

SHADOW CABINET AGENDA FOR 18 JANUARY 1978

ITEM 4 - TACTICS IN THE HOUSE

1. It is quite clear that the Government's tactics are to keep the House of Commons as quiet as possible. Our main objective therefore must be to bring the place alive. We can do this in a variety of ways:-

Supply Days

→

Construction

Questions.

10 Minute Rule Bills

Applications for debates under S.O.9

Adjournment debates, etc.

2. The choice of subjects for Supply Days must be governed by three considerations (not necessarily in order of importance):-

a) Topicality

b) Relation to our main strategic timetable (Annex 1 to Chris Patten's Paper).

c) The views of minor parties (a defeat in a vote in always news and upsetting to the Government).

3. All the other items depend almost entirely on the lead given in the Party Committees. If the Shadow Minister concerned will activate his Officers, form Question groups, get the Committee's Research Officer to produce ideas, etc. etc., then we are in business. If he does nothing, then nothing will happen. The Whips' Office will back any initiative, will service any group, will do all the mechanics necessary but we are not the leaders.

4. I am very ready to expand these themes and suggest certain ideas for consideration if you wish.

Pa

HEA
18.1.78

SUPPLY DAY SUBJECTS

8.2.78

~~Pay Policy - Government Sanctions~~

Industrial Strategy

Morale in NHS

Poor state of passenger transport in some areas

Amnesty for illegal immigrants. Immigration/Race Relations

Steel industry

Use of North Sea Oil revenue

Unsatisfactory state of CAP

Foreign Affairs

Fish ($\frac{1}{2}$)

GATT - International trade

Price Commission activities

~~Unemployment~~

Road haulage industry

Pay and conditions of Armed Forces

Future of Army Youth teams (due to be disbanded on 31.3.78)

Nationalised Industries, esp. transport, aircraft and shipbuilding

Education - standards and values

Human rights (Belgrade Review Conference, Cambodia and Vietnam)

NER Investment programmes

Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Preparation of Legislation
(Renton Report)

Tourism ($\frac{1}{2}$)

Film Industry ($\frac{1}{2}$)

Airport Policy (esp. Scotland)

Tenants' Charter

Threats to Democracy (Subversion, etc.)

Public sector pay policy

Quangos

Profit sharing, wider share ownership, trade union representation

Vandalism in large towns and cities

Transport White Paper

Relationship between trade unions, Government and society

Operation of Community Land Act ($\frac{1}{2}$ day)

Effect of Government policy on the construction industry (housing starts) ($\frac{1}{2}$ day)

"Labour's Programme for Britain 1976"

Tertiary Educations in Scotland ($\frac{1}{2}$ day at end of February)