



Head Office

Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs

Peter Rinker

M.814

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee and the National Executive Council held in Dining Room A, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1 on Wednesday 4th May 1983.

ATTENDANCE

Mr Jeff Rooker MP (Chairman)
Mr Tam Dalyell MP (Visitor)
Mr Terry Davis MP
Mr Martin Flannery MP
Mr Doug Hoyle MP
Lord Jenkins
Mr Arthur Lewis MP

Mr Clive Jenkins (GS)
Mr Stan Davison (DGS)
Mr Bob McCusker (AGS)
Mrs Muriel Turner (AGS)
Mr Gerry Gillman (SCPS)

Dr Oonagh McDonald MP
Mr John Maxton MP
Mr Ian Mikardo MP
Ms Jo Richardson MP
Mr Julius Silverman MP
Lord Wells-Pestell
Rt.Hon. Fred Willey MP

Mr John Gannon (UCTA)
Mr Peter Bell (NEC)
Mr Peter Kennedy (NO)
Ms Lucy Seifert (Head Office)

2131) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Janey Buchan MEP, Rt.Hon. David Ennals MP, David Evans (POA), Rt. Hon. Dame Judith Hart MP, Dr Maurice Miller MP and Dr Stuart Holland MP. ACCEPTED.

2132) VISITORS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Peter Bell (NEC Member) and two members from the Blood Products Laboratory Elstree, William Morris, ASTMS Group Secretary, and David Bennett, a member of the ASTMS Group Committee, who were attending for the item on blood products.

2133) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH APRIL 1983

It was NOTED that John Gannon had extended apologies for the previous meeting. The Minutes were AGREED as a true record.

2134) MATTERS ARISING

a) Science Policy

It was NOTED that Tam Dalyell MP and Doug Hoyle MP had attended meetings of the NEC Working Party on Science and Technology which was drawing up a policy for inclusion in the Manifesto. The main proposal was that there should be a Minister for Science and Technology of Cabinet rank. NOTED.

b) Blood Products Laboratory, Elstree

The General Secretary reminded the Committee of the campaign undertaken by the Parliamentary Committee during 1981 against the introduction of privatisation into the blood laboratories, when a deputation had successfully urged Dr Gerard Vaughan, then PUSS (DHSS) to increase funding to the laboratory. A new problem had now arisen with the importation of contaminated blood supplies into Britain and the resultant spread of AIDS into this country. The General Secretary had just given a pre ADC Press Conference at which he had spoken of the appalling situation whereby poor people in the US and Third World were selling their blood to raise enough money to feed their families. Inadequate or nil screening of donors could lead to the spread of AIDS and hepatitis. It was essential that only the Central Blood Laboratories Authority should have licenses to import and export blood products. £10m was being spent on the importation of plasma while at the same time there had been a 10% reduction in budgeting at the BPL.

Terry Davis MP informed the Committee that a PQ on this issue was high enough on the Order Paper to be answered orally by SoS (DHSS). AGREED to provide a detailed briefing, with particular reference to any reduction in cash limits for BPL and members were urged to ask supplementaries during question time.

c) Employer Provided Cars

John Gannon (UCTA) reported on the unhelpful meeting held on 19th April with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Originally UCTA