

LCC

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY NO. 27.



LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

222ND MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 8th November 1978, in  
the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 221st Meeting.
2. Future Business.
3. Forthcoming Events.
4. Any other business.

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 222nd Meeting held at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th November 1978, in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitebaw, Sir Keith Joseph, Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham, Lord Thornycroft, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Pym, 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. Fowler, Lord Denham, Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 13th-20th November

On Monday, 13th November, there would be the Second Reading of the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Bill. This would be followed by Proceedings on the Pensioners Payments Bill (Mr. Hodgson).

On Tuesday, 14th November, there would be a Supply Day, which would be devoted to a Debate on a Motion to take note of Developments in the European Communities January-June 1978 (Cmnd. 7361) (Mr. Hurd). This would be followed by a debate on a Motion on EEC Document R/1123/78 on Mutual Assistance (Direct Taxation).

On Wednesday, 15th November there would be debates on Motions on EEC Documents S/763/78, S/911/78 and Addendum 1 on Enlargement of the Community (Mr. Hurd) and R/1277/78 and R/1131/78 on Display and Pricing of Foodstuffs and R/236/88 on Groundwater Pollution.

On Thursday, 16th November, there would be the Second Reading of the Companies Bill (Mr. Nott, Mr. Parkinson). This would be followed by Motions on the Legal Advice and Assistance (Scotland) Order.

On Friday, 17th November, there would be the Second Reading of the Estate Agents Bill. This would be followed by a Motion on the Assistance for House Purchase and Improvements (Variation of Subsidy) Order.

On Monday, 20th November, there would be the Second Reading of the Banking Bill (Mr. Tapsell, Mr. Stewart).

## 2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion and the following was agreed:

(i) Mr. Boscawen and Dr. Vaughan would speak on the Second Reading of the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Bill.

(ii) We should try to find a member of the European Parliament to close the debate on Developments in the European Community on 14th November; Mr. Peter Rees would speak in the debate on the Motion on Mutual Assistance.

(iii) Mr. Giles Shaw or Mrs. Oppenheim would speak in the debate on 15th November on the Display and Pricing of Foodstuffs, and Mr. Arthur Jones would speak in that on Groundwater Pollution.

(iv) Mr. Fairbairn would speak in the debate on the Motions on the Legal Advice and Assistance (Scotland) Order on 16th November.

(v) Mrs. Oppenheim (or Mr. Shaw) and one Scottish spokesman would speak in the debate on the Second Reading of the Estate Agents Bill on 17th November.

(vi) Mr. Michael Morris would be invited to speak in the debate on the Assistance for House Purchase and Improvements (Variation of Subsidy) Order on 17th November.

(vii) We should protest vigorously at the Government's proposal to have the Second Reading of the Companies Bill next week when, as a result of industrial action, copies of the Bill were not available to those outside Parliament who might be interested in its provisions. We should encourage the Government to take instead the Second Reading of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Bill that day.

(viii) We should indicate our strong objections to taking the Second Reading of the Banking Bill on 20th November unless a printed version of the Bill were available by this coming weekend.

(ix) We should put down a Motion inviting the House to decline to take note of the EEC Document on Display and Pricing of Foodstuffs.

(x) We should not oppose the Estate Agents Bill on 17th November.

## 3. Other Business

Mr. Atkins reported on the numbers likely to vote that night against the Rhodesian Sanctions Order. He also reported on the support we were likely to obtain from the minor parties for our amendments to the Address the following evening.

There was a short discussion on the course so far of the debate on Rhodesia and the Bingham Report. It was agreed that we should oppose all suggestions that Cabinet papers should be produced and that Mr. Luce, who was to close the debate for us, should be informed that we were opposed to another judicial inquiry.

Mrs. Oppenheim reported on the position regarding the Weights and Measures Bill. It was agreed that we should insist that the Second Reading of this Bill should be taken on the floor of the House. We should discuss what line we should take when further details of it were available.

4. Future Business

There would be a discussion on the proposals for a European Monetary System at the next meeting and Sir Geoffrey Howe was invited to prepare a paper. There would also be a discussion in due course of the use we proposed to make in Government of Special Advisers.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m

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

DJN/THM  
13.11.78