

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 171st Meeting held at 5.15 p.m.
on Wednesday, 20th July 1977, 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,
Lord Thorneycroft, Mr. Prior,
Mr. Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin,
Mr. Peyton, Mr. Neave, Mr. Heseltine,
Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Nott,
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. King, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Mr. Speed,
Mr. Finsberg, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten,
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Hooson, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Davies,
Mr. Maude, Mr. Edwards.

1. The Shadow Cabinet congratulated Mrs. Thatcher on her successful opening speech in the debate which was taking place on the Government's pay policy.

2. Proposed Business for the Week 25th-29th July

On Monday, 25th July, there would be the completion of the remaining stages of the Finance Bill (Mr. Howell and team).

On Tuesday, 26th July, Mr. F. Silvester would seek leave to introduce his Independence of the House of Commons Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by consideration of Lords Amendments to the Control of Office Development Bill, and of any other Lords Messages which may be received. (Mr. Rossi, Mr. Finsberg) This would be followed by amendments to the Coal Industry Bill (Mr. H. Gray), by the Local Authorities (Restoration of Works Powers) Bill (Mr. Speed), by the Criminal Law Bill (Sir Michael Havers), by a debate on the Select Committee Report on the Conduct of Members (Mr. Pym), by a debate on Motions on the African Developments Fund Order and on Motions on the House Purchase and Improvements Order (Mr. Rossi).

On Wednesday, 27th July, Mr. K. McNamara would seek leave to introduce his Rent Acts (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a debate on the Joint Select Committee Report on Sound Broadcasting (Mr. R. Cooke), by a debate on Motions on Members Allowances, Salaries and Pensions (Mr. Pym), by Proceedings on the National Health Service Bill (Mr. Awdry), by the remaining stages of the Employment Protection Bill and of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill and by Motions on Dividends, Pay and Prices.

On Thursday, 28th July, there would be a Motion for the Summer Adjournment. This would be followed by Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill and by consideration of any Lords Messages which may be received.

On Friday, 29th July, there would be adjournment debates.

3. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion of certain points and the following was agreed:

(i) There would be a strong two line whip on the Lords' amendments to the Control of Office Development Bill on 26th July and the Chief Whip would do his best to see that the Party voted in strength.

(ii) We should seek to debate the Select Committee Report on the conduct of Members earlier on the 26th July, and also try to transfer the subjects tabled for 26th July (on which we were not likely to vote) to the 27th July.

(iii) Mr. Whitelaw and Lord Hailsham would find out from the Home Secretary what the Government intended to do over the Lords' amendment to the Criminal Law Bill to provide for young offenders to be sent to prison for periods of between six months and two years. There would be a two line whip on this amendment, but we should not attempt to prevent the passage of the Bill if we were not able to get our way.

(iv) There would be no whip for the debate on sound broadcasting on 27th July.

(v) We should seek to debate the motions on dividends, pay and prices earlier on 27th July.

4. Select Committee on Conduct of Members

There was a discussion on the issues arising from this Select Committee Report.

5. Other Business

There was a discussion on whether to allow part of the LCC meeting of 27th July to be filmed for the forthcoming BBC programme on the Party. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

6. Future Meetings

It was agreed that there should be a meeting of the LCC the following Monday, 25th July, at 5.00 p.m. to discuss the papers on transport and small businesses.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.