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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

95TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday 4th February 1976, in the

Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 94th Meeting
2. Future business
3. Forthcoming events
4. Any other business

T. U. Rel. Bk  
Hoghton notes  
File

Conservative Clause  
S.O.

Hereditary Peers

Liberal Party 11th March 1976

Conservative Research Department  
24 Old Queen Street, London SW1

CFF/GSS  
30.1.76

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 95th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th February 1976, in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (In the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,  
Lord Hailsham, Mr. Prior, Mr. Pym,  
Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Peyton,  
Mr. Raison, Mr. Maude,  
Mr. Buchanan-Smith, Mr. Edwards,  
Mr. Neave, Mrs. Oppenheim (items 1 and 2),  
Mr. Biffen.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Lord Aberdare, Mr. King (item 3),  
Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten,  
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Lord Carrington, Mr. Maudling,  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. St. John-Stevas,  
Mr. Heseltine, Lord Thorneycroft.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 9th-16th February

On Monday, 9th February, there would be Private Members' Motions, the Motions being those of Mr. Newens on Foreign Policy and Morality (Mr. Hurd) and of Mr. Carter on The Need to Establish Industry as the Country's First Priority (Mr. King). This would be followed by a Motion on the Select Committee on Abortion (Mr. Jenkin) on which there would be a free vote.

On Tuesday, 10th February, Mr. Douglas-Mann would seek leave to introduce his Criminal Appeal (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Second Reading of the Dock Work Regulation Bill (Mr. Prior, Mr. Hayhoe).

On Wednesday, 11th February, Sir John Langford-Holt would seek leave to introduce his Shops (Amendment) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule and this would be followed by a half Supply Day, with subject to be decided. At 7.00 p.m. there would be Opposed Private Business: the Second Reading of the West Midlands County Council Bill on which Mr. Speed would intervene from the Front Bench.

On Thursday, 12th February, there would be the Second Reading of the Water Charges Bill, (Mr. Speed, Mr. A. Jones) and this would be followed by Motions on EEC Documents on Agriculture (Mr. Pym).

On Friday, 13th February, there would be Second Readings of certain Private Members' Bills, the first three bills being Mr. Corbett's Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, Miss Richardson's Domestic Violence Bill and Mr. Callaghan's Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill.

On Monday, 16th February, there would be the Second Reading of the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Bill (Mr. Neave, Mr. Biggs-Davison), and of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) Bill (Mr. Fowler).

## 2. Matters Arising on Business

### It was agreed that:

(i) There would be a very strong three line whip on the Dock Work Regulation Bill.

(ii) While we did not need to say that we would repeal this Bill, if it was enacted, Mr. Prior would indicate where and how we would change it on our return to power.

## 3. Subjects for the Supply Day

There was a discussion. It was agreed that we should debate the Government's failure to observe their own guidelines for helping industry in relation to State investment in the motor industry, on a Motion to reduce the salary of the Secretary of State for Industry. There would be a three line whip at 7.00 p.m.

## 4. House of Lords Business

Lord Aberdare and Lord Hailsham explained the problems that had arisen with regard to Lord Goodman's attitude to the amendments he had previously moved to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, and set out a number of possible courses of action for Conservative Peers to take in considering the Bill. There was a discussion.

### It was agreed that:

(i) The Lords should not vote against the Bill on Second Reading.

(ii) It was not desirable during this session to have the Bill passing frequently between the Lords and Commons.

(iii) No decision on the right tactics for handling the Bill during its Committee Stage in the Lords was yet necessary; the Shadow Cabinet would discuss this question again before the Committee Stage.

## 5. Other Business

It was agreed that we would support the Scottish Nationalist Motion to reduce the salary of the Secretary of State for Scotland the following evening, Thursday 5th February, on a two line whip, but that we should not vote on Plaid Cymru's Motion that same evening.

Mrs. Thatcher reported on a remark made by Mr. Cyril Smith on television the previous evening relating to the Conservative Party, and on a statement that had been made that day in reply by Mr. Atkins. It was agreed that, while supporting Mr. Atkins' statement and seeking to set the record straight, we should avoid making any statements in public about the Press reports relating to the Liberal leader.

Mr. Pym reported on a possible new clause to be introduced by the Government into the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill on hereditary tenancies which might threaten property rights generally. It was agreed that we should watch developments very carefully and that Mr. Pym would report when further details were available.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.