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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

139TH MEETING

5.00 p.m., Wednesday, 17th November 1976, in
the Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

REVISED AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 138th meeting - to follow
2. Future business.
3. Forthcoming events.
4. Devolution.
5. Any other business.

Conservative Research Department,
24 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1

CFP/MPM
16.11.76

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LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

139TH MEETING

4.00 p.m., Tuesday, 23rd November 1976, in the
Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 138th meeting.
2. Future business. —
3. Forthcoming events.
4. The Queen's Speech - Parliamentary arrangements and general discussion.
5. Devolution - a paper by Mr. Whitelaw is attached.
6. Any other business.

Conservative Research Department,
24 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1

CFP/MMM
19.11.76

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 139th Meeting held at 4.00 p.m.
on Tuesday 23rd November 1976 in the Leader's
Room in the House of Commons.

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (In the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,
Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham,
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Prior,
Mr. Pym, Mr. Payton, Mr. Jenkin,
Mr. Davies, Mr. St. John Stevas,
Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Maude,
Mr. Buchanan-Smith, Mr. Edwards,
Mr. Neave, Mrs. Oppenheim,
Mr. Biffen, Mr. King, Mr. Taylor,
Lord Thorneycroft,

Mr. Atkins.

In Attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Mr. Brittan, Mr. Butler,
Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten, Mr. Hooson, Mr. Ridley
Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Wynn.

Apologies: Mr. Gilmour.

1. Preparations for the Debate on the Address

There was a discussion on what subjects we should wish to see discussed in the days allocated for the debate in reply to the Address from the Throne and the following subjects were agreed:

- i) On Thursday 25th November, education and social services, with Mr. St. John Stevas opening and Mr. Jenkin closing.
- ii) On Friday 26th November, housing, the construction industry and the Government's proposals for direct labour, with Mr. Heseltine opening and Mr. Rossi closing. Mr. Buchanan-Smith would discuss Scottish aspects of the housing issue with Mr. Heseltine.
- iii) Monday 29th November would be the first day of a general economic debate, concentrating on industry, small businesses and employment, with Mr. Biffen opening and Mr. Prior closing, with an appropriate amendment being moved,
- iv) On Tuesday 30th November, the final day of the general economic debate with Sir Geoffrey Howe opening and Mr. Pym closing, with a second amendment on the general issue of the economy.

It was noted that we were investigating how to approach the question of hybridity on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Bill, which the Government were expected to re-introduce. It was also noted that the Government's Devolution Bill was expected shortly and would probably be debated during the week beginning 13th December.

.../2. Voting on Devolution

2. Voting on Devolution

There was a discussion on how we should vote on the second reading of the expected Devolution Bill and it was agreed to continue this discussion at 5.00 p.m. the following day, while there would be a further meeting on the subject on 1st December at 4.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.