

MR. BUTLER

Mr. Rogers

Mary Harker. We discussed. I
have now minuted Mr. Wolfson.

Kuchim cc Mr Ingham
Mr Coles
Mr Scholan
Mr Ricketts.

Election Business

FERB
11.5

You asked me to look into the arrangements which were made in the three immediately previous election campaigns.

Morning Meetings

In February 1974 the diary does not reveal a morning meeting at No.10. On most mornings Mr. Heath went to Central Office for a briefing before his press conference at about 1000. In September/October 1974 Mr. Wilson had a campaign committee meeting at 0900 at Transport House or at No.10 but I assume that this was a political occasion. In April 1979 Mr. Callaghan had a breakfast meeting at No.10 at 0745. Mike Pattison's recollection is that this was a purely political occasion although Ken Stowe may have attended on occasion. You might want to have a word with him.

It seems therefore that the precedents are against morning briefing meetings along the lines of Questions briefing. You might therefore wish to offer the Prime Minister the support rather than the participation of the Private Office in any briefing meetings along the lines of previous campaigns. An element in this support might be Bernard Ingham's press summary. I imagine that Bernard's summary would be at least as good as any Central Office summary but he is rather anxious to avoid duplication. Perhaps this is one facility that we should continue to provide unless the Prime Minister thinks it unnecessary.

Official Support to Election Tours

I understand that recent practice has varied but that in the last campaign a Garden Room Girl accompanied the Prime Minister as usual, a Duty Clerk acted as the advance party taking messages etc. while the Prime Minister was in transit and on long or overnight

/ trips

trips a Private Secretary was in attendance. If the Prime Minister agrees I propose that we should adopt the first two of these arrangements but not necessarily the third. The universal opinion was that the presence of a Private Secretary was wholly superficial ⁱⁿ and indeed occasionally rather inhibiting. Perhaps we could discuss these points with John, Michael, Willie and Bernard.

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11 May 1983