

RECORD OF SHADOW CABINET NO. 2519 October 1975 - MelbourneATTACHMENTS:

1. Cumulative Attendance Register.
2. Summary of Meeting.
3. List of options and initiatives.
4. Follow-up report.

T.E.
22/10/75

SHADOW CABINET (NO. 25) RECORDMelbourne: Sunday 19 October, 1975

(Special meeting to assess the political position following last Wednesday's decision to delay the Budget in the Senate.)

1. OPTIONS

Mr Fraser reported on the situation as he saw it, and presented a list of options and initiatives (list attached).

2. ASSESSMENTS

All "Cabinet" members were invited to give their views. They were united and determined in maintaining the Opposition's course of action, but expressed some disquiet at the doubts and uncertainty to be found at the grass-roots of the Parties. It was agreed that special steps should be taken to explain the Opposition's case at branch level.

3. PROJECTION

"Cabinet" Ministers should seek every opportunity to appear on radio and television, and the State Divisions should be asked to obtain maximum coverage through all media. Mr Fraser should consider a TV "Talk to the Nation." The current issue of the "Australia Liberal" should include material to inform and reassure Liberal supporters. (Please see follow-up report attached).

4. ADVERTISING

"Cabinet" discussed the use of advertising to help spell out the Opposition's stand, and various themes for advertisements were considered. The Federal Director said advertising could only be regarded in a "supportive" sense, and the prime objective should be to get back strongly into the news coverage. Advertising was very expensive, and there were no campaign funds yet. The ALP had not engaged in any advertising.

5. THE QUEEN

It was felt it might be prudent for Mr Fraser to speak with Lord Carrington and Sir Alec Douglas Home about the constitutional situation.

Alternative courses of action:

1. Sit tight
2. Actually reject bills in the Senate, thus fulfilling Whitlam's condition for an election of some kind
3. Withdraw as gracefully as possible
4. Give Supply until February -- invite the Government to accumulate as many bills as it likes for a double dissolution -- on the basis that there will be a double dissolution in February. We would guarantee that, if we failed to get a majority in the Reps, we would pass all the double dissolution bills even if we had a Senate majority.
5. Agree to a full half Senate, if that is what Whitlam asks for
6. Publicly seek an audience with the Governor-General, to explain our actions and seek advice
7. See the Governor-General privately
8. Urgency motion in the Reps every day on the failure of the Government to face the people. Senate to run a motion countering Whitlam's of last Thursday, and ask that it be conveyed to the Governor-General
9. Senate select committee on ACTU-Solo -- need hard evidence beforehand. (See attached paper)
10. Evidence from Woodhouse to be read in the Parliament -- check risk of defamation
11. Get press to run editorials calling on the Governor-General to ask the Prime Minister how he will resolve the situation.

FOLLOW-UP TO SUNDAY'S SHADOW CABINET

- (1) Australian Liberal to carry relevant material about current political situation

The front page has been changed to concentrate on our Senate moves. J Carlton says the new front page includes material to inform and reassure our people at grass-root level. The paper will be printed by Wednesday, and special steps are being taken to have it distributed speedily.

- (2) Informing our supporters at all levels

Have spoken to all General Secretaries and they are taking a variety of steps to get the message down to the branches (pamphlets, briefings, etc).

- (3) Coverage in the media

I have also emphasised to General Secretaries the importance of obtaining maximum coverage through all available TV and radio outlets. Bob Baudino is also working closely with leadership Press Secretaries to seek out every media opportunity from Canberra.


- (4) The Queen

You thought you might speak to Carrington and Hulme.

- (5) TV message to nation

Do you wish to go ahead with the idea of recording a five-minute message to the nation - for possible placement on commercial TV?

If you could find a convenient time, could bring up Fred Engels and see whether a "talk-to-camera" session at the Secretariat could produce a programme to put to air?



CUMULATIVE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

SHADOW	MINISTRY	CABINET																		
		25	26	27																
DATE		14/10	20/10	21/10																
REST OF MINISTRY	RESP.																			
Liberal Party																				
111 Rae	Comm.Dev.																			
112 Edwards	Tariff & IAC																			
113 Guilfoyle	Education																			
114 Mackellar	Immigr.																			
115 McLeay	Hsg.&Constr.																			
116 Durack	PMG																			
117 Garland	PS/ACT																			
118 Robinson, E.	Sci.&Tech.																			
119 Howard	Cons.Aff. Commerce		✓																	
120 Young	Media																			
121 Wilson	U/Affairs																			
122 Ellicott	A/Affairs	✓	✓																	
Country Party																				
205 Hunt	Environ.& Conserv.		✓																	
206 Katter	N.Dev.&N.T.																			
207 Lloyd	Health																			
208 Adernann	Cus.&Excise																			
209 Robinson, I.	Decent.Dev.																			
Webster																				

Cameron	302
Chaney	303

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