

# Archives of the British Labour Party

*Series Editor:*

**Stephen Bird**

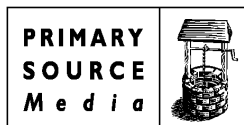
*Librarian/Archivist, National Museum of Labour History*

**A temporary guide to accompany the microfiche collection**

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## **National Executive Committee Minutes Part 10: April 1974 - December 1983**

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# **ARCHIVES OF THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY**

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**A guide to accompany the Primary Source Media microfiche  
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Part 10: April 1974 - December 1983**

This Title Information Sheet is issued with the silver-halide microfiche collection *Archives of the British Labour Party, National Executive Committee Minutes Part 10: April 1974 - December 1983* published in 1996 by Primary Source Media Ltd.

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# CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	7
Index to Fiche	9



## **Introduction to the National Executive Committee Minutes**

### **Part 10: April 1974 - December 1983**

This tenth part covers 40 volumes of National Executive Committee Minutes. In addition to the NEC Minutes themselves, each volume includes supporting committee minutes which come after the relevant NEC Minutes irrespective of the dates of the meetings of the supporting committees.

The months and years these volumes cover are an important period in the history of the Labour Party. They begin when Harold Wilson has just been returned to office with a minority government in February 1974. He increases this to a small majority in October of the same year.

This government is best known for undertaking harsh financial measures in the face of an economic crisis. Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey's cut-backs in public expenditure were not popular within the party membership. Harold Wilson resigned the premiership in February 1976 and was succeeded by James Callaghan.

Callaghan was defeated in the General Election of May 1979 by Margaret Thatcher. The Labour Party went into opposition. The next four years were ones of internal disputes, the left wing, led by Tony Benn brought in radical constitutional changes in the election of the leader and re-selection of sitting members of parliament. In November of 1980, Callaghan resigned as Party leader and was succeeded by Michael Foot. In 1981 Benn stood for the deputy-leadership and was narrowly defeated by Denis Healey. In June 1983, the Labour suffered the biggest defeat in its history. After this, Neil Kinnock was elected leader at the Party conference and began the Labour Party's slow recovery.

**Stephen Bird, Museum of Labour History, Manchester**

**Series Editor**



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## Index to the Fiche

### NEC Minutes Part 10: April 1974- December 1983

<b>Card Number</b>	<b>Brief Content Description</b>
1281-1297	NEC Minutes from 24 April 1974 to 26 June 1974 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1298-1314	NEC Minutes from 24 July 1974 to 18 December 1974 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1315-1332	NEC Minutes from 22 January 1975 to 26 March 1975 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1333-1351	NEC Minutes from 23 April 1975 to 9 July 1975 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1352-1370	NEC Minutes from 23 July 1975 to 22 October 1975 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1371-1389	NEC Minutes from 26 November 1975 to 28 January 1976 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1390-1408	NEC Minutes from 25 February 1976 to 28 April 1976 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1409-1426	NEC Minutes from 12 May 1976 to 23 June 1976 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1427-1439	NEC Minutes from 28 July 1976 to 18 October 1976 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1440-1457	NEC Minutes from 27 October 1976 to 26 January 1977 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1458-1477	NEC Minutes from 23 February 1977 to 27 April 1977 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1478-1496	NEC Minutes from 25 May 1977 to 26 October 1977 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1497-1514	NEC Minutes from 27 July 1977 and Supporting Committee Minutes

<b>Card Number</b>	<b>Brief Content Description</b>
1515-1532	NEC Minutes from 23 November 1977 to 25 January 1978 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1533-1551	NEC Minutes from 22 February 1978 to 26 April 1978 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1552-1570	NEC Minutes from 24 May 1978 to 4 July 1978 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1571-1591	NEC Minutes from 26 July 1978 to 22 November 1978 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1592-1614	NEC Minutes from 20 December 1978 to 28 February 1979 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1615-1632	NEC Minutes from 28 March 1979 to 25 July 1979 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1633-1649	NEC Minutes from 28 September 1979 to 28 November 1979 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1650-1670	NEC Minutes from 19 December 1979 to 9 April 1980 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1671-1688	NEC Minutes from 23 April 1980 to 25 June 1980 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1689-1702	NEC Minutes from 16 July 1980 to 23 July 1980 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1703-1718	NEC Minutes from 26 September 1980 to 2 October 1980 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1719-1739	NEC Minutes from 22 October 1980 to 17 December 1980 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1740-1756	NEC Minutes from 14 January 1981 to 25 March 1981 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1757-1780	NEC Minutes from 29 April 1981 to 21 July 1981 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1781-1804	NEC Minutes from 22 July 1981 to 23 September 1981 and Supporting Committee Minutes

<b>Card Number</b>	<b>Brief Content Description</b>
1805-1813	NEC Minutes from Conference 1981 to 27 September 1981 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1814-1841	NEC Minutes from 30 September 1981 to 16 December 1981 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1842-1865	NEC Minutes from 27 January 1982 to 24 March 1982 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1866-1880	NEC Minutes from 28 April 1982 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1881-1904	NEC Minutes from 19 May 1982 to 23 June 1982 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1905-1920	NEC Minutes from 14 July 1982 to 28 July 1982 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1921-1939	NEC Minutes from 21 September 1982 to 27 October 1982 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1940-1962	NEC Minutes from 17 November 1982 to 15 December 1982 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1963-1985	NEC Minutes from 26 January 1983 to 23 February 1983 and Supporting Committee Minutes
1986-2013	NEC Minutes from 22 March 1983 to 27 April 1983 and Supporting Committee Minutes
2014-2034	NEC Minutes from 11 May 1983 to 28 September 1983 and Supporting Committee Minutes
2035-2050	NEC Minutes from 2 October 1983 to 14 December 1983 and Supporting Committee Minutes