

*Steering*

## Conservative Research Department

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MRS. THATCHER


c.c. Sir Keith Joseph  
Mr. Maude

I thought I should just put on paper what I understand to be the arrangements for future Steering Committee meetings.

1. The report of Lord Home's committee on the House of Lords is being considered on Monday, 6th February. ✓
2. Mr. Whitelaw was supposed to be producing a paper on law and order for 13th February. In addition, it was proposed that we should present our written note on strategy for this meeting. However, a) it would seem sensible to take Mr. Whitelaw's paper on immigration as soon as possible; and b) I have spoken to Keith Joseph and Angus Maude and they agreed that the strategy note, which draws all the threads together, should include the proposals of the Themes Committee. Since this won't be reporting until next week it would be impossible to have a strategy note prepared until 20th February. I therefore suggest that we slip the strategy paper back one week. I don't think we would lose very much doing this.
3. This would therefore mean that the paper on immigration would be taken on 13th February and on 20th February we would take the papers on law and order and strategy.
4. On 27th February Mr. St. John Stevas is to produce a paper on Education.
5. On 6th March the intention is to have a discussion on Social Services - concentrating particularly on the latest state of play on Tax Credits.

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In addition to all this Teddy Taylor is anxious that his paper on Scotland, which you received last week, should be taken at an early Steering Committee meeting. Keith Joseph, Geoffrey Howe and Michael Heseltine have told him that though they have reservations about some of his proposals, they have no objection to his paper being discussed by the Committee. The proposals on our devolution tactics in the paper are presumably rather urgent given the imminence of the Garscadden by-election. It is difficult to see how we can fit Scotland on to the agenda on either the 13th or 20th February. Perhaps we should ask Teddy Taylor whether he would be content to postpone discussion until 27th February. (I suspect his answer would be in the negative). Alternatively, we might try to lengthen either of the meetings on the 13th and 20th February, or add another meeting to the series. Keith Joseph is keen to take a paper by Nick Ridley on nationalisation at Steering in the reasonably near future so there would certainly be enough for the agenda for an additional meeting.



CHRIS PATTEN

3rd February, 1978

MHT

Do you agree to  
taking Mr Whitelaw's  
Immigration paper  
before law and order?

*Yes.*

What are your views on  
Teddy Taylor's paper?

*As Mr  
Taylor's paper  
is in  
the  
line  
of  
the  
20<sup>th</sup>*

CS

6 Feb