

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 169th Meeting held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th July 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 Hailsham,
Lord Thorneycroft, Sir Geoffrey Howe,
Mr. Prior, Mr. Fym, Sir Ian Gilmour,
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. Patten, Mr. Ridley,
Mr. Hooson, Mr. Nicholson.

1. Proposed Business for the Week 18th-25th July

On Monday, 18th July, there would be a Supply Day, the second Sessional Supply Day allocated to EEC affairs. There would be Motions on Energy, the Regional Development Fund and the Community Budget and these would be followed by a Prayer on the Police (Amendment)(No.2) Regulations (Mr. Alison).

On Tuesday, 19th July, Mr. J. Ashley would seek leave to introduce his Rape Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a Supply Day and by Motions on the Northern Ireland Orders on Preferential Payments in Insolvency, Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance, and on Criminal Damage (Compensation).

On Wednesday, 20th July, Mr. A. Steen would seek leave to introduce his Urban Aid (Incentive for Community and Voluntary Work) Bill under the 10 Minute Rule. This would be followed by a debate on Pay Policy, when the Government's proposed White Paper would be relevant, and by consideration of Lords Amendments to the Price Commission Bill and to the Water Charges Equalisation Bill.

On Thursday, 21st July, there would be the Report Stage of the Finance Bill (Sir Geoffrey Howe and team).

On Friday, 22nd July, there would be the Report and Third Reading of the Patents Bill (Mr. Nott). This would be followed by the remaining stages of the Administration of Justice Bill (Mr. Lawrence), the Second Reading of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill and of the Employment Protection Bill (Mr. Awdry), by the remaining stages of the Protection from Eviction Bill and of the Rent Bill, and by a Motion on the Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers) (Mr. Lamont).

On Monday, 25th July, there would be the completion of the remaining stages of the Finance Bill (Mr. David Howell and team).

2. Matters Arising on Business

There was a discussion of certain points and the following was agreed:

(i) Mr. King would speak in the debate on the Motion on Energy on 18th July, Mr. Kenneth Clarke in that on the EEC Regional Development Fund and Mr. Rippon, or whoever he nominated, in the debate on the Community Budget.

(ii) Mr. Atkins would ensure that the Party was in readiness for a three line whip in the debate on pay policy on 20th July. If, as expected, the Prime Minister took part in the debate, our speakers would be Mrs. Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe

(iii) There would be a two line whip for consideration of the Price Commission Bill.

(iv) There would be a two line whip for the second day of the Report Stage of the Finance Bill.

3. Subject for the Supply Day

There was a discussion and it was agreed that we would debate Urban Affairs in England and Wales on the Supply Day on 19th July. Our speakers would be Mr. Reginald Eyre and Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg. There would be no vote.

4. Pay Policy

There was a discussion on the likely contents of the proposed Government White Paper (which did not appear until the following week). It was agreed that we should oppose any Government attempt to change back the personal tax allowances to the levels prevailing before the recent amendment to the Finance Bill and should press for the full 2p reduction in the standard rate of income tax if the Government tried to reduce it by less.

5. Other Business

It was agreed that there would be a meeting of the Leader's Consultative Committee on the following Monday, 18th July. Members were asked to leave their weekend telephone numbers with the Leader's office so as to ensure co-ordination of our response to the Government's White Paper, when it was published. Members were also asked to pass on any information they received about the contents of the White Paper.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.