

5 May 1967

Present: PT, BAS, CB,
HL, DM, SB

Apologies: AS, JVV

M i n u t e s

- 1 Letter received from Home Secretary: BAS to follow suggestion therein and make appointment to see Assistant Secretary (following meeting on 9 May with Stuart & Durbin, who should also receive copies of this letter prior to the discussion on sampling).

Note: At some point similar contacts to be made with Secretary of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland equivalent.

- 2 Sampling: discussion based on HL's paper

- (a) In deciding number and composition of regions we should aim to have approximately the same number of constituencies within each region and

- (i) the second grouping on p.2 is therefore favoured
- (ii) there remains a case for N. Ireland to be taken separately as a mini-region (and perhaps over-sampled)

- (b) A sample of constituencies rather than LA areas is now our preference (among other reasons, because of the checks on voting behaviour set out on p.4 and because of the availability of the information contained in the Boundaries Commission Report).

Note: Constituency boundaries never overlap regional boundaries.

- (c) J-index now rejected for our purposes and voting behaviour the preferred criterion.

- (rich urban: i.e.: below 51% voting left
- (poor urban: i.e. 51% and above voting left
- (rural: 50% pop. living in rural districts.

Notes:

- (i) HL to make written record of rationale behind her empirical examination of distribution
- (ii) 1961 Census figures may have to be used (but not enough new towns in interim period to render these figures invalid)
- (iii) To allow for oddities in voting behaviour there is a case for modification in such areas, and it is quite feasible to substitute other good criteria for rich and poor classification if necessary.

Thus we shall derive about 46 constituencies from the sample (4 in Greater London alone and as no rural parts there is a case for perhaps taking three rich and three poor urban in Greater London); could add two extra constituencies in the case of N. Ireland. Then take wards in urban and parishes in rural areas.

Tuesday's discussion to decide reasonable criterion for selecting wards and parishes within constituencies (can be arranged in population size, possibly by density).

Note: There will be difficulties in planning to interview over the year in rural areas and we may have to be content with short intensive visits to villages, etc.

- (d) Stuart & Durbin to be consulted about over-sampling (with the aim of guaranteeing our numbers in the special groups).
i.e. If 1 in 60 addresses the interval then could take 1 in 80 in rich urban and 1 in 40 in poor urban/rural areas. Error can be assessed but how accurately? Better perhaps to interview an extra 2000 from poorer areas to add or subtract in analysis and report (not for national estimates but to increase size of special groups and avoid weighting problems within these groups).

- 3 Next Poverty meeting: Monday 15 May, 3 p.m. Skepper House.

sb
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