



The Barbican Centre

22-23 May





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The National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE

*Chairman:* Mrs Joan Seccombe, J.P.



THE BARBICAN CENTRE

The Conference takes place in the Barbican Hall

**Tuesday 22nd May, 1984**

2.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Doors to Hall open 1.50 p.m.)

Chairmen of Sessions: Mrs. Joan Seccombe, J.P.  
Mrs. Marjory Beastall, O.B.E. J.P.  
Mrs. Margaret Fry, O.B.E.

**Wednesday, 23rd May 1984**

9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (Doors to Hall open 9.00 a.m.)

Chairmen of Sessions: Mrs. Joan Seccombe, J.P.  
Mrs. Angela Clarke, O.B.E.

2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Doors open 1.30 p.m.)

Chairmen of Sessions: Mrs. Joan Seccombe, J.P.  
Miss Susan Hill  
Mrs. Judith Pratt

Secretary: **Miss Margaret Palmer**  
32 Smith Square, Westminster,  
London SW1P 3HH  
Tel: 01-222 9000



**The Prime Minister**  
The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher F.R.S. M.P.



*A message from*  
**Miss Emma Nicholson**

*Vice-Chairman of the Party Organisation*

Welcome to the 1984 Annual Conservative Women's Conference: our fifty-fourth, the first to be held here in the Barbican and the first one in the second Administration of Mrs. Thatcher.

Our theme – "Partners in Europe" – launches the Party on the road to victory on June 14. We will be hearing the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor and other members of her Cabinet, the Party Chairman, the Chairman of the European Democratic Group and the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission speak on topics chosen from the broad spectrum of political concern.

Two major issues – Trade and Industry and the Environment – have been explored in recent months by each Area Women's Committee and the European Union of Women. Their papers are in this handbook. We thank them for their work which gives us stimulating material for Ministers to speak to and debate.

On Wednesday morning, you will be putting questions on the Law and Civil Liberties, Education and the Social Services to our distinguished Question and Answer Panel. I know you will take this opportunity to raise matters of importance to all of us and to those of our members who cannot be present here.

This Conference, and its streamlined organisation, is the result of unstinting effort by many people, particularly your Chairman, Joan Seccombe, and your Secretary, Margaret Palmer. I know that all their work will be well rewarded by your own enjoyment of the Conference and by the message of Conservative strength and vigour, vision and determination under Mrs. Thatcher's leadership which you will take home.

*Emma Nicholson*



**Miss Emma Nicholson**  
Vice-Chairman of the Party Organisation







**Mrs Joan Seccombe J.P.**  
Chairman Conservative Women's National Committee



**Mrs Susan Hill**  
Vice-Chairman (Europe)  
Conservative Women's  
National Committee



**Mrs Angela Clarke O.B.E.**  
Vice-Chairman Conservative Women's National Committee





## Conference Memoranda

### Conference Passes

The Conference Pass enclosed with this handbook is not transferable and will admit the person concerned to all sessions of the Conference. You are asked to write, on the front of the card, your name and the Constituency or other organisation you represent. **Please use a felt-tipped pen if possible for legibility.** Remember to sign your name.

Please note Conference Passes are being used instead of tickets. A transparent pass holder, with pin attached, is also enclosed. Please insert the pass and wear the holder whenever entering and at all times whilst you are in the Conference Hall. Your co-operation in this way will obviate unnecessary delays at the entrances and assist with security. However, it is advisable to remove the pass holder on leaving the building.

In the interests of economy it will be appreciated if you would kindly hand your pass holder to the stewards as you leave at the end of the Conference, or if you leave earlier.

### Security

Take great care of your Conference Pass it is your only means of entering the Conference.

Please bring with you essential items only. Representatives will not be allowed to take any luggage into the Conference hall and anyone carrying a case or briefcase will be subject to delays on entry (there are facilities for leaving coats and umbrellas at the Barbican Centre on Level 3).

We reserve the right to search any handbags or luggage brought into the Barbican Centre. Please do not leave possessions unattended. The attention of the nearest steward should be drawn to any package which appears to be unattended.

**THIS IS A PRIVATE CONFERENCE AND ATTENDANCE IS RESTRICTED TO NAMED REPRESENTATIVES.**

### Enquiry Office

This is situated on level 3. All enquiries should be made here.

### Messages

Messages cannot be given from the platform except in cases of extreme urgency. Members are, therefore, requested to make arrangements in advance to meet their friends, or to leave necessary messages at the Enquiry Office having previously warned their friends to collect them there.

### Possessions left on Seats

Please note that all possessions left on seats will be removed to the Enquiry Office on level 3.

### Speeches

REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO SEND IN THEIR NAMES TO SPEAK IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE PAPERS (FORM ENCLOSED - OR ASK A STEWARD AT THE CONFERENCE) AND TO SEND IN QUESTIONS FOR THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION ON WEDNESDAY MORNING WITH THE LORD CHANCELLOR, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES. A FORM IS INCLUDED IN THE HANDBOOK AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO Miss Margaret Palmer, Secretary, C.W.N.C., Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, London SW1 OR handed in to a steward at the Conference no later than Tuesday afternoon. Please read the forms carefully.

### Access

The nearest underground stations are at Barbican, Moorgate, Bank, St. Paul's and Liverpool Street. The Barbican Centre (NB Not Exhibition Hall) is well signposted, and is five minutes walk from Barbican Underground. British Rail at Liverpool Street, Broad Street and Moorgate Stations (see maps).

Covered car parking space is available for 500 cars.

### Facilities for the Disabled

There is easy access throughout the Centre. Special cloakroom facilities are also located within the centre's foyers.

### Catering

Sandwiches and hot drinks will be on sale for representatives on level 5. If you wish to book a table for lunch telephone the Cut-Above Restaurant on level 7 (01-588 3008). There are, in addition, cafes and bars overlooking the lakeside Terrace.

### Creche

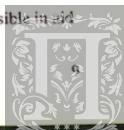
Arrangements will be available at the Barbican Centre for the care of young children of representatives during Conference sessions. Advance booking is necessary. A leaflet containing details and application form is enclosed with the handbook.

### First Aid

Members of the British Red Cross Society are kindly in attendance during the Conference sessions.

### Collection for Party Funds

It is hoped that representatives will subscribe as generously as possible in aid of the Conference expenses.



# Standing Orders

## Times of sessions

1. The hours of sitting of the Conference shall be issued with the Agenda.

## Chairman of meeting

2. At the opening of the Conference the Chairman of the Women's National Committee shall preside. In the event of the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall be Chairman of the Conference. If the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, then the members present shall elect one of themselves to preside during the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

## Quorum

3. Three hundred members present shall form a quorum.

## Time limit for speeches

4. Representatives speaking in a discussion e.g. on "papers" shall not exceed three minutes. This Standing Order shall not apply to the 'winding-up' speech. (For definition see Standing Order No. 9).

## Motion to proceed to next business

5. It shall be competent for any member, at the close of the speech of any other member, to move without debate that the Conference do proceed to the next business, and if such motion be seconded it shall be put forthwith. When a motion is carried that the Conference do proceed to the next business, the question under discussion shall be considered as dropped. During the same debate a second motion that the Conference do proceed to the next business shall not be made within half an hour.

## Resolve itself into committee

6. The Conference may at any period of its meetings resolve itself, without debate, into Committee. When the Conference resolves itself into Committee, all Strangers shall immediately withdraw.

## Urgent Matters

7. Matters which the Chairman considers urgent, and which have arisen too late to be specified in the Agenda, may be brought before the Conference by the Chairman with the consent of the majority of the members present.

## Chairman's decision

8. The decision of the Chairman on any point shall be final.

## Definition

9. The expression 'winding-up' speech shall mean the speech made at the end of a debate by a Minister or other person invited by the Chairman.

## Suspension of standing orders

10. Any Standing Order may be suspended on a simple majority of the Conference on the proposal of the Chairman, such proposition to designate the limit of the suspension.

## Alteration of standing orders

11. No new Standing Order for the Conference shall be adopted, nor shall any existing Standing Order be altered or repealed, except at a meeting of the Women's National Committee and with the support of not less than two thirds of the votes of those present and entitled to vote. Notice of the proposed adoption, alteration or repeal shall be given with the notice convening the meeting of the Women's National Committee at which such proposed adoption, alteration or repeal is to be considered.

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## Special Notice

Representatives are particularly asked to be punctual and to remain until the close of each session of the Conference. Will representatives wishing to enter or leave the hall during the sessions please do so only between speeches.

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## Conference Agenda

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 22 May, 1984  
2.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The National Anthem

- 1 Opening of the Conference by the Chairman of the Conservative Women's National Committee – **Mrs Joan Seccombe, J.P.**
- 2 An Introduction to "Partners in Europe" – **Miss Emma Nicholson**, Vice-Chairman of the Party Organisation.
- 3 The Rt. Hon. **Leon Brittan Q.C., M.P.**  
*Secretary of State for the Home Department*  
to address the Conference
- 4 Area Papers – THE ENVIRONMENT  
North West Revisited  
*North West, Mrs Ray Pigott*  
Transport and Environment in Europe and the UK  
*Western, Mrs Eve Falkner*  
Europe – Value for Money  
*Scotland, Mrs Heather Waterston*  
Community Amenities  
*Wessex, Mrs Jean Johnston*  
"Women in Public and Political Life"  
*Eastern, Mrs Betty Wilson*  
"Beauty and the Beast"  
*East Midlands, Mrs Penny Mason*

Recommendations will be presented briefly followed by discussion on the Papers and on Recommendations in which representatives are invited to take part.

*Reply to the Discussion*

The Rt. Hon. **Patrick Jenkin, M.P.**  
*Secretary of State for the Environment*

- 5 The Rt. Hon. **Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C. M.P.**  
*Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs*  
To address the Conference

WEDNESDAY MORNING  
9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

- 6 QUESTION TIME  
The Rt. Hon. **Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone CH FRS DL**  
*Lord Chancellor*  
The Rt. Hon. **Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP**  
*Secretary of State for Education and Science*  
The Rt. Hon. **Norman Fowler MP**  
*Secretary of State for Social Services*  
Questions from Conference Representatives (see Question slip in Handbook)
- 7 Area Papers – TRADE & INDUSTRY  
"The European Community – Our Home Market"  
*West Midlands, Miss Anthea McIntyre*  
Seizing our Opportunities  
*European Union of Women, Dr Caroline Jackson*  
Removing Restrictions on Trade  
*Greater London, Cllr., Mrs Wendy Mitchell, J.P.*  
Agricultural Marketing  
*Yorkshire, Mrs Joyce Locking*  
New Technology to Replace the Old  
*Wales, Mrs Dorothy Sutton*  
Commerce  
*South Eastern, Mrs Margaret Slade*  
"Free Trade – Fair Trade"  
*Northern, Mrs Pat Collins*

Recommendations will be presented briefly followed by discussion on the Papers and on Recommendations in which representatives are invited to take part.

*Reply to the Discussion*

The Rt. Hon. **Norman Tebbit M.P.**  
*Secretary of State for Trade & Industry*

- 8 **Mr John Gummer, M.P.**  
*Chairman of the Party Organisation*  
to address the Conference





## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

- 9 **The Baroness Platt of Writtle, C.B.E.**  
*Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission*  
to address the Conference
- 10 **Sir Henry Plumb, M.E.P.**  
*Chairman of the European Democratic Group*  
to address the Conference
- 11 An appeal for Party Funds  
**Sir Oulton Wade**  
*Joint Treasurer of the Party*
- 12 **The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, F.R.S., M.P.**  
*The Prime Minister*  
to address the Conference

The National Anthem

## Area Papers

### *The Environment*

#### **NORTH WEST REVISITED**

*(North West)*

In the North West, we investigated tourism and leisure, two fast growing industries in an area which has experienced the decline of its traditional industries. For the purposes of our research, we treated the two subjects as inter-related. The results show that people from Britain, other parts of Europe and the rest of the world are now visiting the North West in ever-increasing numbers because of the excellent facilities available.

Joining the E.E.C. was our opening to the greatest trading bloc in the world and tourism and leisure form an important part of this trade. The contact between people from various European countries leads to greater understanding, and especially welcome are the exchange visits to homes in the North West and twin town arrangements. We are appreciative of the financial help given to tourism from the E.E.C., museums, leisure parks, hotels, roads, railways and airports have all been helped.

Virtually everyone we approached wants more visitors, particularly from Europe, as the tourism and leisure industry is now a major source of income and employment. Although people like the quality of the Tourist Boards' promotions, and brochures are produced in several languages, much more could be done to attract visitors if extra money was available. The Government's revitalisation plans for tourism are welcomed. "Bed and Breakfast" in private homes should be explained and promoted more, as tourists do not know enough about this.

#### **Why should people visit the North West?**

It is suggested that there is no other region in Britain that can offer such a choice of sea, sand, countryside and heritage. There are the seaside resorts of Southport, Morecambe and of course, Blackpool – all of which have a fantastic choice in entertainment. There is the beautiful Lake District with its leisure opportunities of walking, climbing, sailing and relaxing, and there are hundreds of typical English villages. There are football holidays in Liverpool, golf holidays in Lancashire, short courses in crafts throughout the Area and plenty of music and theatre.

The North West abounds in history, from the City of Chester, whose origins go back to Roman times to the Victorian cities and towns not normally considered tourist attractions, but which have some of the most remarkable buildings in Britain, built by wealthy industrialists. Tourism and leisure are now helping to preserve our heritage, as we have turned the industries of the past into the industries of today with interesting and award-winning maritime, textile, mining, steam and social history museums.



The International Garden Festival is taking place in Liverpool from May to October. It is the only event of its kind during 1984 and is the first to be held in Britain. The emphasis is on horticultural displays with exhibitors from all over the world, but there is also music, sports and a narrow gauge steam railway, as well as many other special events in Liverpool throughout the year, including the finish of the Tall Ships Race.

#### **Why do people not visit the North West?**

The weather! It is not true that it always rains – the weather is hardly any different from that in the rest of the country.

Distance from the Channel Ports! Because of the new motorway system, it is so easy to drive from Dover to the North West that visitors from Europe can be in the Area in a matter of hours. There are also excellent rail and air links.

Lack of knowledge about the area! Most overseas visitors know little of our history, culture or countryside, notwithstanding the efforts of our tourist Boards. More emphasis should be placed on attracting visitors to the places outside London, particularly to areas of such great interest as the North West.

Despite these minor grievances, there is so much to see and do in our Area. If you have never thought of the North West as a holiday and leisure place, think again, and make 1984 the year that is "North West Revisted".

#### **Recommendation**

We recommend that our Government should provide more finance for promotion in Europe of tourism and leisure and, together with the EEC, should increase investment in these industries, especially in the less well known tourist areas of Britain where our history and heritage should be promoted. This would create job opportunities and further develop the contacts between the people of the EEC countries.

### **TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT IN EUROPE AND THE U.K. (Western)**

The E.E.C. provides us with the largest and most sophisticated market in the world, and Great Britain has to succeed in selling her share of goods. At present, 43% of our exports is with the E.E.C. and we need to increase our percentage to come more into line with France and Germany, 75% of whose exports are to the home markets of member states. The climate has to be conducive if we are to compete, but limitations imposed on us, both geographically and artificially inhibit the efforts of our exporters.

Unlike other E.E.C. countries, some of whom have heavily subsidised rail networks and consequently encourage goods transportation by rail, Great Britain relies almost entirely on road haulage.

Our meetings with companies regularly exporting to Europe, and our interviews with long distance drivers carrying these goods, highlight some of the problems encountered by the variance in regulations and restrictions imposed by different member states.

1. The Continental system of permits, or quotas, (not necessary in Great Britain) requires application in advance to the countries concerned. A complex form of documentation concerning the nature of goods has to be completed. Inaccuracies in completion lead to delays at Customs...

2. The lack of standardisation of weights and dimension of lorries can mean the unloading and re-loading at crossing points.

(It is interesting to note that the legislation regarding the tacograph and the increase in permitted gross vehicle weight, – welcomed by the German Trade Unions, but resisted by the Trade Unions in this country – would not have been encouraged by member states if they had been thought harmful to the environment).

Continental restrictions imposed on the heavy lorry are more stringent than ours, though evidence shows that more restrictions does not necessarily mean more efficiency, and can lead to corruption.

3. Fuel restrictions on entry into France, Germany and Italy are an aggravation.

4. The scrutiny of documentation, the varying modes of taxing and tariffing of goods and the inspection of plants, perishables and livestock, all cause delays and frustration at borders.

5. It is incomprehensible that there is no synchronisation of the functions of Customs Officers on either side of some borders. The frontier between France/Italy was noted by all drivers as being notoriously bad. This obviously sparked off the blockade and subsequently complete blockage of motorways by French lorry drivers in February. Our drivers complained of from two hours to two days delay at some crossing points. Frontier formalities and delays may be adding as much as 5% to 7% to the price of goods. Petty regulations and obstructing bureaucracy restrict the free flow of traffic between member states of the E.E.C. and are contrary to the original concept provided for in the Treaty of Rome.

#### **Sea Links**

Considerable export and import trade is evident at Bristol and Plymouth and in many small ports and docks in the South West. Some of this traffic entails chemicals, oil and petrol, all of which are a potential hazard to the environment. Animal foodstuffs, grain, fertilisers and china clay being loaded into open holds, have a pollution potential.

Oil pollution is perhaps the greatest threat to our wildlife and fishing industry, and it is unbelievable that there is no law requiring pilots to be on board tankers in the English Channel, particularly with the threat posed by 292,000 ships passing across or through the English Channel annually, involving 500,000,000 tonnes of oil and chemicals.





### Recommendations

Conservative M.E.P.'s should continue to press the problems of Road Haulage to ensure standardisation and uniformity within the Community, and to force the Council to implement the proposals of 1962 and the transport provisions of the Treaty of Rome.

The E.E.C. should accept responsibility to ensure that pollution does not occur from vessels using our sea ways and ports, and, independently of the Paris Conference, lay down rules governing the safety of ships and their movement, and to ensure that their operators obey the rules.

### EUROPE - VALUE FOR MONEY? (Scotland)

*The benefits of belonging to the European Economic Community touch the majority of UK citizens most directly through investment of capital from the Community.*

The Social and Regional Development Funds, the European Investment Bank, the Coal and Steel Community, and the New Community Instrument (known also as the Ortolí Facility) plus agricultural investment have together created new jobs, new businesses, new infrastructure as well as helping the training and retraining of workers.

The multiplier effect of this capital investment is difficult to quantify. However, new companies bring new jobs and new orders to suppliers; modern transport facilities enable goods to reach their markets quickly and foster development of a whole range of support facilities. Even a small investment can produce a considerable spin-off, as in the case of the Scottish Electronics industry, which employs some 40,000 people. Many firms have had E.E.C. money for expansion and training, helping them to take Scotland into new areas at the forefront of electronics technology.

The Regional Fund is of benefit only to those areas of the UK which are eligible for UK regional assistance. In the last quarter of 1983 Scotland received grants worth £42.2 million bringing the total received by Scotland in 1983 to £83 million and to £338 million since the fund was established in 1975. Over £11 million was given for Glasgow's Conference Centre at Queen's Dock. £26.8 million went on infrastructure projects which included over £1 million to Inverness relief road and nearly £1½ million to a water treatment works in Strathclyde.

Tourism was boosted by a grant to the National Trust for Scotland for development at Cullochen and by money to Irvine Development Corporation for their maritime museum.

Help to industry has included reimbursement on the Sinclair Micro-TV project, assistance for Wang at Stirling, plus £2 million for restructuring by English Sewing.

By contrast, the Social Fund goes towards financing national schemes. It is difficult to separate local European Social Fund expenditure from national. Contributions from the Fund are significant in YTS mainly in areas of highest unemployment and focus on priority groups of which young unemployed are the most important. Training and retraining for women over 25 years old wishing to re-enter the job market has also been an important feature.

The Scottish Development Agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board got well over £2½ million while 2 private firms received a total of more than £50,000. It is estimated some 7,300 people benefited from these grants. A great deal of help has gone to areas where traditional coal and steel industries have been run down. The European Coal and Steel Community Treaty made provision for loans to projects in any industrial sector provided that some redundant coal and steel workers were employed. At the Clyde Iron Works in Glasgow some of the old buildings were converted into workshops and some 60 small businesses have employed close to 500 people. Similarly, more than 100 jobs have been created in the Garnock Valley.

Loans come from the European Investment Bank and the Ortolí Facility at low interest rates for Scottish infrastructure projects on energy, new roads, water and sewerage.

In summary, Scotland in particular, assisted areas in general and the whole of the UK benefit from Community grants and loans. However, there is evidence that money is not always used. For instance, Strathclyde Regional Council found that money they had organised towards an employment scheme remained at the end of the year as happened with money made available to help new businesses and jobs for shipyard workers. It is clearly important to ensure the Community funds are fully utilised, by seeking out projects, by encouraging people to go into business for themselves and by coordinating publicity for grants and loans. The responsibility for these actions must fall on the shoulders of Government Departments and agencies, local government and industrial and commercial organisations.

### Recommendation

We feel that the loans and grants made available by the European Community to help the development of the economies of the Member States should represent a larger proportion of the Community budget and should be used to reduce the disparities between peripheral regions and the European Centre. It believes that further efforts should be made by central and local government, by individual and commercial interests to ensure the complete take-up of all such grants and loans.





## COMMUNITY AMENITIES (Wessex)

For centuries the pattern of community life in the small towns and villages in the South of England remained unchanged, self-contained and largely self-sufficient. Then in the 1950's and 1960's the explosion of affluence and the enormous increase in the ownership of private cars led to the expansion of the self-imposed boundaries – big was beautiful and door to door mobility was the key to paradise.

Inflation and the oil crisis of the 1970's came like the morning after the night before and the smaller communities have had to re-establish their identities. Many of the traditional landmarks have changed. Local shops probably reduced to one, smaller schools closed, branch lines and bus services substantially reduced or gone and the price of petrol putting the cost of private motoring beyond the reach of some of those who live in more isolated areas.

However, our survey showed encouraging trends in the way the communities are adapting. In the villages, the remaining shops have often widened their choice of goods and services provided, and in the more urban areas the small corner shop, with flexible hours and personal service is making a welcome comeback. People are contributing more and more to that great traditional store of voluntary aid, to provide Meals on Wheels, Car pools and neighbourhood care schemes.

Voluntary effort, of course, is not quite enough. Local authorities are increasingly realising the importance of providing recreational and other facilities to encourage local residents to enjoy and support their own community. The more enlightened planning authorities are encouraging cottage industries (though always with the understanding that a balance must be struck between planning and the damage which can be caused by unbridled industrial development). We have something to learn from our partners in Europe here where the policy of village-based industries provide employment on the spot and reduce the need to go elsewhere, thus ensuring that the people stay together and the community retains its young.

The advance of technology with all its new light industries has led to increases in population and to changes in the social structure of towns and villages. Sometimes it is not easy for newcomers to be accepted into an established community, and often their enthusiasm to support and improve their surroundings can cause resentment. However, it may well be that the efforts of these new residents will help to maintain and increase local amenities and with give and take on both sides the community spirit can be re-realised.

All the surveys stressed the importance of personal contact in local services. The resident policeman to help deter the vandals, the on-the-spot surgeries, the post buses, the mobile libraries, the post offices and telephones, the Building Society contact points, the local shops and the travelling shops

and all the good neighbour schemes. These are the focal points which bring people together in their familiar surroundings.

In conclusion, it seems that most of the local communities in Wessex are alive and well but very conscious of what is needed to secure their future. Community amenities cannot fulfil their purpose if, having been provided, they are not supported. For never let us forget that the greatest community amenity is the community itself.

### Recommendation

We recommend that every possible encouragement should be given to small businesses, organisations and individuals in order to maintain and increase local amenities and employment, thereby retaining the local community.

## WOMEN IN PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE – A COMPARISON BETWEEN BRITAIN AND HER EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS (Eastern)

Constituency Women's Committees in Eastern Area were asked to contact friends, relations or businesses in the E.E.C. We received replies from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland and Italy, and this is a summary of our findings.

### Women in Politics

Our contacts in all countries other than France, Greece and Germany felt women were encouraged to take an active part in Party Politics and to stand for office.

Protest organisations and the left wing seemed to attract younger women whereas those of more moderate outlook concentrate on their careers or families rather than involving themselves with politics.

Experience and political acumen count more in the selection of candidates than academic qualifications. For local councillors a knowledge of local affairs and the ability to communicate are necessary; women councillors are accepted rather than encouraged though in Belgium they are not encouraged at all in spite of the equal opportunities criteria being strictly adhered to.

The number of women in local government is higher than at national level except in Germany. All councillors receive expenses but in Denmark and Italy they have a salary.

The creation of the European Parliament has provided an opportunity which women were quick to grasp, as the table overleaf shows:-



Women in:-	National Parliament	European Parliament
France	4%	22%
Greece	4%	8%
Britain	5%	13%
Italy	6%	12%
Ireland	8%	6%
Belgium	8%	25%
Germany	9%	14%
Holland	20%	20%
Denmark	23%	25%

NB Where there are two Houses of Parliament an average figure is given. In the European Parliament women are involved more with committees on environment, social affairs, youth, education and regional policies: fewer serve on economic and monetary committees.

#### Women in Public Life

Comparisons are difficult to make as the structure of the institutions is so variable. Other countries do not have the large number of boards, authorities, consumer councils etc, which we have in Britain, but where they do exist women are either elected to, or volunteer for the home and family orientated sections.

On the Continent the Church is a strong influence, and women play a large part in committees particularly those responsible for raising money.

In judiciary work there is no bench system for magistrates in Holland or Greece, but they both have many women judges and lawyers. In Holland women judges deal mainly with juvenile offences. The administration of justice at a magisterial level is increasingly entrusted to women, but some countries voice the suspicion that women in court might allow emotion to cloud their judgement.

The Civil Service in each country provides a number of openings for women, but the Foreign Service provides very few: the diplomatic corps being strongly male orientated. Nevertheless, in 1983 France had four ambassadors, Britain three, Denmark and Germany two, Belgium, Ireland and Holland one, Greece and Italy had none.

#### Women and Charities

On the Continent charities are less numerous than in Britain, and do not play the same role of supplementing welfare provision. Where charities do exist the voluntary work is done mainly by women.

#### Women in Society

Within the E.E.C. women have similar problems and outlooks, and to a degree similar opportunities. The differences occur in their attitude to their place in society. Although women in all these countries have equal opportunities, it is not easy to make use of them.

On the Continent the urban/rural contrast is significant. Rural areas are the most reluctant to change, with old values still predominant; women being more likely to work on the farm or stay at home with the children.

We found the position of women in Britain is on a par with her European neighbours, but major differences occur within individual countries themselves. In spite of constraints of private, family or social life, women are gradually taking up their responsibilities within the community.

#### Recommendation

Whilst recognising that opportunities exist for women to enter public life, nevertheless we urge Governments, professional bodies, educational institutions and business generally to give more active encouragement to women to strive for promotion and to accept responsibility.

### BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (East Midlands)

#### To consider the conflict between the beauty of our environment and the needs of Industry

The East Midlands Area covers a rural part of the country from the Humber and Lincolnshire coast to Northamptonshire in the South and the Peak District of Derbyshire in the North West. In the middle there is an area of mining and industry, mainly near Derby, Nottingham and Leicester.

In rural areas of Lincolnshire and Humberside, people acknowledge the need for protection and conservation, but want more industries to create employment. This could be achieved by more rural development areas and training in rural crafts. Where there is a town with Development Area Status nearby, such as Scunthorpe, it makes it difficult for other places to compete. Much is being done by the East Midlands Tourist Board and others to promote tourism throughout the Area.

In Leicestershire, permission has been given for new mining south of the Vale of Belvoir. Local people are worried about new housing and inadequacy of roads. Other facilities may be under stress; villages face the prospect of a complete change of character. On the other hand, some increase in population may help to keep rural schools open and encourage trade.

In South Derbyshire, wealth comes from coal, clay mining and gravel extraction, with related industries of pottery, engineering and haulage. Open-cast mining is the most profitable but said to be the most environmentally destructive. Landscaping and reclamation techniques have improved and land may be restored for agriculture, woodland and recreation. E.E.C. money is available for restoration and should be utilised.





The Peak District National Park faces conflicting interests. This area of outstanding beauty consists mainly of hill farms, but the country's reserves of the highest quality limestone for chemical purposes, fluorspar and other minerals are located here. National Parks are subject to stringent controls on development. Residents generally want consents for extension of mineral working and quarrying because they want continuation of traditional work. Minerals must be won where they are. Officers of Peak Park want no more major consents given. They hope that future aggregates used for road works will come from elsewhere, such as Fort William and Wales. This may not prove economically realistic. Much is being done to reinstate the land. Of the 38,000 local inhabitants, many feel frustrated by the bureaucracy and some resent the 16 million visitors a year, many coming daily and contributing little to the local economy. More accommodation is being provided and more jobs linked to tourism. People would not want to visit a fossilised landscape.

Nottingham's problems are different. People are concerned that the City Council has given itself planning permission to develop green belt land without a full public inquiry. This will lead to traffic problems and urban sprawl.

Changes in employment and people's way of life are causing considerable conflict. Declining heavy industries and increased mechanisation in agriculture which gave full-time employment, means jobs need creating elsewhere; at the same time greater leisure and mobility have increased the demands on the environment. Recent levels of unemployment have had a marked effect on people's attitudes. No one wants development next door; but they are more willing to accept change if it means jobs.

Overall, much is being done to minimise conflict, but inadequate roads and heavy lorries present a fundamental problem. Reasonable balance between different demands must be maintained. Residents in this Area enjoy the Beauty and endure the Beast.

#### **Recommendation**

"We are concerned that there should be no 'gnawing away' of the Green Belt. New development should be built on derelict inner city land, thus preventing further urban and industrial sprawl. Any change of use should be for rural purposes only."

## *Trade & Industry*

### *THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - OUR HOME MARKET*

*(West Midlands)*

A survey was conducted of 125 companies in the West Midlands Area to discover how far the idea of Europe as our "home market" has become a reality over our 10 years of E.E.C. membership. All sizes of industry were covered from the embryonic new business to the multi-million giant. A wide range of industry - 25% manufacturing, 39% engineering, 16% agriculture related, 10% electronics and high technology - gives a good representation of the West Midlands Area.

Over half the firms interviewed showed an increase in their exports to E.E.C. countries since Britain joined the Community and 25% of these had more than doubled their E.E.C. exports. Particularly successful industries included rubber, computers and plant and machinery. It is interesting to note that only 9% of companies had substituted E.E.C. countries for other markets, the rest represents new growth in export sales. A small number reported a decrease in E.E.C. trade with various non-tariff barriers cited as the reason for this.

The difference between new industries and the old traditional ones was quite marked. 66% of new companies exported more than 20% of their goods compared with 50% of the traditional industries. More notably, well over half of the new companies' exports were to E.E.C. countries and only 15% of the traditional. Both new and old industries experienced similar types of difficulty in exporting. However, more problems were found with the old industries and it appeared that new firms were geared towards European trade and were more able to cope with problems such as differing national standards.

The most intransigent problem was the nationalistic attitude of other E.E.C. countries, particularly the French, who will only buy home produced goods. However, of all the companies who mentioned this, only 2 thought the answer was "for Britain to be as bad".

When questioned about the difficulties connected with getting goods across frontiers, the vast majority had no problems. However, the excessive amount of documentation was criticised and 17% of our survey were also critical of French customs and told of many delays. There was a loud plea for the abolition of customs and excise between member countries. Several specific instances were cited, particularly by a transport company complaining of having to pay duty on the fuel in their lorry tanks when crossing French and German borders.

Our survey also looked at non-tariff barriers to trade. Again the majority had no particular problems although many expressed the need for sensible harmonisation of standards. German electrical standards were specifically





mentioned by 10% of our survey and there was a feeling that their trade associations set standards to favour their own manufacturers.

The use of hidden subsidies were also mentioned. In one instance a tubing manufacturer could not compete with firms in Spain and Italy who could supply goods at a price for which the English firm could only buy the raw materials.

In addition to the points already made, a number of suggestions were put forward as to how E.E.C. member governments could improve trade. Apart from the general wish for a completely free trade area with no internal E.E.C. barriers, the most important point was the difficulty of fluctuating exchange rates. 10% of our survey wanted a common European currency or for Britain to join the EMS "snake". The cost of business air travel was seen as excessive and help was requested for attending trade fairs within the E.E.C. as there is for international ones.

In conclusion, our survey showed a substantial overall increase in exports to E.E.C. countries during the period of Britain's membership and a great desire to see the ideal of Europe as our "home market" fully realised.

#### **Recommendation**

We call upon the European Parliament to harmonise technical standards wherever possible, reduce the amount of documentation required and work towards the abolition of all internal frontiers.

### ***SEIZING OUR OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE (EUW)***

Europe contains a market of 270 million consumers; tariff barriers have been abolished and non-tariff barriers are being gradually eroded. All this adds up to a tremendous opportunity for Britain to export more, to safeguard the 2½ million existing jobs dependent on our European trade, and to create new ones.

#### **Are we seizing that opportunity?**

On the face of it, we are making progress. In 1973, the first year of our membership of the E.E.C., exports to other member states represented some 31 per cent of our total trade: in 1983 the figure rose to 44 per cent and exports to Europe were worth some £26 billion. An important switch of emphasis has

taken place from the Commonwealth to the European market. Some industries have notable export achievements to Europe, particularly chemicals, transport equipment, office machinery and clothing. We have taken enthusiastically to the computer age, and Britain is a European leader in new technology: Sinclair was the first firm in the world to sell more than a million micro-computers. Our older industries have been going through a very tough time but are now beginning to turn the corner. Although we have a smaller steel industry, its productivity has increased enormously: the textile and footwear industries, following restructuring, are now beginning to take on more workers and export more. But for all this, if we look at the overall trade balance with Europe in manufactured goods, the picture is bleak. In 1972 we had a small trade surplus (£42m) with the other E.E.C. countries; in 1982 we had a very large deficit. The high pound and our inability – in some sectors – to tailor what we produce to what the continental consumer wants are two important reasons for this.

Of course manufactured goods are by no means all that Britain produces. Oil and oil products represented some 29 per cent of our exports to Europe in 1983. We are increasing our exports of agricultural products to Europe under the Food from Britain banner. We have a surplus with Europe in invisible trade, principally in financial services.

But we cannot ignore the vitally important trade deficit in manufactured goods with Europe. Part of the remedy lies in ourselves here in Britain: in higher productivity, fewer strikes, more reliable delivery dates, better products and better marketing. The European Community can offer tangible help from grants and loans for businesses, training and infrastructure.

Part of the remedy also lies in creating a free Common Market. Non-tariff barriers still abound. Customs formalities still restrict trade. Floating currencies inhibit exporters. The Common Market in services remains on the drawing board: the City of London is the world's financial centre and Britain has more to gain than any other country from removing barriers to the provision of financial services, particularly insurance. One estimate gives the net benefit to Britain from a Common Market in non-life insurance as £55 million in the first year alone.

We realise what immense efforts our Foreign Secretary and MEPs are putting into fighting to remove barriers to European trade and make the Common Market really work. More power to them! We hope British business will take advantage of their efforts.

#### **Recommendations**

That our Government does everything it can, with the other Member States, to create a real common market by doing away with non-tariff barriers, reducing unnecessary frontier formalities and opening up the market in services.

That the Conservative determination to make Europe work and to make it work for Britain, should be a prominent part of our message in the European elections.

## REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE (Greater London)

The response to our survey showed overwhelmingly that the business community considers Whitehall and Town Hall to be the main obstacles to improving trade. Symptomatic of the politician's mistrust of the businessman is the never-ending stream of regulations produced by Whitehall which interfere with business and commerce. These result in endless form-filling and other time-wasting activities in order to meet the demands of the bureaucracy. We cannot achieve competitive pricing when our foreign competitors are not burdened with similar legislation.

A thorough review of laws relating to business activity and employment is needed with the aim of developing a set of simple cost-effective rules. Certain Acts of Parliament are singled out time and again as ripe for repeal or reform. They are the Shops Act, Sunday Trading Laws, Licensing Laws, the Employment Protection Act and the plethora of consumer protection legislation which comes from our Government and from the E.E.C. In Europe we need to return to the original free trade ideals of the Treaty of Rome and prevent the development of a highly regulated market. It is calculated that if we succeeded in raising our percentage of trade with Europe to the 75% enjoyed by France and W. Germany 700,000 more jobs would be created.

Better use should be made by companies of their rights to direct access to MEP's who should unflinchingly continue to exert pressure on the Commission and the European Bureaucracy to remove technical barriers to trade.

The negative role of taxation is criticised. Too little attention is paid to the needs of industry which is regarded as a milch cow for implementing social policies. Hidden taxes in the form of National Insurance contributions, rates and high fuel tax contribute to our uncompetitive position in world markets. Capital Gains Tax prevents a business from building up its own resources from profits, which is particularly hard on small firms who, as they grow, may be driven to borrow money to meet this tax liability; so they rein in their activities instead of expanding trade.

The collection of VAT is an unnecessary burden placed on small businesses who do not collect enough tax to make the exercise financially worthwhile. The majority of small firms could be exempt from collecting VAT without loss to the Treasury. Regional policies are criticised as economically damaging because they persuade companies to move round the country in search of grants instead of encouraging each region to make the most of its own resources. The infrastructure of industry, roads, railways, sewers and watermain is badly managed and their inefficient working adds greatly to the cost of industry.

Local authorities are too often indifferent to the needs of the business community, with planning departments seeking to prevent rather than encourage the expansion of business activity.

The respondents to our survey clearly want a new industrial climate in which businesses are both trusted and freed to get on with the job of creating

wealth. We call upon the Government for a major review of restrictions which damage our trading position locally, nationally and internationally.

### Recommendation

Whilst continuing to safeguard the interests of the consumer we call upon the Government for a major review of restrictions which damage our trading position locally, nationally and internationally.

## AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (Yorkshire Area)

The question was posed – "Is the farmer producing what the consumer wants?" – and we perceived the performance of the agricultural industry from the standpoint of the industry on the one hand and the consumer on the other.

The world leaders in marketing are the Japanese and only the top British companies compete with them. The Japanese work as an industry where peer group meetings analyse the reason why one section is producing better results. In Britain secrecy holds us back and we are inclined to work against each other rather than as an industry against international competition. Marketing co-operatives on the Continent have been developed so as to be stronger and more effective than those in Britain. Reasons for this include fiscal measures, such as the Revolving Loan Fund, which function in such a way so as to give tax advantages. These co-operatives have been encouraged to be multi-product organisations whereas in Britain the Marketing Boards are each a single product monopoly. The Price Support system, which is historical, means that if Britain exports agricultural products, regulations on tariff and trade are infringed. As a result, one casualty has been the egg product industry and farmers who are successfully supplying consumer goods to shops and supermarkets are having to import products, such as albumen.

Such regulations have restricted British export opportunities and induced an attitude of mind where many agriculturalists are reluctant to talk about marketing. The working of the Intervention system is criticised for creating a ludicrous situation where our farmers obtain the highest price by selling into Intervention, leaving British millers and feed merchants to import similar qualities of grain from other E.E.C. countries. When grain is re-introduced on to the home market after being sold into Intervention, the price is prohibitive.



British Civil Servants are also seen as being slow to identify with the objectives of the Industry. Too much time is spent worrying about how we comply with the rules rather than making the rules more flexible to meet the needs of the Industry. British farmers find that in the French agricultural co-operatives it is difficult to distinguish civil servants from members. There are certainly individual success stories in Yorkshire where far-sighted organisations lead their respective fields, but the agricultural industry as a whole must follow suit. It must generate a more positive attitude towards marketing and the civil service must answer the needs of the industry.

British produce must be graded more carefully. A carton of French Golden Delicious apples are regular in size whereas their British counterparts are assorted sizes. The other E.E.C. countries also appear to have a better understanding of problems experienced in transit where there is weight deterioration. Taking mushrooms, for instance, our E.E.C. partners will pack more than the stated weight so that on arrival the actual weight is correct.

The results obtained from questionnaires indicate that housewives prefer commodities that are attractively packaged and fresh looking. They like samples, demonstrations and clear instructions, are influenced by television and press advertising, but not by new labels and small print. They dislike UHT milk and stress the importance of the doorstep pint. Most important is value for money. As one farmer put it, food must be marketed from conception to consumption and the consumer would agree.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Minister should direct the resources of the Advisory Services towards implementing a programme of educating the agricultural community in the need for survival through competent and aggressive advertising.

### **NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO REPLACE THE OLD (Wales)**

In Wales we are particularly aware of the necessity to adapt to the changes that new technology brings. Wales has been long dependent upon traditional, declining industries, and we are now at an exciting stage as the Conservative Government encourages the switch to new technologies and working methods. Japan has experienced a massive contraction in her coal industry which in 1952 employed 413,000, but by 1983 employed only 20,000 and the fact that unemployment there was 2.7% last year proves that new technology creates jobs, not destroys them, as is the common misconception. Already the electronics industry now provides more jobs in Wales than steel and coal together.

Not only have we welcomed an "invasion" of high-tech firms such as Mitel, Innos, Ferranti, Parrot, Comdial and Amersham who, alone, promise the creation of 4,000 new jobs, but established Welsh companies have invested heavily in restructuring operations and improving techniques. Existing firms are expanding into new markets and there is world-wide demand for Welsh electronic products.

One of the initiatives taken by the Conservative Government in this field in Wales is Wintech, a new technology centre which will act as a catalyst translating new ideas, products and processes into commercial reality.

#### **The Science Park**

A USA concept which seeks to attract high-tech companies to make use of University facilities in a pleasant working environment. Already plans are proceeding to establish Parks at Bridgend, Swansea, Bangor, and Aberystwyth. Also University College, Cardiff is setting up its own Industry Centre.

Business centres for industrial technology are being established under the Newtech scheme at Deeside and Cleppa Park, Newport. A further 28 acres greenfield site for high-tech firms is being set up at Pontypool, Gwent.

A new information centre for the Welsh Microelectronics Education Programme recently set up at Cardiff has a vital part to play in promoting the use of microcomputers in schools. The ITeCs – Information and Technology Centres – of which there will be 12 in Wales are designed to help unemployed young people to gain work experience and training.

It is clear from market statistics that Europe has fallen behind the USA and Japan in the field of new technologies. Whereas Europe's share of the world computer market was only 16% in 1980, USA accounted for 73%, the rest being Japanese.

#### **Espirit**

The European Strategy Research Programme in Information Technology – launched this year seeks to correct this imbalance. The aim of the programme is to concentrate on long-term research for IT product leadership rather than catching up with foreign innovators and so lay the basis for Community industry to be in the forefront of innovation in the 1990's rather than lagging behind.

#### **Insis**

A project funded through the Community aims to supply information technology to European institutions and also seeks to widen standards with Euronet DIANE, which forms part of the broader strategy to create a common information market in the Community. This Direct Information Access Network for Europe allows users direct access through computer terminals, to data banks via high speed telephone links.

From our survey questionnaire conducted in women's groups throughout Wales, we concluded that new technology has improved leisure time with



acquisitions such as videos and home computers. The majority felt that better public access to information on new technology was needed. In many cases, new technology had improved efficiency in their working lives and for some, computer hardware and software now provides a livelihood.

In Britain we must now reinforce what we in Wales have so painfully achieved over the last few years, and then fully exploit the huge opportunity that exists.

#### **Recommendation**

We urge the Government, individuals, managers, trade unions, universities and financial institutions to work together to exploit the full potential that new technology offers in the creation of new industries and jobs.

### **COMMERCE** *(South Eastern Area)*

The word "Commerce", in use since 1537 is defined as the exchange between men of the products of nature and art, and the buying and selling together of merchandise, especially on a large scale between countries and districts. The South-East with close proximity to the European mainland, Channel Ports for short sea crossings and easy access by air, is regarded as the doorway to the Continent and has, therefore, attracted many industries to the Area, increasing the flow of goods and services. In addition to Offices and Factories the South-East also supports Farms and Nursery Gardens. Long hours of sunshine along the South Coast, comparatively low rainfall and a generally less severe weather pattern than on the Continent, favours many different branches of Agriculture. The Common Agricultural Policy has improved production and the E.E.C. intervention price has made farmers more attentive to quality. Dramatic increases in amounts of quality grain produced by British farmers has injected new life into British Rail and Railfreight is now a success story, whereas 8 years ago withdrawal from grain freight was considered. Despite the high cost of fencing, sheep flocks have been increased to meet greater and growing demands.

Many large companies have Headquarters and important establishments in the South-East, including Banking and Insurance. ICI has a long list of items sold to Europe, including paints, agro-chemicals, man-made fibres, basic chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Their business has grown more than four-fold in the decade of E.E.C. Membership and ICI is now considered as a U.K.

Company, treating Europe as a home market, instead of a U.K. Company with a foothold in Europe. This is also the pattern emerging from some of the smaller and newer industries. The elimination of duty has greatly encouraged expansion. Rationalisation of product ranges and standardisation of components has been of considerable benefit to British exporters and the harmonisation of technical standards and commercial documents has proved advantageous in increasing export trade. There is a more ready acceptance of our goods, especially because of the ease and speed of transport to Continental buyers and the relatively modest freight cost. American multi-national companies, making computers and electronic devices have made impressive investments in the South-East which, in turn, has increased exports.

Opportunities for women, especially in engineering are increasing.

Tourism plays a large part in Trade for the South-East. Travellers may be tourists on holiday, on a business trip, or a combination of both – the South-East welcomes them all, together with their foreign exchange, export orders and investment plans. The World's fourth busiest international Airport is called "Golden Gatwick" in its officially sponsored booklet and Dover has become the World's busiest international Passenger Port, with a major increase in trade between Britain and the rest of the Community. Private car and Coach traffic has increased dramatically in both directions. A loan of £3 million from the European Investment Bank helped the Thanet region to reclaim 20 acres of land at Ramsgate, dredge a channel navigable at all states of the tide and build a new Passenger and Freight Terminal. The emergent Sally Viking Line is very popular with day shoppers and long distance tourists.

As the South-East is Britain's main reception area, the economic and other benefits are closely felt and the spin-off effects, impressive. A large proportion of jobs in Kent and Sussex are dependent upon tourism and there is a concentration of new hotels round Gatwick Airport. Obviously the prosperity of the South-East is heavily dependent upon Commerce and the many suggestions put forward for even greater cohesion, efficiency and expansion will prove valuable to the continual process of improvement.

#### **Recommendation**

We urge the Conservative Party to pursue, with continued vigour and resolution, its aim to encourage all forms of trade and commerce, especially between Britain and its European partners.





## *FREE TRADE – FAIR TRADE (Northern)*

Our survey of people concerned with all aspects of British trade showed overwhelming support for the E.E.C., mainly because it has given us access to markets for more than 250 million in a Free Trade area.

Most people feel that opportunities for growth within the E.E.C. are enormous, but we must make our industry competitive.

Good management, reasonable pay claims and abolition of restrictive practices are essential. We must produce the right goods, at the right price, at the right time to reap the benefit of this free trade area.

### **Case for Protection**

Although some feel that the traditional, depressed industries of the North should be protected most recognised that such "feather-bedding" merely postponed the day of reckoning.

The Community already helps the iron and steel and coal industries, while E.E.C. regional and social funds pour into depressed areas like the North East.

New industries should be given "breathing space" to grow, as should those adjusting to new patterns of trade and to the E.E.C. regulations. Under Community Law the powers of the Government to give protection against foreign competition is limited but it can help by its fiscal and economic policies. Lower interest rates would be of major assistance, also the lowering of abolition of the N.I.S. and some de-rating of industry. The Government can also use its power as the biggest purchaser in the country of goods and services to help particular industries. And it can do this by means of capital expenditure.

### **Fair Trade**

For international trade to be free it must also be fair.

Over the past two years there has been growing concern about the increasing incidence of unfair competition, through such means as "dumping" or hidden subsidies for imports. Where such cases are proven (and unfortunately this can take a long time) the Commission must enforce the rules, but we should not "protect" against competition as this invariably leads to retaliation.

Britain is more dependent than most major industrial countries on world trade. Our industrialists must press through trade associations, the Government and the Commission in Brussels, for trading rules to be upheld. This mechanism needs urgent improvement – delays can cause markets to be lost or companies to become bankrupt.

It is necessary to press for change or amendment of bad practices: CAP is an obvious example. Artificial and on-tariff barriers, such as unnecessary paper work at frontiers, must be broken down too – otherwise once again we could see the biggest traffic jam in history!

If trade is not always fair amongst members of the Community, it is certainly not always fair between Europe and the rest of the world. But as the largest trading bloc in the world, the Community is in a strong position to negotiate with other blocs and countries.

The E.E.C. can see that GATT rules are applied and updated; it can negotiate with Australia for a fairer trade balance and with newly industrialised countries like South Korea, who enjoy the benefits of our open market without accepting the obligation to open theirs. The Community is also in continual negotiation with both Japan and the U.S.A.

Sadly, quarrels amongst members often mean that measures like the proposed regulation on Unfair Trade – which would be a useful addition to our trade defences – fall by the wayside: the Germans think it goes too far down the protectionist road and the French not far enough.

### **Conclusion**

Free Trade is best for Britain – that is the view held by the majority of people we approached in industry, trade and finance. But it is evident that much still has to be achieved to make trade really fair both within the E.E.C. and with the other trading blocs.

### **Recommendation**

Whilst welcoming the benefits that membership of the E.E.C. has given to industry we urge Her Majesty's Government to take all possible steps to breakdown continuing barriers to fair trade.



## Conservative Women's National Committee Annual Report

*1st March 1983 to  
28th February 1984*

**Officers:** Mrs Joan Seccombe J.P. (*Chairman*)  
Mrs Angela Clarke OBE (*Vice-Chairman*)  
Mrs Susan Hill (*Vice-Chairman Europe*)  
Miss Margaret Palmer (*Secretary*)

### Meetings

The C.W.N.C. under the Chairmanship of Mrs Joan Seccombe J.P., held three all-day meetings. We are grateful to the following who addressed the meetings:- Dr Brian Thwaites (Principal of Westfield College), The Rt Hon Leon Brittan Q.C., M.P. (Home Secretary) and John Selwyn Gummer M.P. (Chairman of the Party Organisation). The General Purposes Committee met on four occasions. Area Women Chairmen have reported at every meeting on the political trends in their Areas and a report of the important issues is passed regularly to the Prime Minister and Party Chairman by the Vice-Chairman of the Party with special responsibility for women.

### Working Parties

During this period Working Parties have published reports on the following:- The "Scarman" Report, "Peace Studies" and "The Family and Matrimonial Proceedings Bill".

We are grateful to Mrs Josephine Robinson M.A., Mrs Nora Spensley C.B.E. and Mrs Angela Clarke O.B.E. for chairing these Working Parties. Evidence was submitted once again to the Chancellor of the Exchequer prior to the Budget.

### Parliamentary Sub-Committee

Mrs Nora Spensley C.B.E. continued as Chairman of the Sub-Committee which specialises in monitoring legislation affecting women. During the year the following speakers have been welcomed:- Neil MacFarlane M.P. (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment) and Mrs Lynda Chalker M.P. (Minister of State, Department of Transport).

### Outside Organisation Sub-Committee

Mrs Wendy Mitchell J.P. was elected Chairman of this Committee in June. Two speakers have visited the committee:- Mrs Margaret Wynn and Mr Peter Bottomley M.P. The Committee continues to keep in touch with thirty-six other national organisations through the representatives panel.

### European Union of Women

Mrs Susan Hill continues as Chairman with Mrs Barbara Keene as first Vice-Chairman and Mrs Stella Bye as second Vice-Chairman. The number of branches throughout the country has increased from 47 to 50 during the year. Representatives have attended the International meetings during the year. The British section will act as host to the General Assembly in 1985.

### Conferences

Due to the General Election the 1983 Women's Conference "Working Together" had to be cancelled. Nevertheless a great deal of work had already been undertaken by Area and Constituency Committees in order to research and publish thirteen papers on different aspects of Employment, the Economy and The Environment. We take this opportunity of thanking all those who took part in the preparation of these excellent papers, which were circulated to the appropriate Ministers.

### Working Conferences

The annual Working Conference for Area Chairmen and Area Hon. Secretaries which was to have been held at St. Anne's College, Oxford was cancelled due to the General Election.

The Annual November Conference was held again this year at Brandon Hall, Nr. Coventry with representation from every Area. The speakers were:- Emma Nicholson, Anthony Shrimley, Dame Shelagh Roberts, DBE, MEP, Ian McLeod JP, Kenneth Clarke QC, MP, The Hon. Douglas Hogg MP, Lady Olga Maitland.

### Party Conference

The CWNC held a reception for women representatives at the Party Conference in Blackpool, attended by Ministers, Party and National Union Officers. 44 women were called to speak at the Conference - a record number.

### Other Conferences

Members have attended Conferences and meetings arranged by other national organisations.

### Mutual Aid

Once again representatives from the CWNC have helped at every Parliamentary by-election during the year, and a number of members took a very active part in Mutual Aid at the General Election.





### Visit to the European Parliament

In September 32 members including a number of women on the Candidates' List visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

### Awards

The Committee wishes to record its congratulations to the following past and present members who received Honours during the year. Mrs Beryl Duckworth, O.B.E., Mrs Joyce Foster, O.B.E., Mrs Nan Myer, O.B.E., Mrs Ann Rippon, O.B.E., Mrs Anna Tribe, O.B.E., Miss Brenda Cribb, O.B.E. (former Secretary CWNC), Mrs Brenda Douglas, M.B.E., and Mrs Dorothy Slater, M.B.E.

### Conclusion

Immediately after the election we learned with sadness that Lady Young had told the Prime Minister of her wish to relinquish the Vice-Chairmanship of the Party with special responsibility for Women. She had been our mentor and inspiration for 8½ years and in spite of her enormous responsibilities of State always made time for the CWNC. The committee will always be grateful for her leadership and the very special relationship which meant so much to us. The following month we welcomed her successor Miss Emma Nicholson who by her enthusiasm and friendliness has provided us with fresh inspiration for the future.

Post election days are often days of change so it was with regret that we heard of the retirement of our Honorary Secretary, Angela Hooper, who had been appointed to a new position as Deputy Director of Organisation (Chief Executive for European Elections). She had served the Committee with great distinction for six years. We shall miss her flair and dedication and wish her well in her new position.

We congratulate Margaret Palmer on her promotion to Assistant Director of Organisation (Women's Organisation) and wish her continuing success with her new responsibilities. I want to say a very special word of thanks to her. Throughout my term of office she has given me and the Committee efficient and cheerful support and we are indeed grateful. I shall always remain indebted to Margaret for her advice, kindness and friendship.

We thank Christina Dykes of the Research Department for her help and encouragement. Our thanks also to the many members of the Central Office staff who have so generously assisted us.

The Committee has been a tower of strength to me and responded to every request and I am most grateful to everyone who has been involved in the preparation of the papers for the Conference. During the past year we have been extremely active particularly during the General Election campaign. I should like to pay tribute to the work done by Conservative women throughout the country without whose enthusiasm and commitment we would not have achieved such results. I thank my Vice-Chairmen - Marjory Beastall, Angela Clarke, Margaret Fry, Trixie Gardner and Susan Hill and the whole Committee for their loyalty and support and I have much enjoyed leading such a happy team.

The past three years have flown by - three very important years - when the Conservative Government under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher faced enormous challenges. She won through and became the first Prime Minister since the war to be elected for a second consecutive term - a truly magnificent achievement. I have had the privilege of being Chairman of the CWNC during this time and I thank you all for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

I know that you will give your full support to my successor and I wish her and the Committee an enjoyable and successful term of office.

Joan Seccombe

February 1984

Chairman



## Conservative Women's National Committee (January 1984)

Mrs B Baldchin  
Mrs A Barrow  
Mrs G Beastall, OBE JP  
Mrs J Bennett  
Mrs J Beevers  
Mrs V Bottomley, JP  
Cllr Mrs J Bowley  
Mrs Ro Brown  
C Cllr Mrs S M Brown  
Mrs J Bushby  
Mrs S Bye  
Mrs A Cheetham  
Cllr Mrs P Collins  
Mrs A H Clarke, OBE  
\*Mrs J Collier  
Mrs J Cowley, CBE  
The Dowager Viscountess  
Davidson, DBE  
Mrs D G Douglas  
Mrs G M Dunbar, OBE  
Mrs J Edwards  
\*Mrs P W Falkner  
Mrs S Flather, JP  
Mrs M R Farquharson  
Mrs W W J Fry, OBE  
The Baroness Gardner  
of Parkes JP GLC  
Mrs M Gledhill  
Mrs V Goodman  
Mrs M Hyatt  
Mrs S Hill  
Mrs P A Jeffery  
Miss J Jones  
\*Mrs H M Johnston

Mrs D Kavell  
Mrs B Keene  
Mrs A J Kent  
Miss A McIntyre  
Mrs M Mallet  
\*Cllr Mrs W Mitchell, JP  
Mrs B Miles  
Mrs M Oliver  
Mrs E Peacock, MBE JP  
Mrs R Pigott  
Mrs R Pockley  
\*Mrs E A Potts  
Mrs J Pratt  
\*Mrs G Rippon, OBE  
Mrs V Pulford  
Mrs J M Robinson  
Mrs B Rodell  
Mrs J Seccombe, JP  
\*Mrs M Slade  
\*Mrs N Smith  
\*Mrs P Smith, JP  
\*Mrs N Spensley, CBE  
\*Mrs F Stanton  
Mrs N Stewart  
\*Mrs D Sutton  
Mrs A Tribe, OBE  
Mrs A Usborne  
Mrs L Waddell  
\*Mrs H Waterston  
Mrs E White, MBE JP  
Mrs I Whitehurst  
Cllr Mrs M Williams  
Mrs E Wilson  
Mrs K Wood

\*Chairman of Area Women's Committee 1983/84  
Vice-Chairman of the Party: Miss Emma Nicholson  
Secretary: Miss M S Palmer

### Ex Officio

Chairman of the National Union – Sir Peter Lane JP  
Chairman of the National Union Executive Committee – Sir Russel Sanderson  
Vice-Chairman of the National Union – Dame Pamela Hunter DBE

## Other organisations on which the Conservative Women's National Committee has been represented 1983/84

Women's National Commission  
National Council of Women and its twelve special Committees  
Family Forum  
U.N.A. Women's Advisory Council  
Women's Council (Asia)  
W.R.V.S.  
Women's National Cancer Control Campaign  
National Council for Carers and their Elderly Dependants  
B.S.I. (Consumer Standards Advisory Committee)  
U.N.I.C.E.F.  
Fawcett Society  
M.I.N.D.  
Status of Women Committee  
Finer Action Committee  
E.G.A. Hospital Supporters  
National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare  
Maternity Alliance  
Church of England Children's Society  
U.K. Committee for U.N.I.C.E.F.  
British Federation of University Women  
Business and Professional Women Association  
Consumer Association  
International Planned Parenthood Federation  
National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital  
National Council for One-Parent Families  
Soroptimists  
N.S.P.C.C.  
300 Group  
Women and Families for Defence  
Think British Campaign  
National Widows Association  
Equal Opportunities Commission  
National Gas Consumers Council





## Officers of the Conservative Women's National Committee since 1945

### Chairmen:

- 1945 - 48 Dame Lucille Sayers, D.B.E.
- 1948 - 51 Mrs John Warde, C.B.E.
- 1951 - 54 The Baroness Emmett of Amberley
- 1954 - 57 The Baroness Elliot of Harwood, D.B.E.
- 1957 - 60 Lady Graham, C.B.E.
- 1960 - 63 Dame Margaret Shepherd, D.B.E.
- 1963 - 66 Dame Adelaide Doughty, D.B.E.
- 1966 - 69 Dame Unity Lister, D.B.E.
- 1969 - 72 Dame Margot Smith, D.B.E.
- 1972 - 75 Dame Shelagh Roberts, D.B.E., M.E.P.
- 1975 - 78 Dame Ann Springman, D.B.E.
- 1978 - 81 Dame Pamela Hunter, D.B.E.
- 1981 - 84 Mrs Joan Seccombe, J.P.

### Vice-Chairmen:

- 1945 - 46 Mrs Lovibond, C.B.E., J.P.
- 1946 - 47 Mrs Murray
- 1947 - 48 Mrs John Warde, C.B.E.
- 1948 - 49 Mrs Hugh Kennedy, O.B.E.
- 1949 - 50 Cllr Mrs A F Wood, C.B.E., J.P.
- 1950 - 51 The Baroness Emmett of Amberley
- 1951 - 52 Lady Graham, C.B.E.
- 1952 - 53 Lady Bennett, O.B.E.
- 1953 - 54 The Baroness Elliot of Harwood, D.B.E.
- June - Dec 1954 The Baroness Brooke of Ystradfellte, D.B.E.
- Dec 1954 - 56 Mrs Basil Willett, O.B.E.
- 1956 - 57 Lady Graham, C.B.E.
- 1957 - 58 Mrs Leslie Beauchamp, O.B.E.
- 1958 - 59 Dame Margaret Shepherd, D.B.E.
- 1959 - 60 Mrs E Cave, O.B.E.
- 1960 - 61 The Hon Sylvia Fletcher-Moulton, C.B.E., J.P.
- 1961 - 62 Mrs H M V Barrington, C.B.E.
- 1962 - 63 Dame Adelaide Doughty, D.B.E.
- July - Nov 1963 The Viscountess Rochdale, J.P.
- Nov 1963 - 64 Mrs R H Cobbold
- 1964 - 65 Dame Unity Lister, D.B.E.
- 1965 - 66 Dame Margot Smith, D.B.E.
- 1966 - 67 Mrs Patricia McLaughlin, O.B.E.

- 1967 - 68 Lady Ashdown, C.B.E.
- 1968 - 69 Mrs C N Martland, C.B.E.
- 1969 - 70 Dame Shelagh Roberts, D.B.E., M.E.P.
- 1970 - 71 Lady Osborne, C.B.E.
- 1971 - 72 The Hon Mrs Raynsford, O.B.E.
- 1972 - 73 Cllr Mrs G C Barrow, O.B.E.
- 1973 - 74 Dame Ann Springman, D.B.E.
- 1974 - 75 Dame Pamela Hunter, D.B.E.
- 1975 - 76 Mrs J M du Pre, O.B.E.
- 1976 - 77 Mrs P H Smitherman, C.B.E.
- 1977 - 78 Mrs J Lysaght, C.B.E.
- 1978 - 79 Lady Johnston, J.P.
- 1979 - 80 Mrs A M Miscampbell, O.B.E.
- 1980 - 81 Mrs Joan Seccombe, J.P.
- 1981 - 82 Mrs Margaret Fry, O.B.E.
- 1982 - 83 Mrs Marjory Beastall, O.B.E., J.P.
- 1983 - 84 Mrs Angela Clarke, O.B.E.

### Vice-Chairmen (Europe)

- 1972 - 74 The Baroness Elles, M.E.P.
- 1974 - 78 Mrs P J R Butler, O.B.E.
- 1978 - 82 The Baroness Gardner of Parkes, J.P., G.L.C.
- 1982 - Mrs Susan Hill

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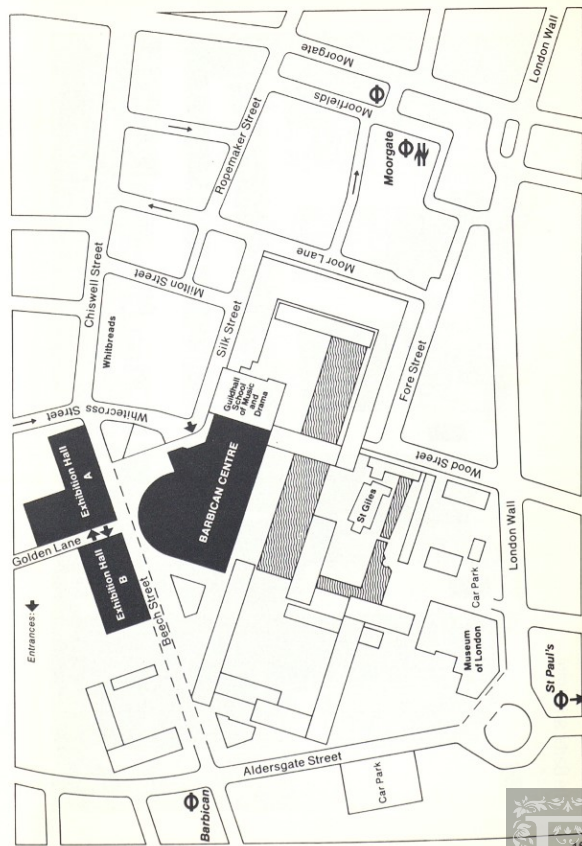
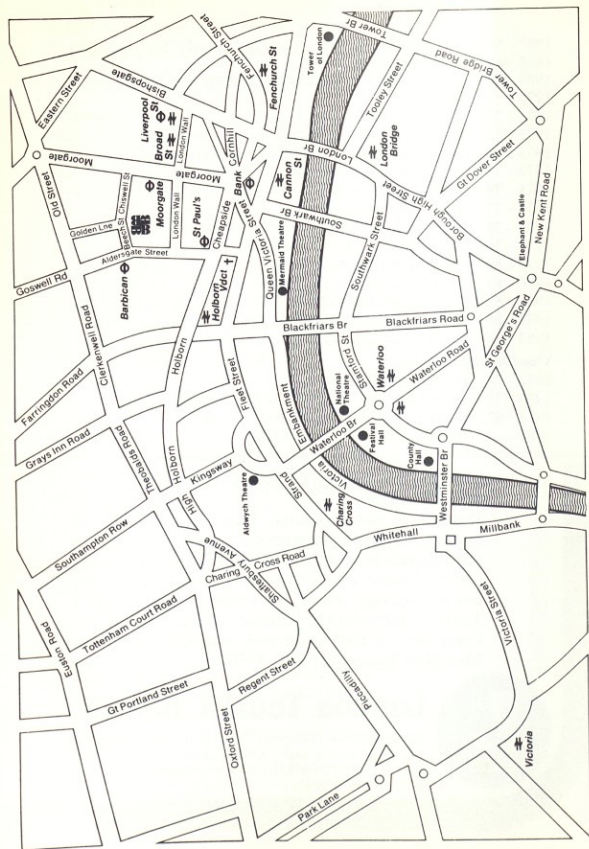


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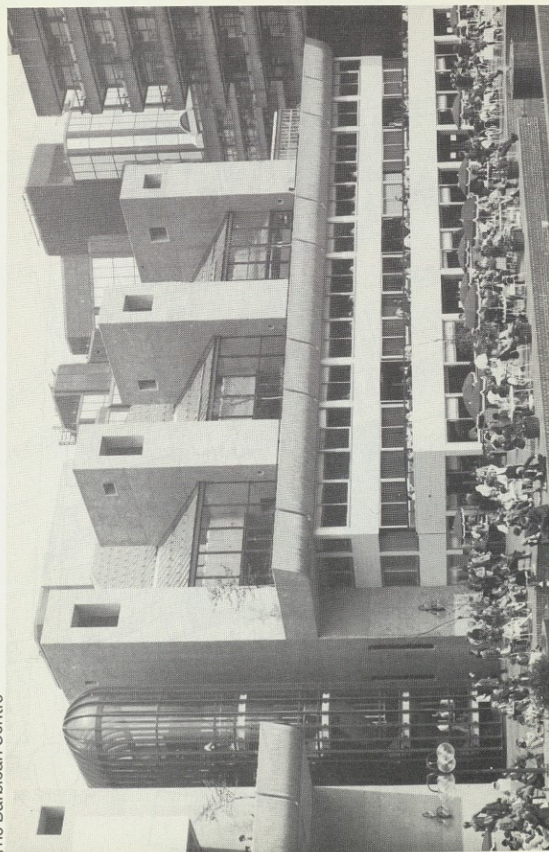
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## NOTES



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