

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 163rd Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 18th May 1977, in the Leader's
Room at the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Sir Keith Joseph, Lord Carrington,
Lord Hailsham, Lord Thorpecroft,
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. King, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Atkins.

In attendance: Mr. Perceval, Mr. Butler,
Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten, Mr. Ridley,
Mr. Hooson, Mr. Nicholson.

Apologies: Mr. Whitelaw, Lord Hailsham,
Mr. Jenkin, Sir Michael Havers.

1. Proposed Business for the Week, 23rd-27th May

On Monday, 23rd May, there would be a debate on the Report of the Annan Committee on the Future of Broadcasting (Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Critchley). This would be followed by a Motion on the Code of Practice on Disclosure of Information to Trade Unions for Collective Bargaining Purposes (Mr. Hayhoe).

On Tuesday, 24th May, Mrs. Boothroyd would seek leave to introduce her Price Control Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a Supply Day and by a Motion relating to Statements of Changes in Immigration Rules (Mr. Alison).

On Wednesday, 25th May, Mr. Tebbit would seek leave to introduce his Limitation of Legislation Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by the Second Reading of the Patents Bill (Mr. Nott) and by Opposed Private Business.

On Thursday, 26th May, there would be a Motion for the Whitsun Adjournment. This would be followed by a debate on Airport Policy (Mr. Speed) and by Proceedings on the Statute Law (Repeals) Bill.

On Friday, 27th May, there would be Private Members' Motions: those of Mr. Brotherton, Mr. le Marchant and Mr. Stewart.

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion of certain points and it was agreed that Mr. Speed would speak in the debate on Airport policy on 26th May, in which we should take the opportunity to press the Government for their intentions as regards a proposed airport at Stanstead.

3. Subject for Supply Day

There was a discussion and it was agreed to debate youth unemployment on the Supply Day on 24th May. We would vote on the adjournment on a three line whip and would inform the Press this week that we had ~~initiated this debate~~, so as to seek to preempt any Government action on the Manpower Services Commission working party report.

4. President of Uganda

There was a discussion on the prospect of President Amin coming to Britain for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference. It was agreed that Mr. Davies would enquire privately from the Government whether they were proposing to make a statement indicating that President Amin would not be allowed to visit Britain, and indicate that we were vigorously opposed to such a visit and would support the Government in any action they took to prevent it. We would consider what further action we might take in the light of the information received.

5. Other Business

There was a discussion of certain points. It was agreed that members of the LCC would not reply to the letter from Mr. Clive Jenkins, General Secretary of ASTMS, soliciting the support of all MPs for his union's application on their behalf for improved terms and conditions under Schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act.

It was noted that Mr. Shore might propose that rates should be based on capital values instead of the present system. It was agreed that we would oppose such a proposal as magnifying the inefficiency and unfairness of the present rating system. We would, however, exercise caution in replying to Mr. Shore as we still had to develop our policy for local government finance.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.