

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 83rd Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.  
on Tuesday 18th November 1975 in the  
Leader's Room at the House of Commons

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)  
Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph  
Lord Hailsham, Mr. Maudling  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Gilmour  
Lord Carrington, Mr. Prior  
Mr. Peyton, Mr. St. John-Stevas  
Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Raison  
Mr. Laude, Mr. Buchanan-Smith  
Mr. Edwards, Mr. Neave  
Mr. Younger, Mr. Fowler  
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Jopling  
Lord Thornercroft

Mr. Atkins

In attendance: Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Patten  
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson

Apologies: Mr. Jenkin

Programme for the Debate on the Address

After a discussion it was agreed to devote the four full days on debate on the Address to the following subjects:  
Thursday 20th November - Industry and Prices  
Friday 21st November - the Health Service  
Monday 24th November - Education  
Tuesday 25th November - the Economy

It was agreed that our criticism of the Government's proposals for dock labour might be made in the debate on Tuesday 25th November. We would move amendments to the Address on both Monday and Tuesday. We could explain to the Press that we were not seeking to debate devolution during these debates, as we expected a full debate on this subject following publication of the White Paper on Thursday 27th November.

2. The Health Service Dispute

There was a discussion. It was agreed that in commenting on the dispute we needed to balance expressions of sympathy for the junior doctors and consultants with our general position, as set out by Mr. Whitelaw in his broadcast on 21st August in reply to Mr. Wilson's broadcast on the Government's anti-inflation programme. In this we pledged that we would not give comfort or encouragement to industrial action against the Government's measures. In commenting on the Health Service dispute we would deplore the circumstances in which the dispute had arisen; emphasise that we were opposed to any group using their monopoly power to penalise the innocent and that all such groups ...../ ought to

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ought to practise restraint at a time of extreme danger for the economy; but that, on the other hand, we should urge the Government to listen to the reasonable demands put by the doctors and consultants. We should also contrast the firm position now taken by Mrs. Castle and Mr. Foot with their position on pay claims under the Conservative Government, especially that of the hospital ancillary workers in 1973, and with Mrs. Castle's reactions to NUPE's industrial action over pay-beds.

The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.