

BUSINESS PAPERS

PART 2 – SECTION H

RECORD OF VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 1999

The session commenced at 2pm

Questions to Rhodri Morgan, Secretary for Economic Development

The first 4 questions were reached

2.22pm

Questions to Edwina Hart, Finance Secretary

The first 6 questions were reached. Questions 2 and 3 were transferred for answer by the Secretary for Economic Development.

2.34pm

Statement by the First Secretary on the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (CBDC)

3.00pm

Point of Order: Alison Halford raised a point of order regarding SO 1.9 complimenting the Presiding Officer on not allowing sexist or aggressive behaviour to occur in the Chamber. Helen Mary Jones reiterated this view. The Presiding Officer took the opportunity to remind members of the Codes regarding Conduct in the Chamber and Relationships with Officials.

Point of Order: Helen Mary Jones raised a point of order drawing the Presiding Officer's attention to the fact that the earphones did not always work. The Presiding Officer advised that he wasn't aware of any technical problems with the earphones but would look into the matter.

3.04pm

Debate on the Corporate Plan: strategic priorities

Motion: The Assembly, notes the responses to the consultation on its values, priorities and inherited spending plans. The Assembly notes the proposed structure and content of the strategic plan and the next steps in its development. It endorses the revisions made to the priorities to reflect the constructive comments received.

[Copies of the "Better Wales Consultation Document were sent to all Members in July. A summary of the responses to the Consultation Document has been published on the Assembly's web site; Home Page>Finance Documents.]

The following amendment was selected:

Amendment 1:

Dafydd Wigley; To propose that the Assembly resolve to adopt the following amendment to the above motion :

After " received " insert :, and calls on the First Secretary to report back to the National Assembly before the summer recess next July on progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan together with any proposed modifications.

The amendment was withdrawn

The motion was carried.

4.33pm

Resolution on Pension Scheme

The Presiding Officer reminded Members that this item required a two third majority vote in favour on this item.

Motion: the Assembly determines

(1) that the National Assembly for Wales Members' Pension Scheme be amended as follows:

(a) In Rule 2.(1), at the appropriate place, insert ""the Assembly Cabinet " means the committee of the National Assembly for Wales established under section 56 of the Act";

(b) In paragraph (3) of Rule C2, in the definition of "qualifying officer ", add the following,

"; and

(e) the leader of the largest party not represented in the Assembly Cabinet "

(c) In Rule F1. after sub-paragraph (a) insert" and" and delete sub- paragraph (c)

(d) In Rule K 6, in sub- paragraphs (a)(ii) and (c)(i) and (ii), in each place, for the words, "sub- paragraphs (a) to (c) of Rule F1(1)", substitute "sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of Rule F 1 "; and

(e) In paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 for "direction "substitute "decision" and for "subsequent direction" substitute " further decision ".

(2) that there is established the National Assembly for Wales Members Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme in the terms of the draft tabled on 14 October 1999.

The motion was carried.

The session concluded at 4.37pm

The Assembly will be in recess from 25th to 29th October 1999

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 2nd November 1999

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly

Letter sent to the Presiding Officer dated 19.10.99

Following yesterday's censure motion, the First Secretary wrote to the Presiding Officer. The text of the letter is as follows:

Rt Hon Alun Michael JP MP AM

Lord Dafydd Ellis Thomas AM
The Presiding Officer
National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

I am writing to you following the motion of censure this afternoon and the meeting of the Cabinet which I convened immediately after the end of the plenary session to discuss the outcome of the debate.

As I said in my speech this afternoon, I have heard nothing which suggests that Christine Gwyther has indulged in inappropriate action or can be described as having brought the Assembly into disrepute. For the reasons I spelt out in this afternoon there can be no question of her resigning. Nothing I have heard in the debate has caused me to think otherwise and she retains my full confidence.

The administration has consistently shown respect to Assembly members who express concern or criticism whether they are a minority or a majority. We have ceased to pursue the calf scheme as demanded by the resolution last Tuesday, and will apply the money that was identified for the calf processing scheme to measures to help farmers in Wales, such as the prospectus for the dairy industry proposed by NFU Wales in the last few days.

This shows due respect to the views of other parties on this matter.

The debate today underlines the need to set out clear expectations about conduct of members and a clear understanding about the uses to which a motion for censure might properly be put. I hope the Assembly can approach this sensibly, away from the pressures of particular issues and particular personalities.

ALUN MICHAEL

Documents laid in the Table Office since the Assembly last met in Plenary Session
Documents laid on 18th October 1999

Legislation Committee - report (4) to the Assembly on the Education (School Teacher Appraisal) (Wales) Regulations 1999

Legislation Committee - report (10) to the Assembly on the Plant Health (Amendment) (Wales) Order 1999