

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 110th Meeting held at 5.00 pm.  
on Wednesday, 12th May 1976, in the Leader's  
Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,  
Lord Carrington, Mr. Maudling,  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior,  
Mr. Pym, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin,  
Mr. Peyton, Mr. St. John-Stevas,  
Mr. Raison, Mr. Heseltine,  
Mr. Maude, Mr. Buchanan-Smith,  
Mr. Edwards, Mr. Neave,  
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Biffen,  
Lord Thorneycroft.

In attendance: Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley,  
Mr. Patten, Mr. Ridley,  
Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Lord Hailshan.

1. Proposed Business for the week 17th-24th May

On Monday, 17th May, there would be further progress on the  
Committee Stage of the Finance Bill (Sir Geoffrey Howe and team).

On Tuesday, 18th May, Mr. Grocott would seek leave to introduce  
his Comprehensive Higher Education Bill under the 10 Minute Rule.  
This would be followed by a half supply day with subject to be  
decided. At 7.00 p.m. there would be Opposed Private Business:  
consideration of the British Transport Docks (Felixstowe) Bill (Mr. Luce)  
and this would be followed by a Motion on the Counter Inflation  
(Price Code) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order.

On Wednesday, 19th May, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams would seek  
leave to introduce his Housing (Shorthold Tenancies) Bill under the  
10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a full Supply Day with  
subjects to be decided and by a debate on EEC Procedure with regard  
to Skimmed Milk (Mr. Peyton).

On Thursday, 20th May, there would be the Remaining Stages of  
the Police Bill, (Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Alison) and this would be followed  
by a Motion on the Family Income Supplements (Computation) Regulations  
(Mr. Kenneth Clark), and by Proceedings on the Seychelles Bill,  
(Mr. Christopher Tugendhat).

On Friday, 21st May, there would be Private Members' Bills:  
the Remaining Stages of Mr. Corbett's Sexual Offences (Amendment)  
Bill, and the Second Reading of Mr. Weetch's Solicitors Act 1974  
(Amendment) Bill, and the Second Reading of Mr. Radice's and  
Mr. Luce's Bills.

On Monday, 24th May, there would be Private Members' Motions  
until 7.00 o'clock, the Motions being those of Mr. Aitken,  
Lord James Douglas Hamilton and Mr. Hugh Jenkins. This would be  
followed by Opposed Private Business: the Third Reading of the British  
Transport Docks (Felixstowe) Bill (Mr. Norman Fowler) and the Greater  
London Council (Money) Bill (Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg).

## 2. Local Government Elections

Mrs. Thatcher congratulated the local government team of spokesmen, and the whole Shadow Cabinet congratulated the Party organisation on the notable Conservative successes in the local government elections on 6th May.

## 3. Matters Arising on Business

Various points were discussed and it was agreed that:

i) We should seek to vote in strength against the Finance Bill clause to allow tax inspectors to enter premises whenever it came up on Committee, and we would tell the Lobby that we would seek to force a further debate and vote against the clause on Report.

ii) A Conservative MP would speak and the Party would vote against Mr. Grocott's 10 Minute Rule Bill on Comprehensive Higher Education.

iii) We would vote on a three line whip against the British Transport Docks (Felixstowe) Bill on Tuesday, 18th May.

iv) As there was a wish in the Party to debate immigration at an early stage, we should draw attention to the fact that Mr. Aitken's Private Member's Motion on 24th May was on immigration and emigration. Mr. Whitelaw would speak on this Motion.

v) We should seek to obtain a full day's debate on the Poll Bill as so many Government Amendments had been tabled as to change the Bill substantially.

## 4. Subjects for the Supply Days

There was a discussion on the basis of the subjects raised at the last meeting (item 2(i) of LCC (76) 109) and it was agreed that:

i) We should debate the Sale of Council and New Town Houses to Tenants on the half Supply Day on 18th May (Mr. Raison, Mr. Ross).

ii) We should debate Nationalisation on the Supply Day on 19th May, with particular reference to the Labour Party's proposals for nationalising banks and insurance and pharmaceutical companies. (Mr. Heseltine would open and Mr. Maude would close).

iii) There would be a three line whip on both days.

## 5. Future Meetings

It was agreed that we should discuss the economic situation and the Government's Pay Deal at the next meeting, on Wednesday 19th May, and the Research Department would prepare a paper.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.