

THE NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday 12th July 1979

The Committee met at 32 Smith Square, Westminster on Thursday 12th July 1979 at 2.15 p.m. under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Johnston, T.D. The names of the 97 members present are recorded.

1. Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman spoke of the very sad and tragic deaths of Rt. Hon. The Lord Hewlett, C.B.E., former Executive Committee Chairman and National Union President, and Rt. Hon. John Davies, M.B.E., former Cabinet Minister and Shadow Foreign Secretary, and he asked members to stand as a mark of respect for both.

He welcomed and congratulated Mr. Pat Lawrence on becoming Chairman of the West Midlands Area; Mr. Dimitri Argyropulo on becoming Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Education, with Mr. Les Lawrence as Vice Chairman; Dr. Laurence Ware on becoming Chairman of the National Association of Conservative Graduates; Mrs. Marjorie Collie as the new Chairman of the Scottish Women's Advisory Committee; Mr. D. O. G. McLean as a junior Vice-President of S.C.U.A. and Mr. Michael Carter as Treasurer of Western Area. He also welcomed other new members of the Committee.

The Chairman congratulated Sir Horace Cutler and Sir Gervas Walker on their knighthoods in the Birthday Honours.

He read a letter of thanks from the Prime Minister regarding the N.U.E.C. dinner.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies from 32 members were noted and recorded.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June, having been circulated with the agenda, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Business arising from the minutes

The Chairman reported:

(a) The National Agricultural and Countryside Forum was launched successfully on the previous day with 18 present;

(b) The Chancellor of the Exchequer had conveyed his thanks for the Committee's message regarding the Budget;

(c) The problem of



(c) The problem of the co-opted members of the Committee had been considered by a recent meeting of the Standing Review Committee which recommended that it might be solved by changing the rules to make the Chairman of the Review Committee an ex officio member of the Executive Committee as strong cases had been presented by the Society of Conservative Lawyers and the Conservative Medical Society for the retention of their two co-opted members each. The Standing Review Committee's recommendation was approved.

(d) Mrs. Pam Hunter referred to a resolution from the W.N.A.C. regarding the voiding of the London South West Euro Election which it had been agreed to withdraw as they did not wish to prejudice Miss Shelagh Roberts' position. The Chairman said that everything possible was being done.

#### 5. Discussion on the Budget

The Chairman invited the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C., M.P., to lead this discussion. Sir Geoffrey said that the public expenditure cuts were absolutely vital in order to pull back from the brink of economic disaster in the face of the difficult world situation and the strength of our foreign competitors. He referred to the cuts in income tax and the increases in personal allowances saying that the Government had carried out its Election promises and would now require high morale and leadership from the Party in the difficult days ahead.

Sir Geoffrey answered some wide ranging questions in a very forthright manner and was thanked by the Chairman who assured him of the Party's support after his courageous budget.

#### 6. Elections by postal ballot

The Chairman referred to the Secretary's letter of 4th July detailing the results of the elections concluded on 3rd July and it was agreed that these should be recorded as follows:

##### Unopposed Returns

##### Chairman of the Executive Committee

Sir Charles Johnston, T.D.

##### General Purposes Committee

Three Young Conservatives elected:

Mr Nicholas Mearing-Smith  
Mr Eric Pickles  
Mr Iain Picton

Three Trade Unionists elected:

Mr Geoffrey Campbell  
Mrs Margaret Daly  
Mr Kenneth Thornber

##### Conservative Commonwealth and Overseas Council General Committee

Two representatives elected:

Mr Hilary Eccles-Williams, C.B.E.  
Mr John Fairhead

##### /Contested Elections



Contested Elections

Three men members on the General Purposes Committee

Mr. Michael Craig-Cooper, T.D.  
Mr. Sydney Plaister, C.B.E.  
Mr. Michael Taylor

Three women members on the General Purposes Committee

Mrs. Gillian Miscampbell, C.C.  
Mrs. Yvonne Shearman, J.P.  
Mrs. Joan Seccombe, J.P., C.C.

Four members on the Party's Advisory Committee on Policy

Sir Frank Marshall  
Mr. C. Russell Sanderson  
Sir Herbert Redfearn, J.P., D.L.  
Mr. Fred Hardman, M.B.E.

Eight members on the C.P.C. National Advisory Committee

Mrs. Mary Bridges  
Mrs. Geraldine Scott-Hopkins  
Mr. Robert Hughes  
Mr. Jeremy Elwes  
Mrs. Joyce Billings  
Mrs. Alma Hill  
Mr. Ian Tunnicliffe  
Mrs. Jacqueline Lysaght, C.C.

Four members on the Conservative and Unionist Agents' Examination Board

Sir Charles Johnston, T.D.  
Sir Herbert Redfearn, J.P., D.L.  
Mrs. Yvonne Shearman, J.P.  
Mrs. Alma Hill

Two members on the International Office Overseas Committee

Mr. Michael Craig-Cooper, T.D.  
Mr. James Lemkin, G.L.C.

Mr. David Davenport-Handley, O.B.E., J.P., D.L., Chairman of the National Union, expressed their congratulations to Sir Charles Johnston on his re-election unopposed as Chairman of the Executive Committee and their thanks for all his work both for and outside the Committee including acting as an observer during the Rhodesian elections.

7. Resolutions received from Area, Constituency and other Organisations

None had been received for this meeting.

/8. Report



8. Report from the Chairman of the International Office

Sir Anthony Royle, K.C.M.G., M.P. reported on the re-organisation of the International Office, links with the Members of the European Parliament, the setting up of the E.D.U. as an umbrella organisation of the right and centre parties in Europe and the forthcoming Conference in London of their leaders. He gave details of a small working party which had been formed under National Union chairmanship and representative of the Party as a whole in order to deal with the problems in regard to the European aspect. Mr. Jim Spicer, the Group's Chief Whip, spoke in support of Sir Anthony's proposals.

Sir Anthony was thanked by the Chairman and the Secretary was asked to send a message of good wishes to Mr. Alexander Walker, C.M.G. the Director of the International Office and Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Policy, who was recovering from a serious operation.

9. Future representation from European Constituency Councils at various levels of the Party Organisation

The Chairman said the Committee was not called upon to make any decisions immediately but to give their views on E.C.C. representation within the Party so that a paper might be drawn up for future consideration. He spelt out the two alternatives of embracing the E.C.C.s within the existing structure of Area Councils and the Central Council or the setting up of Area and National Advisory Committees for Europe. Members seemed to favour the first alternative but he hoped the matter would be discussed at Area level and there would need to be consultations with Mr. Scott-Hopkins and the Conservative Group.

It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Standing Review Committee for further consideration and Mr. Brian Edwards said that a paper being considered by Area Chairmen would be submitted to that Committee. In the meantime approval was given to the Standing Review Committee's recommendation that the Executive Committee should invite E.C.C. Chairmen to this year's Party Conference.

10. Business for the next meeting

It was agreed to ask the Rt. Hon. The Lord Carrington, K.C.M.G., M.C. or Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, M.P. to speak at the next meeting on 15th November.

11. Any other business

It was agreed to re-appoint Miss Shelagh Roberts, G.L.C. as a representative of the employing associations for a further three years on the Management Committee of the Conservative and Unionist Agents' Superannuation Fund of which at that time she was Chairman.

Sir John Taylor, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P. asked, as a former N.U.E.C. Chairman, to be allowed to pay tribute to the work of Lord Hewlett. The National Union and the Party owed a great debt of gratitude to Lord Hewlett for all his efforts for the Conservative cause and not least his tremendous oratory at election time. It was agreed to place this tribute on record.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.



THE NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATIONSPARTY CONFERENCE STATISTICS

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
Overall time of Conference	20h15m	22h 9m
Number of motions debated/discussions	17	18
Average time taken by reply speakers	19m	19m
Leader of the Party's speech	42m	50m
Number of representatives speaking	143	162
Number of speakers' slips submitted	N/A	526
<u>Analysis of speakers:</u>		
Men	116	129
Women	27	33
YCs	16	25
Students	9	7
Trade Unionists	12	19
MPs and Peers	6	8
MEPs	-	5
Candidates	47	26
Greater London Area	29	31
Northern	9	7
North-Western	11	21
Yorkshire	9	11
East Midlands	8	8
West Midlands	8	12
Eastern	9	16
South-Eastern	10	17
Wessex	14	9
Western	10	10
Wales	5	13
Scotland	9	7
Ulster	2	-
Result of financial appeal	£5,141	£4,712