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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

137TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 10th November 1976, in
the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 136th meeting.
2. Future business.
3. Forthcoming events.
4. The Next Stage of Policy Work - a paper
by Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Maude
(LCC/76/144) and Minutes of a meeting
of the Leader's Steering Committee.
5. Any other business.

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Conservative Research Department,
24 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1

CFP/MMM
8.11.76

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 137th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th November 1976, 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, Mr. Maudling, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior, Mr. Fyn, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. St. John-Stevas, Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Raison, Mr. Maude, Mr. Buchanan-Smith, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Neave, Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Biffen, Lord Thorncroft.

Mr. Atkins.

On attendance: Lord St. Aldwyn, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten, Mr. Hooson, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Mr. Peyton.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 15th-22nd November

On Monday, 15th November, there would be a Motion on the Endowments and Glebe Church of England Measure. This would be followed by Opposed Private Business and by a Commission Document on the JET Project.

On Tuesday, 16th November, Mr. Ian Gow would seek leave to introduce his Cable and Wireless Ltd. (Denationalisation) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Remaining Stages of the Public Lending Right Bill (Mr. St. John Stevas and Mr. R. Cooke).

On Wednesday, 17th November, Mr. M. Kimball would seek Leave to introduce his Firearms Act 1968 (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by Lords Amendments to the Lock Work Regulation Bill (Mr. Prior and team) and Lords Amendments to the Aircraft and Snipbuilding Industries Bill (Mr. Heseltine and team).

On Thursday, 18th November, there would be Lords Amendments to the Rent (Agriculture) Bill (Mr. Fyn, Mr. Rossi and team).

On Friday, 19th November, there would be Lords Amendments to the Health Services Bill (Mr. Jenkin and team).

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion on voting on Friday, 19th November and it was agreed that, while there should be a 3 line whip, Mr. Atkins would have discretion in deciding how to respond to the Government's request for pairs and to pressure from Conservative MPs for leave

of absence. This should only be given to MPs with major Party speaking engagements.

3. House of Lords Business

Lord Carrington reported on the likely attitude of the House of Lords to the current series of controversial Government bills. There was a short discussion and the Shadow Cabinet indicated their support for the Lords' strategy as outlined by Lord Carrington.

4. The Next Stage of Policy Work (LCC/76/144)

The paper by Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Maude on the next stage of policy work was discussed and was agreed subject to the addition of one more policy group on the present workings of the monopolies legislation so far as it affects consumers and trade, and another group on the position of short term benefits, on which Mr. Jenkin would liaise with Mr. Prior.

5. Cambridge By-election

It was noted that this had been fixed for 2nd December, 1976.

6. Future meetings

It was agreed that the Shadow Cabinet would meet at 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd November to discuss the Government's programme for the next session.