

NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES POLICY GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Nationalised Industries  
Policy Group held on 28th April, 1976.

Present: Hon. Nicholas Ridley, M.P. (Chairman)  
Mr. David Alexander  
Mr. Faul Channon, M.P.  
Rt. Hon. Maurice Macmillan, M.P.  
Mr. Peter Rees, M.P.  
Mr. Peter Tapsell, M.P.  
Sir George Young, M.P.

Mr. Nicholas True (Secretary)

1. Mr. John Wood had agreed to attend meetings. It was agreed that no other permanent members would be required.
2. The next meetings would be held at 5.00 p.m. on:  
Wednesday, 12th May 1976 in House of Commons, Interview Room G;  
Wednesday, 26th May 1976 in House of Commons, Interview Room G;  
Wednesday, 16th June 1976 -- Room to be arranged.
3. The Chairman undertook to circulate certain figures on the relative performance of UK nationalised industries. The C.P.R.S. paper was also available to members.
4. It was emphasized that increasing the efficiency of the industries concerned and achieving cuts in public expenditure must be prime considerations of the Policy Group.
5. Attempts to define common problems besetting all nationalised industries were felt unsatisfactory. It was important to examine the nature of each industry to see what form public ownership took in each case and where statutory monopolies existed. Mr. Ridley undertook to circulate a document for the next meeting containing this information.
6. Discussion centred on the various forms which denationalisation might take. It was agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting examining each industry on the basis of the documents to be circulated by Mr. Ridley.
7. It was conceded that in the event of any decisions to denationalise certain industries or parts of industries could never be commercially viable; the implications of this fact would have to be examined.