

CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

166TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 22nd June 1977, in the  
Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 165th Meeting.
2. Future Business.
3. Forthcoming Events.
4. Any other business.

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 166th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, 22nd 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 Thorneycroft,  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior,  
Mr. Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Peyton,  
Mr. Davies, Mr. Neave,  
Mr. Heseltine, Mr. St. John Stevas,  
Mr. Maude, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nott,  
Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Mr. Stanley,  
Mr. Butler, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Hocson,  
Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Lord Hailsham, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. King.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 27th June-4th July

On Monday, 27th June, there would be a Supply Day. This would be followed by the remaining stages of the Local Authorities (Restoration of Works Powers) Bill (Mr. Speed) and by Motions on the Social Security Benefits Up-Rating, Child Benefit, and Supplementary Benefits Order (Mrs. Chalker).

On Tuesday, 28th June, Mr. J. Lester would seek leave to introduce his AID Children Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a debate on Energy Policy, on a Motion for the Adjournment (Mr. King, Mr. Gray) and by the Remaining stages of the Post Office Bill (Mr. Lamont).

On Wednesday, 29th June, Mr. B. Grocott would seek leave to introduce his Magistrates (Democratic Selection) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a Supply Day and by a Motion on the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure.

On Thursday, 30th June, there would be Proceedings on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) (Amendment) Bill (Mr. Neave, Mr. Biggs-Davison). This would be followed by Motions on Northern Ireland Orders on Various Emergency Provisions (Continuance), the 1974 Act (Interim Period Extension), Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions and Fatal Accidents).

On Friday, 1st July, there would be a Motion on the Appropriation (No.2)(Northern Ireland) Order and on the Criminal Injuries (Compensation)(Northern Ireland) Order (Mr. Neave, Mr. Biggs-Davison).

On Monday, 4th July, there would be the Second Reading of the Direct Elections Bill.

2. Matters Arising on Business

There were no matters arising from the week's business.

3. Subjects for the Supply Days

As agreed at the previous meeting, the Supply Day on Monday, 27th June would be offered to the Scottish Nationalists. It was understood that they were proposing a motion of no confidence in Mr. Foot, and it was agreed that we should support this motion while Mr. Pym should speak from the front Bench during the course of the debate. (It later transpired that the Supply Day would be on Monday, 4th July, when the Prime Minister would be the object of the Scottish Nationalists' censure).

After a discussion, it was agreed that we should debate the recruiting methods and techniques of SLADE on the half Supply Day on 29th June. Mr. Prior and Mr. Hayhoe would be the speakers and the debate would be on the adjournment with no vote but the whips would ensure a good attendance and members of the Shadow Cabinet were especially urged to attend on the Front Bench.

4. Shadow Cabinet statement on the Grunwick dispute

There was a discussion on drafts prepared by various members of the Shadow Cabinet. It was agreed to issue one of these drafts, which had been amended in detail, as a statement of the Shadow Cabinet's views on the violent picketing at the works of the Grunwick company. Any further necessary amendment to the draft would be made by Mr. Maude, Mr. Prior and Sir Michael Havers. It was noted that Sir Michael Havers was tabling a Private Notice Question for reply the following day and it was agreed that we would press the Prime Minister at Question Time the following day.

5. Other Business

There was a discussion on the action of the judges in the case of Guardsman Holdsworth. It was noted that all members of the Shadow Cabinet were receiving, or were likely to receive, a considerable amount of mail on the subject. It was agreed that a standard letter of reply to this mail would need to be approved, in consultation with Sir Michael Havers.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.