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LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tuesday 27 March

No.

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Tue. 9-45 cm

1. Apologies for absence: Mr John Selwyn Gummer

Mr John Selwyn Gummer Sir Christopher Lawson Mr Peter Cropper

(abroad)
(unwell)

- 2. Forthcoming events: Bernard Ingham's diary
- 3. Other topical events:

GLC ("How to get money out of the GLC")
Electricity price increase (Peter Hordern's letter)

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1. 13 August - 16/12 -> 17/13. - Stamps. (DP)

(D) ICL - BT. - Serry Seffera le min a Commission domment. (DP)

THE FORNIGHT AHEAD

The attached note sets out a calendar of events for the next two weeks to the extent that they can be foreshadowed from returns from Departments.

The main issues in the period immediately ahead are:

- Miners' Strike effects of picketing; demands for ballot.
- European Foreign Affairs Council (salvaging Euro Council).
- Local Government Issues completion of Rates Bill (Wednesday); Liverpool rate (Thursday); Democracy Day of protest against abolition of GLC, MCCs (Thursday); possible one-day strike against reorganisation of London Transport (Wednesday); Publication of Paving Bill (Friday); GLC "eccentric" grants.
 - Rugby Football Union's decision on South African tour (Thursday).
 - <u>Ireland</u> Fianna Fail national convention (coinciding with 12th anniversary of direct rule of Northern Ireland).

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MARCH

27

Queen's visit to Jordan.

Anglo-Sino talks on Hong Kong.

EC Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Councils, Brussels.

EC Economic and Social Committee, Brussels (to March 29).

EC Political Committee, Paris (to March 28).

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Kornienko, begins visit to UK (until March 30).

US Presidential Election: Democrat Primary, Connecticut.

Transfer of Yorkshire Ripper from Parkhurst to Broadmoor.

British Airways begins London-Miami Concorde flights.

Memorial Service for Viscount Macmillan of Ovenden, St Margaret's, Westminster.

Balance of payments and overseas trade figures (February).

Pay negotiations: university manual workers; Scottish further education teachers; building workers, BBC staffs; primary and secondary school teachers.

28 Queen's visit to Jordan.

Remaining stages of Rates Bill, Commons.

Whitley Council meets for first time in five years on GCHQ.

TUC General Council.

Labour Party National Executive.

Treasury Select Committee hears evidence from Chancellor.

Possible London Transport 'one day stoppage' in protest over Government plans to place control of LT in a new regional board.

Mr Heseltine at roll out of Tornado aircraft, Warton, Lancs.

10 minute rule Bill on polygraph registration and control - Merlyn Rees

Sir Keith Joseph to announce universities' efficiency review.

Home Office launches 'CLASP' - Crime, Law and Society Schools Package.

Informal meeting of Agriculture Ministers, Angers (to March 30).

Chancellor Kohl starts visit to Portugal.

South African budget.

MARCH

30

28 (cont) BBC Radio 4 Midweek - Neil Kinnock (21.05)

Pay: NHS ambulancemen.

29 Queen's visit to Jordan.

Finance Bill published.

Security Commission Report on Corporal Aldridge.

Liverpool City Council budget meeting.

'Democracy Day' - national day of action in support of local democracy.

'Stop the City' protest in the City of London against financial institutions supporting the international weapons trade.

Rugby Football Union decide on possible South African tour.

Prime Minister hosts reception for British competitors in Winter Olympics.

Laying on Tyne of keels for replacement of HMS Coventry and HMS Sheffield.

Publication of "74 days" by John Smith accounting the Falklands War (foreword by Prime Minister).

Mr King speaks at Westminster Chamber of Commerce.

Statistics: overtime and short time in manufacturing (January); strikes (February).

Pay: British Rail.

First Cable TV film channel opens.

BBC TV Question Time - Patrick Jenkin, David Blunkett, Madsen Pirie, Baroness Seear.

Queen's visit to Jordan.

Prime Minister meets President of Israel (invitation to Queen).

Informal meeting of EC Agriculture Ministers meeting ends.

Introduction of Paving Bill for abolition of GLC, MCCs.

Sir Keith Joseph addresses Careers Research and Advisory Council.

Mr Younger addresses Convention of Scottish Local Authorities conference.

12th Anniversary of introduction of direct rule, Northern Ireland.

Fianna Fail National Convention begins.

MARCH

30 (cont)

BBC Radio Any Questions from Dublin - Norman St John Stevas, Dr John Cunningham, Ruari Quinn, Professor John A. Murphy.

General Assembly of UN economic commission on Latin America, Lima.

Pay: NIIS Ancillaries.

Car and commercial vehicle production (February).

Arts Council of Great Britain, arts development strategy.

Second Report of the Energy Select Committee - Department of Energy Supplementary estimate in respect of coal industry (11.00)

29th Report of the Reviewing Committee (works of art).

31 Arab League Summit meeting, Riyadh.

Grand National, Liverpool.

RFU: County Championship final, Gloucester v Somerset, Twickenham.

APRIL

1 Mothering Sunday.

Prince Andrew visits St Helena and Ascension Island-150th anniversary of St Helena becoming a Crown Colony.

Electricity prices set to rise by 2 per cent; prescription charges by 20 pence.

Possible hunger strike begins, Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast.

Transfers of Passport Office to Home Office from FCO; Directorate of Overseas Surveys to Ordnance Survey.

Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) code of practice comes into effect.

Mr Heseltine at Conservative Reform Group.

Consumer Congress, Liverpool (Alex Fletcher).

Second anniversary of Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands.

CBI monthly trends (March).

Prime Minister attends reception to mark the launch of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

EC Finance Council meeting, Luxembourg.

Seventy-first Inter Parliamentary Union conference opens, Geneva (until April 8).

APRIL

2(Cont) Jockey Club inquiry into alleged bribes of jockeys begins.

National Association of Theatrical, Television and Cinema employees national delegate conference, Guernsey.

Mr Tebbit at Industrial Participation Association dinner.

3 EC Industry Council, Paris.

NATO nuclear planning group meets, Ankara (to April 4).

US Presidential Election: Democrat primary, New York.

Mr King visits MSC HQ, Sheffield.

Statistics: Capital issues and redemptions (March); Housing starts and completions (Feb); UK reserves (March).

Pay negotiations: chemical industries.

4 Prime Minister opens the Cabinet War Rooms, Whitehall.

NEDC

Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association annual general meeting, London.

National Union of Insurance workers' conference opens, Bournemouth (to April 15).

Pay negotiations: Scottish local authority water workers.

5 35th Anniversary of NATO.

Prime Minister hosts dinner for Dr Richard von Weizaecker, Governing Mayor of Berlin.

Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs publishes report on Grenada.

EC Informal Social Affairs Council, Luxembourg.

Mr Fowler at Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries dinner.

Federation of Conservative Students' conference opens, Loughborough (to April 7).

Pay negotiations: University technicians.

APRIL

10

Prime Minister addresses the Federation of Conservative Students' Conference, Loughborough.

Sir Geoffrey Howe at Konigswinter Conference, Cambridge.

Revised national insurance rates come into effect.

Joint Anglican/Roman Catholic unity talks begin, Canterbury, (to April 9).

Cabinet War Rooms open to the public, Whitehall.

7 US Presidential Election: Democrat primary, Louisiana.

9 Prime Minister's "Panorama" TV broadcast (Sir Robin Day).

HM The Queen and President Mitterrand perform opening ceremony of Joint European Taurus, Culham, Oxfordshire.

EC Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Councils, Luxembourg (to April 10).

ACP EC Council meeting.

European Parliament meets, Strasbourg (until April 13).

Producer price index (March).

Job-release scheme - early retirement allowances go up.

Montgomery Report - Review of Scottish Islands Authority for greater autonomy.

Amir of Bahrain begins State Visit to the UK (until April 13).

Old Bailey trial of M J Bettaney on Official Secrets Acts charge.

EC Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Councils, Luxembourg.

EC Ministerial political co-operation meeting, Luxembourg.

Monetary aggregates (March prov); vehicle production (March prov).

Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions annual conference, Coleraine (to April 11).

National Union of Journalists annual delegate meeting, Loughborough (to April 13).

DES: Computer Board Report published.

Mrs Fenner launches 'Rabies Awareness' campaign.

The free enterprise organisation 19th March 1984 The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC Lord President of the Council Privy Council Office Whitehall LONDON SW1A 2AT

Many thanks indeed for sparing the time for our discussion.

I am enclosing a copy of our study on eccentric GLC grants. You will see on page 4 a list of various Acts under which money is given. As I have mentioned, Finance and General Purposes covers a lot of the lesbian and gay awards. Contrary to general belief, it is Section 142 rather than Section 147 under which much of the propaganda material is lodged. I have listed Section 65(1) of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968; Section 19(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; Section 59 of the London County Councils (General Powers) Act 1959; Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972; Section 89 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended) - but there are others.

You will see on page 6 figures showing that over three times as much money is going to bodies in Labour boroughs than others - and also that very few applications are rejected for causes like anti police activities. Some really eccentric ones are on page 8.

I am also enclosing a copy of my article in The Times dealing with the grass roots situation in London.

40 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LF Tel: 01-405 5195

Sir John Reiss BLM President of the Council Julin Lyle Chairman of the Council
Lord Taylor of Hudfield DScHor's FCION Vice-President Adam K Bergus DSC Chairman, Scotland
J G Cluff R W Dean CBE Sir Chaires Fletcher Cooke OC Will B Hoster Les Calbert F J Gordon Henry J P Hourston CA Justin Komberg Kenneth McAlpine Nigel Mobbs Lawrence Grahard dat To Lord Renwick Baymont Segment Sir Not Shields MC Mrs Norah Tew IDDA CW horner Board traductor I thomas factor Michael E Water

Scottish Committee: Adam K Bergus OSC Charman W J G Wyla Mot Deputy Charman CH First John E Mane - John E Mane - John E Mane - John E Wylater CH - Western CH Lit & Finlayson J H Forrest E J Gordon Henry

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THE TIMES
January 2, 1984

A war of words that the left is winning

As I climbed the stairs of the London junior school to see my children's Christmas show, my gaze reeled before a display of multicoloured Inner London Education Authority posters attacking the Government's policies. The posters were large and expensive and produced by ILEA's display unit.

Round the corner was a table managed by a school (Labour) governor. More propaganda piled up on it plus a letter for me to sign - to be sent to my MP - attacking the Government's policies.

When I complained bitterly at this agitprop display on a Christmas occasion, my lady socialist governor was surprised. She was not used to parents complaining, they took the propaganda with mute acquiescence.

A few weeks before I had sat at a meeting in another London school, organized by the National Union of Teachers "for governors and parents". We were there to discuss "the cuts".

There must have been more than a hundred people there, including Ken Livingstone who arrived late. The chairman of the meeting was the chairman of the school governors (Labour). He summed up in a way that made Tony Benn look like a moderate.

I looked around the audience and decided that I was not likely to get much overt support - so I got my comments in next. This was obviously not according to the rules and for the next hour or two I sat stiffly listening to people making speeches against me.

When it came to voting for motions against the Government, my hand was the only one to go up in opposition. The object of the exercise was to get publicity for the "motions" in the local press, to form "campaign groups" against the Government's policies and to enroll potential political activists. There was no attempt to restrict the campaign to education. It was the Conservative Government's policies on local government that were to be attacked.

These two small increasts are being repeated all over London and throughout the country, with virtually no opposition from the Conservatives. In London and socialist-governed towns like Manchester, expensively-produced socialist propaganda – paid for by the ratepayers – is dropping regularly through millions of letter-

Head teachers, most of them desperately wanting to keep their schools out of politics, are receiving letters from their political paymasters, like Frances Morrell of ILEA, enclosing anti-Government material and suggesting that they, their teachers and their governors should discuss it. This is very unfair to head teachers.

I have yet to see any similar Tory material. It is no wonder that the Government is, for example, losing the propaganda battle on local government reorganization,

The heart of the matter is that local – not professional – Conservatives are poor campaigners. They are excellent at building up membership. Here they make rings around Labour who are relatively a minority party and have to depend on bludgeoning and tricking non-Labour trade union members to pay the levy and become a block vote.

Tories are splendid at raising money. Unlike socialists, they are not snobby about holding coffee mornings and raffles. No one is better at providing comfortable cars for old ladies on wet election nights.

With a few exceptions, however, they have not the remotest idea of how to run a political campaign, to involve newspapers and local radio, to bring in local people, and to make their message in visual terms for television. Left extremists do not, for example, knock off policemen's helmets because they dislike those objects; they do it because it provides good television.

To their credit, Conservatives' lives are rarely dominated by politics, as are those of the extreme left. Tories are not sentimentally literate; it is not easy to get them to accept political pamphlets. They tend to think that if they take a leastet they have established a social contact and may have to ask you to tea.' Socialists, I have found, are pushovers for receiving pamphlets.

pushovers for receiving pamphlets.

Nevertheless, local Tories must learn how to fight. The left see the time available during this Thatcher government as a political and campaigning battleground. Nor can the fight be left entirely to pressure groups such as the Freedom Association and Aims of Industry.

The Trotskyists and communists provide training in methods of political 'campaigning. This is something that the Conservative Party should undertake at once. It they say they are already doing it, then it just isn't noticeable.

Sir Keith Joseph should lay down some guidelines - or at least talk aloud - on political activities at schools. If ILEA, for example, flood London schools with expensive propaganda, other groups must have a right for their material to appear.

And unless Conservatives can get their Labour opposites to accept a "no party politics" rule in school, they too must produce material, letters, posters, meetings and all the paraphernalia of campaigning.

At present grass-roots politics is a one-horse race, with Labour and far-left activists well and truly in the saddle.

The author is Director, Aims of Industry.





Government Chief Whip 12 Downing Street, London SW1

TO MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday 27 March, at 9.45 a.m.

The Lord President would like to raise the subject of 'eccentric' grants by the GLC. I attach a copy of "How to get money from the GLC" by Alfred Sherman and Michael Ivens in case you have not seen a copy.

Alison Ward 23 March 1984

From: Peter Hordern, M.P. c Alison Ward - for Limion Citie. HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SWIA OAA LP-For Linison Ctoe? Mrs () 22nd March, 1984. Dear Willie, I enclose these letters, one from the President of the Warnham Branch in my constituency, and the other from the Secretary. May I say that I have a great deal of sympathy with what they say. I think it was quite wrong to request the electricity authorities to increase their prices when in their commercial judgment they felt it unnecessary to do so. Furthermore, I think the handling of the GCHQ affair left a lot to be desired. I should be most grateful if you could let me have a reply I can send Mr Lucas and Mrs de la Poer Beresford. Yours sincerely, Rt Hon. Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC, Encl.

19th March 1984

ON

Peter Hordern Esq., M.P., The House of Commons, Westminster, London, S.W.1

Dear Peter,

June Beresford, Chairman of our Warnham Branch, was authorized at the A.G.M. to write to you giving the majority view of those present, about the handling of G.C.H.Q. affairs coupled with the additional electricity charges, seen to represent a form of tax.

She undertook to write a letter to you and sent it on to me to approve, before I sent it on to you.

I appreciate this is now rather past history and has been over taken by a very successful and well accepted budget.

Nevertheless, her criticisms do remain valid and I hope that what will be recognised is how difficult it is for those in the branches who are knocking on the doors and asking for subscriptions, to explain away the poor showing the Government made in handling both these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Charles.

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of getting it right.

Yours sincerely.

June de la Poer Breafind

Chairman

HORSHAM CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Member of Parliament: PETER HORDERN, Esq.

WARNHAM BRANCH

The Old Pheasantry,
Rowhook,
Nr. Horsham.
W. Sussex.

15th March, 1984.

Peter Hordern, Esq., M.P., House of Commons. London, S.W.1.

Dear Peter,

Now that the debacle of the GCHQ affair has somewhat diminished I am writing to you at the request of the twenty members of the Warnham Conservative Committee at a meeting the other day, to advise you that they, and perhaps the majority of the Conservative grass roots in this country, are appalled at the mismanagement of the presentation of the radical issues brought forward at Cheltenham. be hard to conceive of a more insensitive way of introducing what was bound to be a most delicate and potentially highly contraversial issue, and once again, as with the N.H.S. matter, the Conservative government has shown no foresight in pre-empting the issue by first presenting to the public the reasons why, with chapter and verse, they were taking certain measures. The lack of foresight has done nothing but hand to the Trades Unions on a plate, a golden opportunity to have hours and hours of free publicity through the media, to distort the real purpose of the governments action. We cannot believe that the Ministers concerned are so lacking in sensitivity or are so arrogant, not to be aware of the prime necessity of good public relations, (it is there and apparent at Election time) and it can but pose the question whether Minsters, including the Prime Minister, are being best served by those whose job and purpose it is to advise them.

Before government supporters are confounded yet again, for the third time, in what would seem to be a matter of fundamental commonsense, can we be assured that such matters will be handled with greater care and understanding. Will you please put forward these views to those concerned?

This is not a criticism of the vital purpose behind the government action, but purely of presentation. After all, in the delicate state of world history it could be mis-management, misunderstanding and lack of sensitive presentation which could bring about the holocaust. In such a relatively minor matter, surely we are capable of getting it right.

Yours sincerely,

June de la Pour Greefend.

Chairman