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OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE OF THE 1922 COMMITTEE

Leader's Room - Tuesday, 26th April, 1977 at 4.30 pm.

Present:- M.T. Edward du Cann David Walder Betty Harvie Anderson  
 Sir John Hall Peter Rees Peter Hordern  
 David Mitchell Sir Paul Bryan Hon. Charles Morrison  
 Walter Clegg Kenneth Baker Mark Carlisle  
 Philip Goodhart Sir Bernard Braine In attendance: H.A.  
 John Osborn Sir Nigel Fisher

1. At the request of those present, Mrs. Thatcher gave a resume of her impressions of China, following her visit during the Easter recess.
  
2. Pay Policy, etc  
Morrison - Not much enthusiasm for formal Pay Policy. However, Government negotiating Phase III. What is our view? How are relations with Trades Unions progressing? Sees signs of anarchy in T.U.s.  
Hall - Hopes we shall move away from formal pay restraint. Produces distortions and a low-wage, low-productivity economy. Also results in unnecessary changing of jobs (as the only way to get an increase) and brain drain. Wants increased profit sharing (perhaps on French model).  
Baker - Media misinterpret our position. Believes there is not so much disagreement in the party and that we have got a sensible policy (as outlined most recently by Geoffrey Howe). Thinks the central feature of political scene will be unemployment.  
Hordern - Horsham TUAC told him (with some pride) that it was Conservatives who were behind the Heathrow and Leyland strikes! No doubt that differentials are the main worry all through the T.U. movement. We should say less about pay restraint and more about full employment.  
Mitchell - the restraints should be the traditional ones ie. danger of bankruptcy, unemployment, etc.  
M.T. - We want to move to responsible collective bargaining but it may not be right to do it at once. Bargaining only at very top ie. between TUC and Government, is the negation of Trade Unionism. Fairly easy to return to free collective bargaining except for public service and nationalised industries. Government too much involved in wage bargaining - should leave it more to management



2. contd.

of nationalised industries, setting only cash limits.  
Must have more bargaining at place of work.  
We shall win some battles and lose some but we must go  
on dispersing responsibility.

3.

Devolution.

Fisher - asked for clarification of our position in advance of M.T.'s  
& F.P.'s speeches at Perth. Hopes M.T. will get off the hook  
of directly elected assembly. M.T. should keep all options  
open.

Harvie Anderson - Perth important but must look further ahead. Great  
difficulty of getting any devolution proposals through  
Parliament when M.T. is Prime Minister.

M.T. - Devolution debates have clearly shown that no party alone can  
get any policy through. Therefore, Speaker's Conference or  
Constitutional Convention must be set up. No pledge by M.T.  
can be made, because cannot be carried.  
In any case, major constitutional changes ought to cross party  
support.

4.

Direct Elections

Rees - Is Government serious? Time Factor? Our position on Guillotine?  
If Government not serious, what should we do? If there is a  
Bill, what do we think about electoral system?

Walder - estimated about 100 totally anti P.R. Party might move towards  
P.R. simply because they are keen on direct elections.

Goodhart - against regional list P.R. but fears (as David Walder) that  
it might happen with unknown and perhaps disastrous results  
domestically. However, Labour party are probably just as much  
against it as he is. Two points - system in N.I. must be the  
same as the rest of U.K. - citizens of Eire should not have  
two votes.

Osborn - U.K.'s position in Europe at all-time low.

Braine - wrong to have two different systems for elections, one for  
Europe, one for Westminster. Stick to first past the post.



4. contd. Fisher - in favour of P.R.

Carlisle - ditto. Doesn't see necessity for constituency/member link for Europe.

M.T. - Best interest of U.K. in Europe or anywhere is to get rid of Socialist Government. If Liberals get their way over P.R. this will be more difficult. Wants constituency/member link.

27th April, 1977