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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 1970  
AT THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB

Present: Mr. Desmond Banks (Chairman)  
Mr. Philip Watkins (Chairman FAB)

Mr. John Baker  
Mr. C. Carr  
Mr. G. Cass  
Brigadier R. Cook  
Mr. David Deeley  
Mr. Berkley Farr  
Mrs. L. Fletcher  
Mr. L. Freedman  
Mr. Frank Gane (deputy for Mr. J.H.G. Browne)  
Mr. B. Harris  
Mr. John Holmes (deputy for Mr. P.M. Carter)  
Mr. S. Hope  
Mrs. Heathcoat Amory (deputy for Mrs. Jessel)  
Mr. S. Knott  
Mr. G. Lishman (deputy for Mr. Greaves)  
Mr. M. Meadowcroft  
Sir Frank Medlicott  
Mr. D. Minnis  
Mr. Michael Pitts  
Dr. E. Ridge  
Mrs. S. Robson  
Mr. D. T. Shutt  
Mr. A. Slack  
Mr. M. Steed  
Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe  
Mr. K. Vaus  
Mr. P. Watts  
Mr. G. Webster  
Mr. G. Evans (deputy for Mr. R. Magee).

In attendance: Members of LPO and Federation Staff

Mr. Knott seconded the proposal.  
 This amendment was LOST  
 Dave Mumford agreed to amend his proposal to read "the working party should report back as soon as possible" and his resolution was then CARRIED.  
 The following names were then proposed to make up the working party:

- Philip Watkins
- Michael Meadowcroft
- Wallace Lawler
- Cyril Carr
- Gordon Lishman
- David Steel.

The members will appoint their own convenor.

8. CANDIDATES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Heathcoat Amory reported on the work of the Candidates Committee during the past year. An account of the first six months had appeared in the Annual Report. During the pre-election period, the number of applications for the approved list increased dramatically and on the spot interviews had to be arranged at Headquarters and in the regions. After the election a complete and thorough review of the Approved List was undertaken, and new applications considered for the list, a task which was finished in October. Members of interviewing panels would be appointed next month. They will have a special briefing on interviewing techniques by Mrs. Elizabeth Sidney, with the aim of producing a uniform standard and pattern of interview throughout the country. The Committee see the job as primarily one of ensuring that candidates are committed Liberals and that they do not hold views on the more important aspects of Liberal policy which might cause embarrassment to other members. Thereafter it is up to Selection Committees to assess the qualifications of a candidate for a particular constituency.

Mrs. Heathcoat Amory expressed her thanks to all who had put in so much hard work on the Committee during the year, especially Penny Kininmonth, whose efficiency and devotion were of inestimable value. Mr. Cass asked whether Mrs. Heathcoat Amory could comment on the position of Messrs. Findlay and Spreckley and he also asked whether interviewing techniques could assess loyalty to the Party. Mrs. Amory replied that Mr. Findley and Mr. Spreckley are not now on the approved list. With regard to assessing loyalty, we can only act when complaints are received. Dr. Ridge wanted cogniscance taken of the resolution that candidates should be asked to help in by-elections within reasonable distance and Mrs. Amory replied this point had been made in a special circular.

9. FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

The Chairman read out a letter he had received from the Scottish Liberal Party suggesting an early meeting to discuss federal structure, and said he had replied the Party would be prepared to take part in such a meeting, which was suggested for December 5th. It was agreed that two representatives would be enough and it was suggested they should be the new Chairman of the Executive and Mr. Wheeler.

10. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION - Proposal by Mr. Roy Bainbridge

After hearing that Mr. John Baker and Mr. Michael Steed were making progress with their review of the working of the constitution in the regions, it was agreed to take no further action on Mr. Bainbridge's suggestion for a group to review the working of the Constitution.

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