

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 210th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st June, 1978 in the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph, Lord Carrington, Lord Hallsham, Lord Thorncroft, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior, Mr. Pym, Sir Ian Cilmour, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Peyton, Mr. Davies, Mr. Neave, Mr. Heseltine, Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Maude, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nott, Mrs. Oppenheim, Mr. King, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In Attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Mr. Butler, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Wolfson, Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 26th June-3rd July

On Monday, 26th June, there would be a Supply Day.

On Tuesday, 27th June, Mr. Pattie would seek leave to introduce his Mental Health Tribunals Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Remaining Stages of the Employment (Continental Shelf) Bill (Mr. Hayhoe); the House of Commons (Administration) Bill (Mr. Pym and Mr. Cooke); and of the Parliamentary Pensions Bill (Mr. Pym).

On Wednesday, 28th June Mr. Durant would seek leave to introduce his Parliamentary Commissioner for the Nationalised Industries Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by motions on EEC Documents R/113/77 and R/134/78 on Contracts negotiated away from Business Premises (Mr. Shaw); R/2641/77, R/1860/76, R/222/77 and R/1964/77 on the Aeronautical Sector; R/2043/76 on Criminal Law (Sir Michael Havers). This would be followed by a motion on the Dental Ancillary Workers (Amendment) Regulations.

On Thursday, 29th June there would be a Supply Day. This would be followed by Opposed Private Business - the Sheffield General Cemetery Bill.

On Friday, 30th June there would be motions on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) Order (Mr. Neave and Mr. Coodhart); this would be followed by motions on the Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order.

On Monday, 3rd July there would be a Supply Day.

## 2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion and the following points were agreed:

- (i) If the Government proceeded with their amendment to the House of Commons (Administration) Bill relating to trade union representation, we should vote against it on a Two Line Whip.
- (ii) Mrs. Thatcher, Mrs. Oppenheim and others would consider moving an amendment to the Parliamentary Pensions Bill to improve widows' pensions.

## 3. Subjects for the Supply Days

There was a discussion and the following points were agreed:

- (i) We should refuse the Liberals' request for a half Supply Day on the grounds of their continuing alliance with the Government.
- (ii) We should offer the second half of the Supply Day on 3rd July to the Ulster Unionists.
- (iii) We should debate Trade on the Supply Day on 26th June, emphasising its importance to Britain's prosperity and seeking to set out our position on protectionism so as to assist candidates in marginal seats that were encountering problems over foreign imports. Mr. Nott and Mr. Parkinson would be our speakers and there would be no vote.
- (iv) We should debate the problems of pharmacists on the half Supply Day on 29th June. Dr. Vaughan and Mr. Jerkin would speak and there would be no vote.
- (v) Subjects for early debate on supply included: Dependencies (if possible on 3rd July), Jobs and Prosperity, and Police Pay, if the report of Lord Edmund Davies's committee was not satisfactory.

## 4. ICC and LSC Business

The following programme was agreed:

- (i) Leader's Steering Committee, Monday, 26th June at 5.00 p.m.: Papers on rates and Rhodesia and South Africa.
- (ii) Leader's Consultative Committee on 28th June at 5.00 p.m.: Papers on rates and Rhodesia and South Africa and paper by Mr. Prior on unemployment and youth.

## 5. Other business

- (a) Future Parliamentary business. Sir Geoffrey Howe reported on the timing of the debates on the remaining stages of the Finance Bill. It was agreed that we should be prepared to vote against the increase in employers' national insurance contributions, and should give guidance to the press to that effect.

- (b) Talks with Trade Union Leaders. Mr. Prior reported on his recent talks with Mr. Moss Evans and Mr. Terry Duffy. It was noted that Mr. Evans had alerted Mr. Prior to the prospect of serious difficulties in the London docks in the autumn.
- (c) Libya. Mr. Davies reported on his recent visit to Libya, and his useful exchanges with representatives of the Libyan government.
- (d) The Manchester Moss Side By-election. The writ for this was likely to be moved later that week. It was noted that the main issues included council house rents and maintenance, law and order and unemployment. The following points were agreed:
- (1) Mr. Nott, who was speaking in Moss Side on Friday, would report on his visit as soon as possible thereafter.
  - (11) We should seek to convey the view that Moss Side had changed considerably in recent years, and that the electoral situation there was not now as favourable to us as the Labour majority in 1974 suggested.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

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