

Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 13th November 2001

The Session commenced at 2.00pm

Oral Questions to the First Minister

The first 11 questions were answered. Question 5 was withdrawn.

2.41 pm

Statement: the First Minister about the explosion at the Corus plant in Port Talbot

3.14 pm

Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister

The Business Statement was proposed. More than 10 members objected to it in accordance with Standing Order 5.4. The business statement was therefore put to the vote:

A vote was taken:

For 28; Abstain 1; Against 23; Total 52

The business statement was agreed

3.38pm

Point of Order:

Rhodri Glyn Thomas about equal treatment for the Welsh language especially in documents relating to Assembly proceedings.

3.39 pm Suspension of Standing Orders

NDM834 - The National Assembly:

In accordance with Standing Order 34.4, resolves that Standing Order 6.3A be suspended in respect of questions to Jane Davidson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning on the 29th November to enable those questions to be taken on Tuesday 27th November 2001.

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 40; Abstain 1; Against 9; Total 50

The motion was carried by the required two-thirds majority

3.42 pm Revision of Standing Order 6.2

NDM831 - To propose that the National Assembly acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 and Standing Order 34:

- i. Considers the Report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 29 October 2001 ; and
- ii. approve the following amendment to Standing Order 6.2

Standing Order 6.2

Delete the second sentence which begins "*If no meeting is scheduled for a particular day.....*" in its entirety and insert:

"If no meeting is scheduled for a particular time the Presiding Officer may, at the request of the First Secretary, summon the Assembly to consider a matter of urgent public importance."

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 51; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 51

The motion was carried by the required two-thirds majority

3.43pm

Minority Party Debate - Plaid Cymru

NDM833 - The National Assembly expresses its deepest concern at the continuing delay in dealing with claims for compensation by former miners and their families in Wales following the High Court ruling on the 23rd January 1998; deplors the allocation to Wales under the Coalfield Regeneration Fund which is far smaller than the historic contribution of Wales to the coal industry of the UK; and calls on the First Minister to make the strongest representations to the UK government about these injustices as a matter of urgency.

The following amendments had been tabled:

Amendment 1 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West);

Delete all wording after "The National Assembly" and replace with:

"recognises the concerns about the delays in dealing with claims for compensation by former miners and their families in Wales, but acknowledges that since the establishment of the Welsh Coal Claims Monitoring Group considerable and accelerated progress has been made and that almost £100m has been paid to former Welsh miners and their families, and looks forward to a speedy resolution of this matter."

Amendment 2 - William Graham (South Wales East);

Delete the semi-colon after 1998 and insert:

". It recognises that the persistent changes made by the UK Government of the Ministerial responsibility for this matter compounded the delay. It further"

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 29; Abstain 0; Against 21; Total 50

Amendment 1 was carried

Amendment 2 fell

The motion, as amended

For 26; Abstain 13; Against 12; Total 51

The motion, as amended, was carried

4.39pm

Minority Party Debate - The Conservative Party

NDM832 - To propose that the National Assembly resolves to cancel forthwith the project to build the new Assembly Chamber building and resolves to commit the money saved to the Assembly's health budget.

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 9; Abstain 0; Against 40; Total 49

The motion was defeated

The session concluded at 5.33pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 15th November 2001

E P Silk

Clerk to the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

Documents laid on 12 November 2001

Estimate of the income and expenses of the Auditor General for Wales for the year ending 31 March 2003-LD1102

Annual Report of the National Assembly for Wales' Committee on Standards of Conduct - LD1099

The Travel Concessions (Extension of Entitlement) (Wales) Order 2001-Memorandum of Corrections-LD1098

The Mandatory Travel Concessions (Reimbursement Arrangements) (Wales) Order 2001-Memorandum of Corrections-LD1097

The Homelessness Commission Report to the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities-August 2001-LD1096

Legislation Committee Reports

Documents laid on 13 November 2001

LC360: The Potatoes Originating in Germany, Notification (Wales) (No2) Order 2001 -
LD1101