

BUSINESS PAPERS

PART 2 – SECTION H

VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY, 26th OCTOBER 2000

The Session commenced at 9.05am

Questions to Michael German, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development

The first **5** questions were reached. Question 4 was withdrawn.

9.20am

Questions to Edwina Hart, Minister for Finance and Communities

The first **8** questions were reached. Question 4 was withdrawn.

9.35am

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development answered a question of public importance on the job losses at Panasonic

10.05am

The Minister for Assembly Business made a statement about BSE

10.09am

Points of Order

Cynog Dafis raised a point of order about the possibility of a statement by an Assembly Secretary on the WJEC under Standing Order 6.8.

Dafydd Wigley raised a point of order about the attendance of the First Minister at the North Wales Regional Committee.

Nick Bourne raised a point of order about progress with the Assembly Review of Procedures.

10.24am

Approval of The Education (Restriction of Employment) (Wales) Regulations 2000

To propose that the National Assembly considers the report of the Legislation Committee and approves

under standing order 22.23A the following draft order:

The Education (Restriction of Employment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 laid in the Table Office on 4 October 2000 and the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the Order laid in the Table Office on 11 October 2000

A vote was taken

For 52; Against 0; Abstain 0; Total 52

The Education (Restriction of Employment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 were approved

10.25am

The Annual Report of the Welsh Administration Ombudsman

To propose that the National Assembly notes the Annual Report of the Welsh Administration Ombudsman for 1999-2000, laid in the Table Office on 10 October 2000

The following amendment has been tabled

Janet Davies (South Wales West); WITHDRAWN

Add at end of motion:

That the National Assembly take steps to look into how the independence of the Welsh Ombudsman could be strengthened.

A vote was taken:

The motion

For 30; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 30

The motion was agreed

10.40am

The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair

Debate on the Draft Budget

To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 19.2, notes of the draft budget for the financial years 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, laid in the Table Office on Thursday 19th October by the Minister for Finance and Communities, Edwina Hart

The following amendments have been tabled:

1. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Mon);

Add at end of motion as new bullet point:

- Calls on the Minister for Finance and the Communities to acknowledge the fact that more than half of the total increase in the budget reflects a simple accounting change arising from to the new resource accounting method and does not constitute additional money;

2. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Mon);

Add at end of motion as new bullet point:

- Notes that in reality the Departmental Expenditure Limit for Wales is only 7% compared to the 8.7% increase for all the UK Government Departments;

3. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Mon);

Add at end of motion as new bullet point:

- Instructs the Minister to make allocations in the final budget in accordance with the duty to promote sustainable development; paying particular attention to tackling social disadvantage and equal opportunities.

4. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Mon);

Add at end of motion as new bullet points:

- Calls on the coalition Government of Wales to recognise that we will not receive full additionality in relation to the European Funds we are entitled to receive over this period;
- Calls on the coalition Government of Wales to acknowledge the fact that match funding has to be found from existing budgets, especially education, due to the fact that the CSR did not provide any public sector match funding in addition to the block grant;

- Requests that in future drafts of the budget the three elements of items of normal expenditure, the European contribution and the public sector match funding of European projects be presented separately, indicating clearly the total value of all public sector match funding contributions not covered by any increases in the Barnett allocation;

5. Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Mon);

Add at end of motion as new bullet points:

Instructs the Minister for Finance and the Communities to prioritise the following objectives in the final allocation of funding:

- The development of an effective Employment and Job Strategy for Wales;
- The need to increase the capacity of the NHS, particularly with regard to increasing the numbers of nurses and doctors entering the profession in Wales and the numbers of beds available for the treatment of patients;
- The need to allocate funding to encourage recruitment into the social care profession and recognise the high public importance of such professions;
- The development of a bilingual society;
- The need for adequate funding for special educational needs provision.
- The provision of funding for a young farmers new Entrants Scheme;
- The necessary repair of housing stock by significantly increasing the General Capital Funding / SCA's ;
- The need for adequate funding to meet the aspirations of the Culture Review of the Post-16 Education Committee.

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 22 ; Abstain 0; Against 30; Total 52

Amendment 1 fell

Amendment 2

For 22; Abstain 0; Against 31?; Total 53

Amendment 2 fell

Amendment 3

For 52 ; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 52

Amendment 3 was agreed

Amendment 4

For 21 ; Abstain 0; Against 31; Total 52

Amendment 4 fell

Amendment 5

For 23 ; Abstain 0; Against 31; Total 54

Amendment 5 fell

The motion, as amended,

For 31; Abstain 16; Against 7; Total 54

The motion, as amended was agreed

12.04pm

Short Debate: Peter Rogers (North Wales);The importance of recognising that a successful agricultural industry is essential to maintain a vibrant Welsh countryside

The session concluded at 12.35. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch AGM followed the end of the session

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 31st October 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 24 OCTOBER 2000

Annual Report of the Audit Committee

Memorandum of Corrections Pursuant to Standing Order 22.12A - The Local Government Act 2000
(Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 23 OCTOBER 2000

The Education (Exclusion from School) (Prescribed Periods) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations
2000

The National Health Service Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements (Wales)
Regulations 2000