

CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNIONISTS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE 191ST MEETING, BEING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 1980  
AT CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE, 32 SMITH SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 3HH

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Members Present:

The following signed the register of attendance:

Fred Hardman MBE (Chairman); Peter Bottomley MP (President); Tim Renton MP (Vice-President); Robert Atkins MP (Vice President-elect); Geoff Campbell (Vice-Chairman); Ken Thornber (Vice-Chairman); J. Davies (NALGO); Bob Mackinlay (ASTMS); W. Lippiatt (AUEW); F. Sharratt (ASTMS); P.B. Taylor (SCPS); Tom Ham MBE (EETPU); Joy Bushby (APEX); G. Millichamp (Agents); P. Alder (ASTMS); W.E. Brum (ASTMS); B. Smith (NGA); K. Wootton ( UKAPE/EETPU); F. Russell (ACTSS/T&G); D. Sinnott (TGWU); J.B. Thompson (MATSA); J. Malloch (ASTMS); J.E. Toothill (ACC); A.J. Farquhar (POEU); Meg Doult (CPSA); Roger Gale (ACTT); Sam Radford (NALGO); L. Stapleton (COSA/NUM); R. Holder (ASTEMS); Dr. R. Cross (BMA); H. Ward (ASTMS); W.K. Williams (NALGO); Rosemary Brown (WNAC/NUJ); Anne Carroll (APEX); Eric Langcaster (ASTMS); Grahame Leon-Smith (NAHT); M. Watts (NALGO); Margaret Murcott (IRSF); A.D. Sillitoe (ASMS); J. Fairhead (CPC NAC); David Steyn (FCS); J. Howard (EPEA); Sir Charles Johnston TD (Chairman NUEC); Richard Needham MP (SLADE); John C. Bowis (Director, Community Affairs Dept); Peter Wilde (Hon. Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Rt. Hon. James Prior MP, The Earl of Gowrie, Patrick Mayhew MP, James Lester MP, John Page MP, Ron Porter, Ralph Tuck, Dan Harrison, Reg Humphrey, Alf Roberts, Miss Moira Carse, Geoffrey Warhurst and Miss Brenda Utting.

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks:

The Chairman, in opening the Annual General Meeting, warmly welcomed all new members of the Committee to their first meeting and explained that there were many new members attending as most areas had recently held their Annual Meetings. He also explained that the Secretary of State and his colleagues were regrettably unable to be represented at this meeting owing to ministerial commitments.

In particular, the Chairman welcomed to the meeting Sir Charles Johnston TD (Chairman of the National Union Executive Committee), Mr. Richard Needham MP (representing the Parliamentary Employment Committee), Mr. John C. Bowis (Director of Community Affairs Department), and Mr. Gordon Millichamp (representing the National Society of Conservative and Unionist Agents).

The Chairman put it to the meeting that as under item 7 (election of officers) candidates had been nominated both for the GP Committee and for co-option that the election for co-opted members should be held before the election for GP members. This proposal was discussed by the meeting and it was agreed not to alter the order of the elections.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March 1980:

These were taken as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. Rules Revision Committee (Minute 8)

The Chairman reported that the amendments to the rules passed at the last meeting of the National Committee had been forwarded to the National Union Executive Committee and considered at their meeting on 24th April 1980. The amendments to the rules had been approved with an alteration to rule 6(d) concerning the appointment of representatives from the CTU National Committee to the National Union General Purposes Committee - the amended rule will be circulated.



b. General Purposes Committee (Minute 9)

It was agreed that in future the General Purposes Committee should circulate to the National Committee a brief written report or minutes of their meetings.

5. Address by Peter Bottomley MP

The Chairman invited Peter Bottomley MP (CTU President) to address the meeting and Mr. Bottomley in his address commended the CTU for its development and expansion in recent years and emphasised the need and importance for the CTU not only to continue but to increase its activities. The response by Trade Unionists throughout the country to the TUC's call for a day of action on May 14th was only one example of the need for CTU to now concentrate its activities at a local level within the trade union movement. He also emphasised that the CTU should never forget the importance of its work within the Party and of its role of explaining to the Party the work and attitudes of trade unionists.

In concluding his remarks he presented the CTU with a Trophy as a mark of his gratitude and enjoyment of his work as CTU president. The Trophy would form the prize for an annual competition for the CTU area which had shown the most progress in the previous year and details of how the competition would be organised would be announced shortly.

The Chairman warmly thanked Mr. Bottomley for his most generous presentation and the considerable amount of work he had done for the CTU and the CTU National Committee as Vice-President from 1976 - 1978 and President from 1978 - 1980. He would, of course, be remaining a member of the Committee as the immediate past President.

6. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman verbally presented his annual report and, in particular, emphasised the considerable achievements made by CTU in recent years both within the Party and amongst Trade Unionists. It was particularly indicative of the importance put on CTU by the Party and the Government that the CTU was now regularly consulted by Ministers on employment and other specialised issues. He thanked the Committee for their support during his 3 years in office and also the officers. The report was moved and accepted.

7. Election of Officers for 1980/81

a. President

Tim Renton MP (APEX) was elected unopposed as President for the coming year. Mr. Renton made a short address.

b. Vice-President

Robert Atkins MP (ASTMS) was elected unopposed as Vice-President for the coming year.

c. Chairman

The Chairman took the chair and proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman for the considerable work that he had done for the CTU during his 3 years of office as Chairman and previously as a Vice-Chairman. Geoff Campbell MBE (AUEW/TASS) was elected unopposed as Chairman for the coming year.

The President then invited Geoff Campbell MBE to take the Chair and the Chairman made a brief address emphasising that he and the other officers who were to be elected at today's meeting would be meeting shortly to consider the CTU's priorities for the coming year and would be presenting to the next meeting their proposed activities.



d. Election of Two Vice-Chairmen

After a ballot the following were elected as Vice-Chairmen for the coming year:-

Peter Alder (ASTMS)  
Ken Thornber (ASTMS)

e. Election of Six GP Members

After a ballot the following were elected as General Purposes Committee Members for the coming year:-

Bill Brum (ASTMS)  
Moirá Carse (SSTA)  
Russell Cross (ASTMS/MPU)  
Tom Ham (EETPU)  
David Sinnott (TGWU)  
Ken Williams (NALGO)

f. Election of Five Co-opted Members

After a ballot the following were elected as Co-opted Members for the coming year:-

Jim Hodges (SCPS)  
Frank Sharratt (ASTMS)  
Les Stapleton (NUM)  
Geoffrey Warhurst (BIFU)  
Ken Wootton (UKAPE)

During the ballots for the elections Sir Charles Johnston TD, Mr. John Bowis and Mr. Richard Needham briefly addressed the meeting. In his remarks Mr. Bowis referred to the Community Affairs Department's proposals for promoting the Employment Bill and for preparing for May 14th and the TUC's proposed Day of Action.

8. Report on Meeting held with the Secretary of State on Monday 17th 1980

Mr. Ken Thornber reported on the meeting held with the Secretary of State to specifically discuss the Government's Consultative Document on Secondary Industrial Action. A useful discussion had been held on the consultative paper and, as members will now know, the Government had subsequently published amendments to the Employment Bill to deal with Secondary Industrial Action and the amendments have proved to be considerably stronger than the original proposals in the consultative document. No date has as yet been fixed for the next meeting with the Secretary of State.

9. Motions

The following motions were considered:

- a. "The CTU National Committee endorses the amendment to the Employment Bill, tabled by John Browne MP, proposing that Trades Union members be given the mandatory right to demand a secret ballot." - Roger Gale, CTU Communications Group.

The motion was discussed and passed as amended:

"The CTU National Committee endorses the principle that Trade Union members be given the mandatory right to demand a secret ballot."

- b. "This Committee believes that the CTU National Conference 1981 should be held over 2 days at a weekend." - CTU Civil Service Group

The motion was discussed and referred to the GP Committee for consideration.

- c. "This Committee agrees to pay full day return rail fare over £2.50 for all National and Group Committee meetings, including meetings with Ministers." - CTU Civil Service Group

The Chairman explained to the Committee that it would not be acceptable for the Committee to come to a decision on this motion and that this matter should be referred to the GP Committee. This was agreed.



10. Report from the General Purposes Committee

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting of the National Committee the General Purposes Committee had only met once and that had been immediately before this meeting. The discussions had been on the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and also to receive the draft strategy paper prepared by Ken Thornber. A brief discussion had been held on this and further discussions would be held at the first meeting of the newly elected GP to be held on 7th May.

11. AOB

- a. The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. Robert Atkins MP, newly elected Vice-President, who briefly addressed the meeting on his previous work with the CTU and in his own union (ASTMS).
- b. A discussion followed concerning the TUC's proposed Day of Action on May 14th and the level of response to be adopted by CTU. There were differing views from Area to Area as to how public a profile the CTU should take in the run up to May 14th and it was agreed that the situation should be reviewed at the GP Committee to be held on 7th May.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 16.00 hrs.