

**BUSINESS PAPERS**

**VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2001**

**PART 2 - SECTION H**

**The session commenced at 2pm**

**2.00pm**

**Questions to the First Minister**

The first 11 questions were reached. Question 10 was not asked.

**2.41pm**

**Points of Order**

**Ieuan Wyn Jones** raised a point of order under Standing Order 6.28 about questions being transferred to other Cabinet Ministers. **The Presiding Officer** said that the Assembly Guidance covered arrangements for the transfer of questions. He confirmed that the Table Office do not discuss questions with Cabinet Secretariat.

**Peter Black** raised a point of order under Standing Order 6 about party group names in light of the reference to the "Lib/Lab" Administration in one of today's amendments. **The Presiding Officer** confirmed that the correct names should be used when referring to party groups.

**2.44pm**

**Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister**

The business statement was agreed

**2.49pm**

**Debate on the Post 16 Education Committee Report on Arts & Culture Policy in Wales.**

To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 9.9, notes the report from the dissolved Post 16 Education and Training Committee entitled 'A Culture In Common' which is published on the

Intranet at:

<http://assembly/committees/Post%2016%20Education%20&%20Training/Reports/Main.htm>

## **A vote was taken on the motion:**

For 47; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 47

## **The motion was agreed**

## **The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair**

**4.30pm**

## **Plaid Cymru Minority Party Debate.**

The National Assembly recognises that:

- manufacturing industry is a major component of the Welsh economy which is therefore vulnerable to short-term variations in the parity of the pound, as illustrated by the recent job losses in the electronics and steel industries
- there are manufacturing units in Wales which employ the most advanced technology and have the highest levels of productivity but are still unable to compete within the Euro zone because of the overvalued pound
- the parity of the pound is a direct result of Government policy, in particular the decision to use monetary rather than fiscal measures to control inflation in the south-east of England, and the failure to give any firm commitment to adopting the Euro in the near future
- the government has failed to balance its monetary policy with a regional policy adequate to reverse the present widening of the prosperity gap between the three regions in the south-east of England and the other regions and nations of the UK.

The National Assembly therefore urges the Government in London to:

- use fiscal rather than monetary measures to control inflation in the most prosperous areas, by increasing tax raised on taxable incomes greater than £50,000 a year, and investing the extra revenue in an active regional policy
- amend the present guidelines to the Monetary Policy Committee, laid down in the Bank of England Act (1997), which only refer to the control of inflation, to ensure that proper consideration is given to the overall strength of the economy and to the level of employment throughout the UK
- reduce the levels of Corporation Tax and employers' National Insurance contributions in those regions designated to receive European structural funds
- provide extra tax credits for Research and Development in those regions designated to receive European structural funds
- establish employment protection measures in the UK similar to those that apply in the other major economies of the EU.

**The following amendments were tabled:**

## **Amendment 1 - William Graham (South Wales East);**

After "*This National Assembly recognises that:*" delete the remainder of the motion and replace with:

manufacturing industry is a vital part of the Welsh economy and that recent job losses have had caused considerable social and economic problems in many communities in Wales;

policies affecting industry pursued by the current UK Government and the Lib/Lab Assembly Administration - such as the introduction of the climate change levy and additional burdens of tax and red tape - have been a contributory cause of many of the job losses;

the weakness of the Euro has also been a contributory cause of many of the job losses;

The National Assembly therefore urges the Lib/Lab administration and the UK Government to:

abort the introduction of the climate change levy;

radically reduce the levels of red tape imposed on business;

rule out the introduction of supplementary business rates; and

devise a coherent partnership strategy with Corus to prevent further job losses in the steel industry.

## **Amendment 2 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)**

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)**

Delete all after "productivity" in second bullet point and insert:

"The National Assembly is committed to developing the conditions in which Welsh businesses can succeed and looks to the support of the Westminster government in the creation of these conditions"

**A vote was taken:**

### **Amendment 1**

For 6; Abstain 0; Against 41; Total 47

**Amendment 1 fell**

### **Amendment 2**

For 33; Abstain 0; Against 14; Total 47

**Amendment 2 was carried**

**A vote was taken on the motion:**

For 29; Abstain 0; Against 18; Total 47

**The motion, as amended, was carried**

**The session concluded at 5.30 pm**

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**The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at**

**9.05 am on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2001**

**J W Lloyd**

**Clerk to the Assembly**

**DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET**

**DOCUMENTS LAID ON 12 JANUARY 2001**

Care in Wales for People with a Mental Illness and People with a Mental Handicap

**DOCUMENTS LAID ON 10 JANUARY 2001**

3 Month Business Statement