

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY NO. J...

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

146TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 12th January 1977, in the
Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 144th Meeting.
2. Future business.
3. Fortincoming events.
4. The Bullock Report.
5. Any other business.

2000.

2 tier board

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 146th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12th January 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 Hailsham, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Pym, Mr. Prior, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Davies, Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Maude, Mr. Heave, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Biffon, Mr. King, Mr. Nott, Mr. Taylor, Lord Thorneycroft.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Hooson, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Peyton.

1. Future Business for the Week 17th-24th January

On Monday, 17th January, there would be the Second Reading of the Water Equalisation Charges Bill (Mr. Jones). This would be followed by a Debate on a Motion to approve the First Report from the Select Committee on House of Commons (Services) in Session 1976-77 on Printing of Hansard and on the Sixth Report, Session 1975-76 on Printing of Parliamentary Papers (Mr. R. Cooke).

On Tuesday, 18th January, Mr. Anthony Steen would seek leave to introduce his Elimination of Vandalism (Urban Housing Areas) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by progress on the Committee Stage of the Scotland and Wales Bill (Mr. Pym and team).

On Wednesday, 19th January, Mr. Ian Gow would seek leave to introduce his British Steel Corporation (Denationalisation) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by further progress on the Committee Stage of the Scotland and Wales Bill.

On Thursday, 20th January, there would be a Ballot for Motions on Monday, 7th February. This would be followed by the Second Reading of the Transport (Financial Provisions) Bill (Mr. Fowler), and by a debate on the Consultation Document on Transport Policy.

On Friday, 21st January, there would be debates on the Private Members' Motions of Mr. Bruce George, Mr. Ted Fletcher and Mr. Brian Sedgmore.

2. Matters Arising on Business

The following points arising from business were agreed:

(i) There would be a one line whip on the Second Reading of the Water Equalisation Charges Bill. We would make the point at the Business Committee and the 1922 Committee that there should, however, be a good attendance for this debate. Members of the Shadow Cabinet, however, would not vote and would, where appropriate, seek to pair with Government Members.

(ii) We should vote against the Transport (Financial Provisions) Bill on a 2 line whip, and we should seek to have a suspension of Standing Orders for two hours so that the debate on the Transport Policy Consultation Document might be continued to midnight.

3. Voting on amendments to the Scotland and Wales Bill

There was a discussion and it was agreed that

(i) There would be a one line whip on all prospective amendments except the one to exclude Wales from the Bill which we would vote for on a 3 line whip.

(ii) If they were debated, we would oppose the Liberal amendment which seemed to be paving the way for a federal constitution for the U.K., and we would support the amendment calling for a referendum on the issue, indicating that our support was subject to the detailed proposals when they come.

4. Subjects for Supply Days

There was a discussion on what we should wish to debate on the Supply Day on 24th January and on a further Supply Day which was expected to fall on 27th January. It was agreed that, subject to any urgent issues arising in the meantime, we would debate crime on 24th January and housing on the 27th. It was also agreed that in arranging speakers for the debate on crime, regard would be given to the concern of the people of Scotland on this subject. It was noted that the Research Department would let Mr. Atkins have a list of possible subjects for Supply Days by Monday, 17th January.

There was a discussion on subjects for Supply Days and among the subjects suggested were the following: numbers of civil servants and waste in the Government service; waste in local government and examples of how the newly elected Conservative councils were reducing manpower without redundancy; child benefits; individual cases of hardship under the Government's measures to outlaw the "lump"; the urban crisis; fisheries; road safety (a half-day); the green pound, and unemployment in various regions.

It was also agreed that we wished to debate at an appropriate time the Franks Report on the proposed register of immigrants' dependants, and we also wished to have a debate on foreign affairs, but we should not press for this while delicate negotiations were continuing on the future of Rhodesia.

5. The Bullock Report

Mr. Prior reported on the likely content of the majority and minority reports of the Bullock Committee on worker participation. There was a discussion, and it was agreed that while we might wish to oppose the reports coming from the Bullock Committee, it was important for us to bring forward positive proposals on the subject. The matter would be further discussed at the next meeting.