

17

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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

165TH MEETING

4.30 p.m., Wednesday, 15th June 1977, in the
Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 163rd and 164th Meetings.
2. Future Business.
3. Forthcoming Events.
4. Any other business.

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 165th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th June 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, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior, Mr. Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Davies, Mr. Neave, Mr. Heseltine, Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Maude, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nott, Mr. King, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Hooson, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Mr. Peyton, Mrs. Oppenheim.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 20th-27th June

On Monday, 20th June, there would be a Supply Day. This would be followed by a Motion on EEC Documents on Fisheries Policy R/1173 and 1174/77 and S/779/77.

On Tuesday, 21st June, Mr. D. Hoyle would seek leave to introduce his Inward Investment Board under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the remaining stages of the Price Commission Bill (Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Parkinson).

On Wednesday, 22nd June, Mr. G. Dunwoody would seek leave to introduce his European Communities Act (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the remaining stages of the Price Commission Bill (Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Parkinson) and by Proceedings on Restrictive Trade Practices Bill (Mr. Parkinson).

On Thursday, 23rd June, there would be a Supply Day. This would be followed by the remaining stages of New Towns Bill.

On Friday, 24th June, there would be the remaining stages of the Coal Industry Bill (Mr. King, Mr. Gray). This would be followed by Motions on EEC Documents R/1125 and 1149/77 on Monetary Compensation Amounts, and R/2655/76 on Illegal Immigration and Employment.

On Monday, 27th June, there would be a Supply Day.

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion and the following points were agreed:

(i) We should debate housing in England and Wales on the Supply Day on 20th June (Mr. Heseltine and Mr. Rossi) and vote on the adjournment on a 3 line whip and we should debate UK fishing on the Supply Day on 23rd June on a 3 line whip (Mr. Peyton and Mr. Taylor).

(ii) We would seek to debate the remaining stages of the New Towns Bill on Monday, 20th June.

(iii) We would give the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists provisional notice that we were proposing to let them have the Supply Day on 27th June.

(iv) Mr. Atkins, in consultation with those dealing with the Bill, would decide on whipping on the remaining stages of the Price Commission Bill after the earlier amendments, on which there would be a 3 line whip.

(v) In Mrs. Oppenheim's absence, it was noted that, besides the Prices team, Mr. Nott, Mr. Lamont and Mr. Giles Shaw would be available to assist in debating the Price Commission Bill.

(vi) Certain of our Scottish spokesmen would reply to debates on amendments initiated by the SNP.

(vii) Our main message in debating the Price Commission Bill was that price control had had very little effect on prices but had been demaging to investment and jobs.

(viii) It was noted that we were not likely to wish to go to unusual lengths in fighting the Bill in the House of Lords.

3. Commonwealth Prime Ministers

Mrs. Thatcher reported on meetings she and Mr. Davies had had with certain of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

4. Present Political Situation

There was a discussion on the present political situation arising from the carrying of certain amendments to the Finance Bill to raise tax allowances, and the prospects for a Bill on Direct Elections. The following points were agreed:

(i) We should say that the amendments to the Finance Bill simply took personal tax allowances in real terms back to where they were at the time of the 1976 Budget. We should note that Mr. Pardoe voted with the Government.

(ii) We still could not come to a final decision on how to respond to the Direct Elections Bill until we saw precisely what it contained.

(iii) As the three main Party candidates in the Saffron Waldon by-election were believed to support British membership of the EEC, we should not seek to give prominence to that issue in the by-election.

(iv) We should attack Mr. Silkin's mishandling of discussions with our EEC partners over agriculture and fisheries.

The meeting closed at 6.12 p.m.