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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

183RD MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 14th December 1977, in the  
Leader's Room in the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 182nd Meeting.
2. Future Business.
3. Forthcoming Events.
4. Our Reply to the Police Federation on our Position on the Recommendations of Judge Edmund Davies' Inquiry - LCC (77) 165, attached.
5. Any other business.

*Peter Dainton*  
*Leeds Fed.*  
*for.*  
*Committee on Revision.*

Conservative Research Department,  
24 Old Queen Street, London, SW1.

*Proc. Committee* CFP/MMH  
12.12.77

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 183rd Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, 14th December 1977, in the Leader's  
Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,  
Lord Carrington, Lord Hallsham,  
Lord Thorncroft, Sir Geoffrey Howe,  
Mr. Prior, Mr. Pym, Mr. Davies,  
Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Peyton, Mr. Neave,  
Mr. Heseltine, Mr. St. John Stevas,  
Mr. Maude, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nott,  
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. King, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Mr. Butler,  
Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten, Mr. Ridley,  
Mr. Hooson, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Jones.

Apologies: Mr. Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 9th-13th January

(It was noted that these proposals were likely to be changed).

On Monday, 9th January, there would be a debate on a Motion to take note of the 1st-10th Reports from the Public Accounts Committee, 1976-77, and Departmental Replies. This would be followed by a Motion on the Parochial Registers and Records Church of England Measure.

On Tuesday, 10th January, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton would seek leave to introduce his Tertiary Education Inquiry Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Committee Stage of the Scotland Bill (Mr. Pym and team).

On Wednesday, 11th January, Mr. Gow would seek leave to introduce his Closed Shop (Compensation for Wrongful Dismissal) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Committee Stage of the Scotland Bill (Mr. Pym and team).

On Thursday, 12th January, there would be progress on the European Assembly Elections Bill (Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Hurd and Mr. Howell).

On Friday, 13th January, there would be the Private Members' Motions of Mr. Rifkind, Mr. A. Jones and Mr. Jim Callaghan.

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion and the following was agreed:

(1) A warning would be issued on the whip that certain Labour Private Members' bills, such as the Employment Protection (Amendment) Bill and a bill to enable employees of the Post Office to strike, might well be unacceptable and would therefore need to be opposed.

(ii) It was desirable to debate the state of the livestock industry, the Government's amnesty for illegal immigrants and "Mackie-type" sanctions in the pay policy on early supply days.

(iii) We supported the Ulster Unionist amendment to the European Assembly Elections Bill to obtain the same system for the European Assembly elections in Northern Ireland as prevailed throughout the remainder of the United Kingdom, but we would not whip.

(iv) There would be no official Front Bench vote on the Rate Support Grants Orders the following day (15th December), but we would not seek to stop backbench members voting against the orders.

### 3. Mr. Whitelaw's reply to Mr. Eldon Griffiths

Mr. Whitelaw reported that he had drafted a reply to Mr. Griffiths in respect of Lord Edmund Davies's Committee on the future of the police service (LCC(77)165). It was noted that Lord Edmund Davies had erroneously been referred to in the paper as Judge Edmund Davies. There was a discussion and it was agreed that Mr. Whitelaw would amend his draft reply in consultation with Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr. Ridley.

### 4. The Firemen's Dispute

Mr. Whitelaw reported that he had been informed that one obstacle the firemen had alleged lay in the way of their reaching a settlement was that the Conservatives would not guarantee to implement particular pay increases agreed for future years. There was a discussion and Mr. Whitelaw's line, viz. that we could not commit ourselves to guaranteeing future pay increases but that we should not oppose local authorities saying they would take the money to pay for those increases from other parts of their budget, was agreed.

### 5. Committee against Racism

Mr. Whitelaw reported that there had been an approach to Central Office at a relatively junior level, asking that the Conservatives should be represented on this committee. There was a discussion and the following was agreed:

(i) Mr. Whitelaw and Lord Thorneycroft would decide what immediate response we should make, if any, and would seek to find out more details about this committee and its proposed activities, without committing the Party to supporting it. In particular, we needed to seek to find out how it was financed and it was noted that Sir Michael Havers would explore various lines of inquiry.

(ii) We would, of course, indicate that we supported the general aims and principles of any campaign against racism, and we should lay emphasis on our opposition to both racial and religious discrimination, drawing attention in particular to the role of Conservative students in securing the National Union of Students' opposition to individual student unions' bans on Jewish societies.

### 5. The Price Commission

There was a discussion of the measures that were being taken by the Price Commission to prevent companies from raising their prices even if such action was justified by the Code. It was agreed that we might point out that such techniques could be part of the Government's pre-election cover-up and would inevitably result in an explosion of price increases at some later stage.

6. Other Business

It was agreed that any colleagues who intended to take part in the proposed ITV programme on the miners' strike of 1974 and the end of the Conservative Government should contact Mr. Lindsey at Central Office.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Arrangements for future meetings of the Leader's Consultative Committee in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons will be as follows:

Monday, 9th January - there will be NO meeting of either the Leader's Consultative Committee or of the Leader's Steering Committee.

Wednesday, 11th January at 5.00 p.m. - for discussion of future business.

Conservative Research Department,  
24 Old Queen Street, London S.W.1.

CFP/MHM  
23.12.77