

LEADER'S STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 42nd Meeting held at 5.00 pm.  
on Monday, 3rd 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. Peyton,  
Mr. Maude, Lord Thorneycroft.

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

1. The Decision by the Committee of Selection

There was a discussion about how we would handle the debate that night. It was agreed that Mr. Peyton would make it clear that if we won the vote we expected the Government to concede our case. If we lost the vote we would wish to debate our motion the following day.

There was also a discussion about pairing arrangements for certain Government Ministers. It was agreed that we should not find a pair for Mr. Grosland, who was in China; he had originally been paired with a Liberal and the Liberals had withdrawn their pair.

2. Dual Registration

Mrs. Thatcher referred to the paper by the Research Department on Dual Registration, LSC (76) 53. There was a discussion and it was agreed:

- i) We did not wish the subject of dual registration to be discussed at the Speaker's Conference.
- ii) We did wish the Conference to discuss the fixing of the last hour for polling (which was left over from the last Speaker's Conference), the size of deposits, and the possibility of voting while on holiday.

3. Procedure on Reports from Policy Groups

Mr. Maude reported on the position regarding reports from Policy Groups. There was a discussion and it was agreed that:

- i) Dates would be fixed for discussing reports from Policy Groups.
- ii) The Policy Sub-Committee would examine policy reports and would advise groups a) on those proposals which, in the Sub-Committee's view, the Shadow Cabinet was not likely to agree to, and b) proposals which needed further explanation.
- iii) The Shadow Cabinet should examine the Research Department paper on Conservative Commitments in Opposition at an early date.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.