

CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNIONISTS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE 186TH MEETING,
HELD ON SATURDAY 7 JULY 1979
AT CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE, WESTMINSTER

Present: Fred Hardman, MBE (Chairman); Tom Ham (Vice Chairman); Geoff Campbell (Vice Chairman); Ken Thornber (Vice Chairman); Peter Alder; Rodney Bennett (Specialist Communication Group); Bill Brum (Eastern); Joy Bushby (West Midlands); Ann Carroll (North West); Margaret Daly (South East); Meg Dean (Local Government); David Exley (Yorkshire); J Farquhar (North West); Helen Gardener (Teachers' Group); Dan Harrison (West Midlands); Jim Hodges (Eastern); David Howell (Wales); Reg Humphrey (South East); Ken Hutchinson (East Midlands); Eric Lancaster (Greater London); David Moor (Northern); Ray Moore (Co-option); Robert Parkhouse (Young Conservative); Loudon Parkin (ASTMS Specialist Group); Frank Russell (Wessex); Barbara Sanders (East Midlands); Les Stapleton (Co-option); Nigel Stone (Co-option); Ralph Tuck (Wales); Mike Watts (Local Government); George Woodhouse (Western); Ken Wootton (Greater London); Lord Gowrie; Martin Gillate; (Minutes Secretary); Paul Dowling; and John C Bowis (Hon Secretary).

Apologies: The Rt Hon James Prior MP; Tim Renton MP; Michael Turner-Bridger; Bill Patton; John Page MP; Charles Birss; Geoffrey Warhurst; Moira Carse; David Sinnott; Dr Cross; and Bill Lippiatt; Jim Lester MP; Patrick Mayhew MP; Patrick Jenkin.

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 9 June.

The Minutes have been circulated and were agreed and signed. However, it was pointed out that the previous minutes were those of the AGM in 1979 and therefore should be held over until the following year. Mr Hardman, the Chairman, considered that in the interests of continuity the AGM should be considered as a normal CTUNC meeting and that the Minutes be accepted at this meeting.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

The representation from the CTUNC on the National Union Executive Committee is the Chairman and Vice Chairman, but it was asked if the Chairman would look into the possibility of extending that representation to be the Chairman and 3 Vice Chairman. The Area representatives on the NUEC are to support this move.

The Chairman felt that the motion submitted by the East Midlands Area should be brought forward and discussed under "matters arising". The motion read thus:- "That this Area CTU is concerned by the allegations of members who were present at the recent CTU National Committee AGM that the administrative arrangements were inadequate and specifically that biographical details of candidates for office were not circulated and that people that were not necessarily entitled to be present at the meeting could wander in and out without their credentials being checked, and that this meeting of the East Midlands Area CTU Committee demands an investigation into the running of the National Committee AGM held on Saturday 9 June 1979". East Midlands Area proposed by Barbara Sanders and seconded by Ann Carroll.

The motion was carried by 14-9.

An emergency motion was proposed by Yorkshire Area asking that the investigation be conducted either by the Senior Vice Chairman or the Director of Community Affairs Department John Bowis. It was pointed out that Central Office would be unable to assist in any investigation of itself. It was therefore decided to hold an emergency meeting of the National Committee on 28 July 1979. The voting on this motion was overwhelmingly carried by 20-0, with 3 abstentions.

Under item 7 of the AGM minutes it was asked that the union membership of co-opted members should be included in the minutes.

Under item 13 of the AGM minutes, a motion was proposed and seconded that there should be a National Conference held in the Autumn of 1979 in addition to 1980 conference.

3 Lord Gowrie, Minister of State for Employment

He thanked the National Committee for inviting him to speak and said that he would be pleased to do so anywhere that he was asked. He said that all James Prior's Employment team were impressed by the speed with which James Prior has tackled the employment problems, but forecast that the most amount of trouble in the future would come from the "white collar sector."

4 Motions for the Party Conference

The meeting discussed the motion put forward by West Midlands Area which read:- "This Conference recommends that there should be a complete reappraisal of all aspects of the hotel and licensed trade in order to prevent the exploitation of employees and create more employment on a sound professional basis. This to be achieved by joint consultation between employers and an appropriate trade union." The motion was carried.

Three other motions were considered and carried. They read as follows:

Yorkshire CTU

The CTU would welcome an early implementation of the Conservative Party's election promise to increase defence spending particularly in view of the beneficial effect that such action would have on the threat of unemployment which hangs over many workers in the aerospace, shipbuilding, electronics and ordnance industries.

Wales CTU

This meeting of the Wales Area CTU calls upon the CTU National Committee and organisation nationally to put greater effort into getting more national media coverage for CTU activities, especially in view of the work put in by local CTU members for the recent General Election victory.

Wales CTU

This meeting of the Wales CTU Area Committee calls upon the CTUNC to set up a Publicity Sub-Committee of grass root members

to be concerned with the publication of simple organisational literature.

The motion from West Midlands Area concerned Sandwell District Council was discussed. It was decided that this motion should be brought into discussions on the closed shop working papers proposed by the Government at the next meeting with James Prior.

Various motions from the National Committee in Scotland were passed and forwarded for the Party Conference.

5 Report from the General Purposes Committee

It was reported that the following people from the General Purposes Committee would be representatives for liason between that committee and their relative specialist group.

Bill Brum	Communication Group
Ken Thornber	Local Government Group
David Exley	Post Office Group
Ken Hutchinson	Airport Workers Group
Geoff Campbell	Railway Workers Group
David Howell	Civil Service Group

In addition there are various areas of representation, Youth - Dan Harrison; Election Campaign - David Exley. Further areas of representation are to be included at the next meeting.

6 The Election of Category V (Printing) Co-option

It was decided that the Communications Group were to propose a member to fill the vacancy of the printing co-option.

7 Report from meeting with Secretary of State for Employment

The meeting discussed three principal matters; the first being being changes in the Employment Protection Act; secondly cases in the Manpower Services Commission, thirdly general manpower cuts in the public sector. This report was given by Geoff Campbell, Mike Watts and Ken Hutchinson. Minutes of the meeting of the 28 June are to follow.

8 John C Bowis

The Chairman congratulated John Bowis on his appointment as Director of Community Affairs Department. John thanked the Chairman and committee and said that CTU will be given highest priority by the Party in the years to come.

9 Publicity

It was asked if more publicity could be given to CTU by Ministers when they appear on the television and radio. This view has been expressed to James Prior.

10 The Party Conference

There will be a CTU reception at the Party Conference on Wednesday 10 October at 12.30 pm in the Masonic Room of the Imperial Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool. A speaker has not been organised at present.

The possibility of a CTU reception/party organised by the local Blackpool CTU Group was discussed and the North West Area will be contacting the group.

11 Swinton

This will be attended by 65 Trade Unionists and will be addressed by James Prior, Joe Kirwan and possibly a union official. The course is being organised by Peter Wilde and he was looking into the possibility of designing the course around the same basis as the CDA one in West Germany.

12 TUC

There will be a fringe meeting open to all delegates on Thursday 6 September at 6.30 pm in the Warbreck Room, of the Imperial Hotel. It will probably not be addressed by James Prior but, it is hoped that a member of his Employment team will attend the meeting.

There will also be a daily news sheet given out to all delegates.

13 International

There will be a visit to the European Academy in Otzenhausen near Trier, West Germany, between Sunday 6 November and Saturday 10 November to attend the joint seminar between ourselves and our CDA colleagues in West Germany.

There will also be a visit to Rumania for 4 people in August 1980 and will cost approximately £150-180. It was asked if this West German trip could start on the Sunday instead of the Monday due to the consequent late arrival at Otzenhausen.

14 Reports in writing from Areas.

There were three written reports, one from London, one from the Wessex Area and one from the Eastern Area. In addition to the Wessex Area report Ken Thornber said that the Wessex Area European MPs had asked to meet the Wessex Area CTU for advice and discussion on Industrial Relations.

15 Reports in writing from Specialist Groups

There was a written report from the Local Government and Health Service Group.

16 CTU Autumn Programme

There will be a CTU conference in the Autumn, the reception at the CTU Party Conference, various area one day conferences,

and the possibility of a Youth Trade Unionists' Conference.

17 Employment Department Matters

The next meeting of the CTUNC with James Prior will take place on Wednesday 11 July and attending will be Tom Ham (EETPU) Frank Russell (ACTSS) Mike Watts (NALGO) Ken Thornber (ASTMS) Rodney Bennett (ABS) and Ken Hutchinson (CPSA).

18 Report and discussion on Working Party on Democracy within the unions.

Ken Thornber introduced the report and discussed it briefly, after more debate by the National Committee the report was withdrawn from general circulation but those who had retained copies should reply by the 21 July with their comments.

19 Any other Business

Helen Gardener announced the date of the next CTU Teachers Group meeting and their location in the country.

A motion was put forward by the Yorkshire Area that the next meeting of the CTUNC should be held in Leeds. This was carried.

20 Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the National Committee will be on Saturday 22 September at 11.30 am at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds.