

Steering

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MRS. THATCHER

Leader's Steering Committee
54th Meeting Chairman's Agenda

1. I was asked at the meeting of the Steering Committee on the 30th January, 1978 to redraft my Strategy paper taking account of the paper on "Stepping Stones" and the work of the Committee on Election Themes (see minutes, paragraph (v)). I am sorry if you did not mean me to circulate the Themes paper with the others.

2. The main question to be discussed about this paper is whether it is broadly right, but there are a number of specific points for decision as well -

- (a) Is the paper right to argue that we should be careful to keep a balance between the economic and non-economic issues? Recent reports suggesting that the Government have been, as usual, over optimistic about our economic prospects should strengthen our economic case.
- (b) Should we be concerned about our credibility as an alternative Government and if so are the suggestions made in paragraph 11 along the right lines?
- (c) Can we usefully make any decisions now about the pacing of our attack in the event of the Election not being held in the Autumn? I would have thought we are pretty well in a position in which the race has started and we just have to go on running until we get to the tape.

- (d) Are the negative and positive themes set out in paragraph 8 the main ones on which we should concentrate? N
- (e) What progress has been made with the subject campaigns referred to in paragraphs 9(a) and (b)? Plans for the announcement of our immigration proposals will no doubt be discussed at the subsequent Shadow meeting, see 9(c).
- (f) Are we right to run subject campaigns on housing and education and when should they start?
- (g) Is the approach to "Stepping Stones" suggested in paragraph 7 and paragraph 9(f) the right one? This would concentrate the "Stepping Stones" campaign on the development of our up-market argument.
- (h) What more should we be doing in the House of Commons to underpin our strategy?
- (i) What view does the Committee take on the publications proposed in 10(b)? In particular should we go ahead with a simple economic pamphlet after the Budget? Should we prepare a document similar to "The Right Approach to the Economy" on Home Affairs policy? Should we try to get a CPC pamphlet bringing together essays by Labour and Liberal defectors?
- (j) Should we set in hand the preparation of the seminars mooted in 10(c)?
- (k) Is the suggestion about monitoring progress made in paragraph 12 sensible or would it just inflate the agenda of Shadow Cabinet meetings each week with vague discussions about the current political scene?

3. I am afraid that I have dictated this rather rapidly but I hope it is what you wanted. !



CHRIS PATTEN