

THE NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Monday 6 July 1998 at 11.00 am
in Room B4.20 (Committee Room 2)
Block B, Castle Buildings**

Present:

Mr P Weir	Mr N Dodds
Mr M McGimpsey	Mr G Campbell
Mr D S Dalton	Mr C Murphy
Mr F Cobain	Mr F Molloy
Mr S Farren	Mr J Kelly
Mr D Haughey	Mr S Close
Mr E McGrady MP	Mr D Ervine
Rev Dr I Paisley MP MEP	Mr N Boyd (representing Mr R McCartney QC MP)

Mr N Carson - Deputy Clerk (Business) in the Chair

In Attendance: Mr M Barnes

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mr Carson indicated that as agreed at the Whip's meeting held on Thursday 2 July 1998, he proposed to take the Chair initially.

Agreed: - that Mr Carson should act as Chairman for the election of the Chairperson.

Mr Carson then called for nominations for the office of Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee.

The following proposals were made:

Rev Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP	-	proposed by Mr N Boyd
Mr S Close	-	proposed by Mr M McGimpsey

Mr D Haughey - proposed by Mr E McGrady MP

Mr Close regretfully indicated that he could not accept nomination.

Mr Carson then called for a show of hands of those in favour of Dr Paisley's nomination. Seven members indicated assent.

Mr Carson then called for a show of hands of those in favour of Mr Haughey's nomination. Seven members indicated assent.

Following discussion it was agreed that Mr Carson should remain in the Chair for the remainder of this meeting and that the election of a Chairperson should be addressed at the next meeting.

2. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

i) Substitutes and Observers

Proposed: That parties should be permitted to appoint a substitute (who must be an Assembly Member) to stand in for a Committee Member who is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee. Further, that parties should also be permitted to appoint one observer (an Assembly Member attending in a non-speaking and non voting capacity) to ensure continuity. [Mr Weir]

Following discussion.

- Agreed:
- that parties should be permitted to appoint a substitute who must be an Assembly Member to stand in for an appointed Committee Member who is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee;
 - that such a Member should be permitted to speak and to vote;
 - that the Assembly Secretariat should be given at least one hour's notice of any substitution;

- that parties should be permitted to appoint one observer who must be an Assembly Member to attend a meeting of the Committee in a non-speaking and non-voting capacity to facilitate continuity;
- that the Assembly Secretariat should be given at least one hour's notice of the proposed attendance of an observer at any Committee meeting.

ii) Independent Members: Representation on Committee

2. Proposed: that the independent Members should be permitted to send one Member to the Committee as a non-speaking, non-voting observer.

Following discussion during which it was pointed out that the views of the independent Members had not been received, and that their intentions regarding the creation of a cohesive grouping was unclear -

Agreed: - that the Secretariat should ascertain the views of the independent Members prior to the next meeting and that the Committee should make a decision on this matter as the first item of business on the agenda of the next meeting;

- that, should the independent Members decide to send an observer, their representative should be present in the building, ready to take his place, should a positive decision be made at the next meeting.

3. CONSIDERATION OF STANDING ORDERS

Following discussion

Agreed: - that the Secretariat should circulate to Members copies of the following Standing Orders:

House of Commons, Westminster
(including Select Committees)

1973 Assembly

1982 Assembly

Dail Eireann

EU Parliament

- that the Secretariat should prepare and circulate a discussion document showing the Main Headings of the 1973 Assembly Standing Orders cross-referenced to the other listed Standing Orders.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

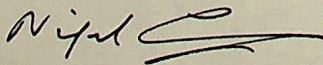
Nil.

5. DATES/VENUE ETC OF MEETINGS

Following discussion

- Agreed:
- that the next meeting of the Committee should take place at 10.30 am on Thursday 16 July 1998 in Parliament Buildings - the room number to be advised.
 - that after that date, the Committee should meet weekly on Mondays commencing on Monday 20 July 1998;
 - that additional weekly meetings could be called if necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.20 pm.



8.7.98.