

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF POLITICAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN H.Q. ON WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 1987 AT 1.00 P.M.

PRESENT: John Alderdice, Sean Neeson, Paul Maguire, Howard Johnston, Tom Campbell, Addie Morrow, Dan McGuinness.

APOLOGIES: Eileen Bell, Bill Barbour, Gordon Mawhinney, Mervyn Jones.

CORRESPONDENCE

Party Leader reported in response to his request for meetings with other Party Leaders that a meeting has been arranged with Seamus Lynch of the Workers Party and Mr Molyneaux of the Official Unionist Party has also agreed to meet him after the OU. Conference. Party Leader hopes to meet Alan Dukes in mid November. No other Southern Party Leaders are available for meetings before Christmas.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

LIFE Seamus Close, to attend the meeting on Monday 16th November 1987. FINE GAEL CONFERENCE - P McGarry was the only Party member able to attend this meeting and he has reported directly to the Party Leader. PARTY BALLOT - Dan McGuinness explained to the meeting discussions which he has held with Belfast City Council re a certificate for our ballot. Concern was expressed that the price of our tickets exceeds the 50p limit per ticket and certain other details in relation to information contained on the ticket and the amount of prizes. It was agreed that Dan McGuinness would write to the Town Clerk Belfast City Council to ascertain their requirements for the running of ballots. JOHN CUSHNAHAN DINNER - Concern was expressed over Association Secretaries not passing on information about the dinner quickly enough to members. However it is hoped that as many as wished to attend have been accommodated. Reference was made to the possibility of organising a further less formal occasion. It was agreed that no further action be taken on this matter. It was further agreed that a Rowel Friers framed cartoon of John Cushnahan plus a gift cheque be presented to him at the dinner.

CANDIDATES SUB COMMITTEE

Following receipt of a Candidates application for the 1989 Local Government Elections it was agreed that the Executive would be asked to nominate a new Committee.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS ACTS ORDERS ETC.

The Party Leader reported that since coming to office he has received a large volume of the above types of publications and sought guidance as to how they should be stored, put to use by Spokesmen etc. It was agreed that the Northern Ireland Office be requested to furnish us with 2 copies of each document in future - 1 to be retained at Headquarters and the other for the use of Spokesmen. It was further agreed to consider the compiling of a list of all such documents received for circulation.

TIME TO TALK LEAFLET

Minor changes were agreed to layout and content. It was noted that orders of 44,000 had been received to date.

POLITICAL SITUATION

1. Party Leader reported that he had arranged a meeting with Mr John Stanley Deputy Secretary of State.

2. It was noted that BBC Spotlight were currently preparing a programme on paramilitary racketeering and that an opportunity should be taken to make an appropriate statement prior to the broadcast of the programme.

3. Talk Back - It was agreed that the General Secretary should contact the Editor of the programme to organise an interview with the party Leader.

4. Sean Neeson requested that a Party delegation should meet with Mr Bob Cooper of the F.E.A. following the Human Rights Commissions Report.

5. ELDR Meeting Gummersbach - Sean Neeson reported that he had raised the question of Alliance Party policy issues being reported in the Parliament. ELDR have requested Sean to prepare 2 papers for future possible meetings.

(a) The use of lignite.

(b) Youth Unemployment.

6. Annual Conference of the Committee on the Administration of Justice - Dan McGuinness and Paul Maguire are to attend as Alliance Party representatives at this meeting.

7. Urban Development Grant - It was noted that all the papers in relation to this application have now been lodged with the D.O.E.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 1987 AT 1.00 P.M.

Witte meeting. & Rump.

Jan is meeting & Alan Baker + Peter Dams
? possibly etc.

Alliance Committee Meeting:

Meeting for the

Meeting & Study. ^{has etc.} \equiv report on M. aspect.

Removal of ... & ...

Legal Div.

Wasa Area Plan.

Contract Chris Ryder - Sunday Times (Hollis)

Raymond Anderson, Portadown. ? Prison Fellowship.
(Noel Holler - from next week)

Write to the PM re. John

Shipping and issues

Write to F.K. about talks ?? || Talk to Robinson

Meeting on 23rd, 6pm