

CONFERENCE 8th & 9th. JUNE.

Delegates present as follows:

F. ALLEN - LEEDS.	N. WARREN - LIVERPOOL.	P. PARTINGTON - KENT.
J. ALLEN - LEEDS	A. PICKARD - COVENTRY.	J. BINNINGTON - STAFFS.
C. LORD - LEEDS	F. SANDERS - COVENTRY.	HELKS. - STAFFS.
LEEDS CONS. SOC. (2)	K. BENFIELD - COVENTRY.	O. BRIDGER - SUFFOLK.
J. O'KELLY - LEEDS	A. WHITTAKER - COVENTRY.	R. BURTON - STOCKPORT.
K. PEFFERS - LEEDS	A.M. WHITTAKER - COVENTRY.	L. CARTER - SUSSEX.
R. RIPPON - YORKSHIRE.	R. HUMPHRIES - COVENTRY.	S. CONDON - LONDON.
S. FAGG - LIVERPOOL.	R. ALLERT - KENILWORTH.	J. HOLLIS - LONDON.
P. MURRAY - LIVERPOOL.	G. BADGER - WORCESTERSHIRE.	J. LUBEL - LONDON.
A. BROWN - LIVERPOOL.	J. DAVENPORT - WORCESTERSHIRE.	D. HAYWARD - LONDON.
D. PASCOE - LIVERPOOL.	E. DAVENPORT - "	J. PRICE - LONDON.
M. WILKINSON - LIVERPOOL.	D. NIGHTINGALE - SMITH "	J. COOPER - CAMBRIDGE.
P. STABLES - LIVERPOOL.	R. BAGSHAW - SHREWSBURY.	J. COVENEY - SOUTHAM.
D. VERDY - LIVERPOOL.	M. BEHR - KENT.	B. WESTCOTT - CAMBRIDGE.
M. EVANS - OXFORD.	T. GREEVES - BIRMINGHAM.	G. HINES - MIDDLESEX.
M. GRINYER - OXFORD.	M. NEWMAN - "	J. HUBBARD - MANCHESTER.
M. SMITH - OXFORD.	F. HANCOCK - HAMPSHIRE (2)	J. HUGHES - ISLE OF WIGHT.
S. JEEVES - LANCASHIRE.	I. PEASLEY - WOLVERHAMPTON.	F. POWELL - CUMBERLAND.
M. KIMBER - "	B. PERCY-DAVIS - ROMFORD.	A. SPENDLOVE - DERBY.
D. THOMPSON - EDINBURGH.	R. THORBURN - SOMERSET.	S. TOWNEND - SALOP.
J. TROST - LEICESTER (2)	P. CARLENE - LIVERPOOL.	R. STARES - LONDON.
E. GOLDSMITH - CORNWALL.	HIDEN -	LAWLER -

The scene for discussion was set by an interesting outline of the background problems including a very stimulating and illuminating address by Dr. Edward Goldsmith.

Resolution to adopt amended manifesto accepted.

National Executive Committee elected.

K.M. BENFIELD. B. PERCY - DAVIS.

A.M. WHITTAKER. P. ALLEN.

A.L. WHITTAKER. C. LORD.

A.M. WHITTAKER was elected Chairman.

Conference heard case reports on establishing PEOPLE groups and obtaining local support and publicity from Leeds, Liverpool & Romford. A list of these is to be provided to the new N.E.C. for later distribution.

Campaign proposals : Agreed that priority should be given by all groups, including embryo groups as follows :

a) Nominate Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

b) Raising of funds for (a) and to operate and extend group.

c) Activity aimed at obtaining publicity as well as support e.g. Checking noise levels, levels of lead in blood samples etc.

STRENGTH OF PARTY. : There are now 39 groups literally stretching from Cornwall to a few miles from John O'Groats.

FUNDS: A small surplus from the conference has helped to overcome the precarious position. Funds are desperately required nationally for such mundane things as letterheads, envelopes and postage. Donations will still therefore be greatly appreciate.

PUBLICATION OF MANIFESTO : This is the first task of the N.E.C. and when it is available will be offered for sale. More details of how to obtain you copy later.

EDITORIAL (Any opinion, observations and comment are entirely that of the editor and in no way reflects the views of the N.E.C.)

THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT.

To the open amazement of many people including our critics and despite a somewhat stormy conference, the difference of opinion between left and right were, by almost, superhuman self control held in check. We have shown that our appeal transcends traditional political barriers, backgrounds and prejudices and that our purpose is more important than old hat doctrinal dogmas.

In spite of a subsequent 'straw' vote which showed a majority in favour of the whole document being reconsidered by specialist and select sub - committees; notwithstanding the many passionate arguments, intense emotions and the anguish of torn beliefs, conference overwhelmingly adopted the manifesto.

We now have a working document which can be changed, added to and improved upon in subsequent years as the pattern of change in society and our own ideas and ideals become clarified.

EDITORIAL CONTINUED.

For these reasons those who left the conference feeling in anyway disappointed or dissatisfied will nevertheless keep faith with the party and support its manifesto. Apart from formal business any conference allows an organisation to look at itself, its functions and procedures. Such opportunities must be used to the full.

On this occasion, since it was imperative that something come out of conference by way of a manifesto, anyone interested in PEOPLE was permitted to attend, everyone being allowed to both speak and vote. Simple majorities of those voting were taken.

70 people attended on the first day although several failed to appear on Sunday. Much of the voting involved total voting figures of under 40 so that, bearing in mind that many resolutions were passed by slender majorities, it can be seen that most were in fact passed by a minority of those present.

Whilst the British Parliament has in the past managed to function without one, perhaps one of our most pressing needs is for a written constitution. In particular, what should be the pattern of representation? Who should attend meetings? Who & how many should speak? Who carries the vote(s)? How many votes should any one body have? Must anyone speaking/voting be a paid up member of the Party? On what basis should resolutions be accepted and decisions made?

One suggestion is that each delegation should nominate one spokesman to speak on each issue and cast that delegations one vote, the reason being that new groups with small memberships and groups so geographically removed from the conference venue that only one person can be financed to attend, can be put on a more equal footing with groups who have large numbers in attendance.

Another suggestion put forward is that particularly on matters of great importance abstentions should be counted so that only overall majorities would indicate clear cut decisions.

Primarily, PEOPLE claims to support the rights and the voice of the individual yet unless it can be shown that we are capable of protecting these rights within our own party, unless it is seen that we represent the views of both left and right on an adequate and properly balanced way, then we will fail to convince the people of our fitness to protect their individuality.

So, how can your party ensure that everyone has an equal voice and is fairly represented? How can PEOPLE avoid the criticisms of being unrepresentative or projecting disproportionate views?

Your suggestions would be welcome.

National Organisation Communications Officer.
K. Michael Benfield.

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