

BUSINESS PAPERS

PART 2 – SECTION H

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 14th DECEMBER 1999

The session commenced at 2pm

The Presiding Officer made a statement informing members that guidance on all party groups was being posted to the intranet today.

2.01pm

Questions to the First Secretary

The first 6 questions were reached.

2.32pm

Point of Order

Alun Cairns raised a point of order under Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8 concerned that the First Secretary used his statement last week on the Cardiff Bay Barrage to make an announcement that he considered should have been referred to a Subject Committee.

First Secretary stated that he made two statements on matters of urgent public importance and the Presiding Officer confirmed that he had allowed the statements to be made due to their urgent nature.

2.36 pm

Statement on the Millennium Bug

The Finance Secretary, Edwina Hart, made a statement updating the Assembly on actions in place to combat any possible problems caused by the Millennium Bug

2.51 pm

Business Statement: the Business Secretary

The business statement was agreed.

3.02pm

Debate on the Rural Development Plan

To propose that the Assembly, approves the draft Rural Development Plan for Wales 2000-2006, laid in the Table Office on 7 December 1999, and authorises the First Secretary to arrange for the Plan to be submitted to the European Commission by 3 January 2000, with such amendments as may be necessary to meet the Commission's technical requirements

The following amendments were selected for debate:

Amendment 1 - Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Mon) ;

Delete full stop and add at end of motion:

,provided that if the European Commission require any substantive amendments to the documents prior to its final approval, the First Secretary will consult on such amendments with the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

Amendment 2 - Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire) ;

Add at the end of the motion: "The Assembly particularly welcomes the proposal to establish a team to deal specifically with the problems of rural Wales as part of the new Programme Executive, and looks forward to a co-ordinated approach to the administration of all Structural Funds in rural areas"

Amendment 3 - Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire) ;

Add at the end of the motion: "The Assembly also takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the elimination of rural stress by the vigorous implementation of the measures and priorities set out in the Rural Development Plan"

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 48

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 48

The amendment was carried

Amendment 2

For 48

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 48

The amendment was carried.

Amendment 3

For 48

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 48

The amendment was carried.

The motion (as amended)

For 47

Against 0

Abstain 0

Total 47

The motion (as amended) was carried.

4.47pm

Presiding Officer Statement

The Presiding Officer made a statement in response to a point of order which had been made by Mick Bates on Tuesday 7th December regarding the availability of documents.

4.49pm

Food Standards Act 1999

To propose that the Assembly, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, delegates its functions under the Food Standards Act 1999 to the First Secretary. Functions under the Food Standards Act 1999 shall be taken to include a reference to any functions of the Assembly included in any instrument having effect under or in relation to that Act.

A vote was taken:

For 28

Against 17

Abstain 0

Total 45

The motion was carried.

5pm

Short Debate

Alun Pugh (Clwyd West); North - South Transport Links

The session concluded at 5.33pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 15th December 1999

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly

Petition presented to the Assembly by the Socialist Party on 14th December:

Defend Disability Benefits

We, the undersigned, call for the government to drop its plans to cut entitlement to disability benefits.

We also call on the government to review all cases of claimants whose benefit claims have been refused or lowered under the Benefit Integrity Project or All Work Test; and that the harassment of disabled benefit claimants cease.

Papers Laid in the Table Office since the Assembly last met in Plenary Session

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 14 DECEMBER 1999

Regulatory Appraisal National Curriculum Orders (see documents laid 6 December 1999)

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 10 DECEMBER 1999

Report by the Auditor General for Wales - The Millennium Threat: Is Wales Ready?

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 9 DECEMBER 1999

Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, 'Further Education in Wales'.

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 8 DECEMBER 1999

The Beef Bones (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Inquiry into the ban on bone-in beef, Final Report

Revised Budgets for 1999-2000 resulting from Transfers Between Main Expenditure Groups

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 7 DECEMBER 1999

Rural Development Plan Introductory Section (No Welsh copies available as yet, will be provided as soon as possible)

The Rural Development Plan (No Welsh copies available as yet, will be provided as soon as possible)

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 6 DECEMBER 1999

The Housing (Right to Buy) (Priority of Charges) (Wales) Order 1999

The Education (National Curriculum) (Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Mathematics) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Science) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Physical Education) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Modern Foreign Languages) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Art) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Geography) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in History) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Technology) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in Welsh) (Wales) Order 2000

The Education National Curriculum) (attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in English) (Wales) Order 2000