

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 215th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, 12th July 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 Thorneycroft,  
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior,  
Mr. Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin,  
Mr. Peyton, Mr. Davies, Mr. Neave,  
Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Maude,  
Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Edwards,  
Mr. Nott, Mrs. Oppenheim,  
Mr. King, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Lord Denham,  
Mr. Butler, Mr. Patten, Mr. Wolfson,  
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Lord Hailsham, Mr. Fowler.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 17th-24th July

On Monday, 17th July, there would be Lords Amendments to the Scotland Bill. These would be followed by a Motion on the Rent (Northern Ireland) Order.

On Tuesday, 18th July, Mr. Rooker would seek leave to introduce his Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 (Amendment) Bill under the 10 minute Rule. This would be followed by the last day of the Lords Amendments to the Scotland Bill and by a Supplemental Time Table Motion on Lords Amendments to the Wales Bill (Mr. Pym).

On Wednesday, 19th July, Mr. Gow would seek leave to introduce his Employment Protection (Amendment) (No.2) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by Lords Amendments to the Wales Bill (Mr. Pym, Mr. Brittan and team) and by Motions on the Appropriation (No.3) Order (N.I.) and on the Education (N.I.) Order.

On Thursday, 20th July, there would be Lords Amendments.

On Friday, 21st July, there would be Government business.

On Monday, 24th July, there would be a Supply day. This would be followed by a Motion on the Dock Labour Scheme and by Lords Amendments to the House of Commons (Administration Bill) and to the Employment (Continental Shelf) Bill.

A provisional indication was also given of the likely business for the week 25th-29th July.

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion on the voting on the various Lords' amendments to the Scotland Bill on 17th and 18th July. It was agreed that:-

- (i) there should be a two line whip until 7.30 p.m. on 18th July and a three line whip thereafter;
- (ii) there were not expected to be any votes on 21st July.

3. The Scotland Bill

Lord Carrington reported on the likely votes in the House of Lords on the Scotland Bill. The following points were agreed:

- (i) We should not vote on the Orkney and Shetland issue on which we had accepted a Government amendment.
- (ii) We should support an amendment to provide for a second vote on any issue relevant to England which had been passed on the votes of the Scottish Members.

There followed a discussion on the issues in the Bill on which the Lords should stand firm. It was agreed that the Lords should not stand on the West Lothian amendment and that, in general, our chances of securing a "No" vote in the referendum might be jeopardised if the Lords drastically interfered with or delayed the Bill.

4. Rhodesia

Mr. Davies reported that the Foreign Affairs Committee would like an early debate. It was agreed that we should press the Government for a debate in Government time.

5. The Report of the Edmund Davies Committee

Mr. Whitelaw reported that the report of this Committee on police pay was imminent. It was believed that the Committee would point out that the police and armed services were in a unique position since they did not have the right to strike, and that the Committee would recommend a substantial increase to be paid from 1st September without phasing. There was a discussion and it was agreed that if we would accept such a recommendation and commit ourselves to implementing it when we came into Government. It was also agreed that if the Government proposed to phase the increase we should ask for a debate on the subject.

6. Manifesto Discussion

Mrs. Thatcher reported that copies of the draft Manifesto would be available in her office after 3.00 p.m. the following day in preparation for the discussion the following Monday, 17th July.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.