substituted for para (3) under "Sequence of Adoption Procedure":-

"The Vice-Chairman will submit to the Chairman of the Association (through the Central Office Agent for the Area) a list of the approved Candidates who have applied to be considered. The list will be accompanied by biographical details. The Chairman of the Association will ensure that any local names who are on the approved list are added before the list is submitted to the Selection Committee."

(6) Candidate

In selecting a suitable candidate the need for specialists to provide a balanced representation in the European Parliament should be borne in mind but dedication to Conservative principles is fundamental.

POSSIBLE DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR CONDUCTING
A PARLIAMENTARY SELECTION BOARD

1. Each Parliamentary Selection Board would consist of the following:

N	6 interviewing panels of 3 each	18 people	
	48 potential candidates	48 people	H
	Vice Chairman, speakers, staff etc	8 people	
	Total	74 people	

The panels would comprise of representatives of the National Union and the Parliamentary Party and someone with specialised experience from industry or commerce.

At each Parliamentary Selection Board one or more of the panels would be devoted to interviewing potential Europe candidates. In these cases the panel would include a member of the European Parliament instead of a member of the UK Parliament.

2. Each panel would interview 8 applicants. They would meet applicants both before and during dinner, sit in on the appropriate discussion group which would comprise the applicants whom they were to interview and also sit in on the reports back of the personal project. They would then interview each candidate for 30 minutes.
3. The National Union representative denoted as Chairman of the panel would take the chair at the appropriate group discussion. His purpose would be to involve each applicant in the group.
4. Parliamentary Selection Boards would be held both in the north and the south of England. Possible venues would be near London and on the motorway complex near Huddersfield.

The cost would be approximately £25 per person for hotel accommodation and meals and this would probably have to be a charge on Central Office. Applicants would be asked to pay their own travelling expenses.

The total cost of a Parliamentary Selection Board would, therefore, be about £1,850 plus, say, £150 for travelling expenses for speakers etc. - total cost £2000.

5. The organisation of the Parliamentary Selection Boards would require the appointment of a small unit to organise the Boards. Presumably we would need about 3/4 Boards in the first year and this would then tail off.

6. It is essential to devise a professional operation and this rough outline will be amended in consultation with a top ranking adviser who has recently retired from assisting at the Army Board in Westbury, Wiltshire.

12, DOWNING STREET,
S.W.1.

With the Chief Whip's
compliments.

Discussed briefly with
Sir Anthony Royle
on 23.10.79, who asked
for the files to be
returned to R. Ryder.

*Jy
Hony*

24/10