

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES

Standing Orders Review — Motion

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [7.30 pm]: I move —

- (1) That the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges undertake a review of the standing orders relating to motions on notice with a view to modernising the procedures of the house.
- (2) That the committee is to report to the house no later than Thursday, 20 September 2018.

The motion before us reflects the agreement the parties have reached behind the Chair about how we deal with progressing our motions on notice in a more effective and efficient way. We have had lots of discussions behind the Chair and it was agreed that we would refer to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges a request to undertake a review of the standing orders relating to motions on notice with a view to modernising the procedures of the house. Behind the Chair there were plenty of discussions about how that might look. Without pre-empting the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges' result, the sorts of possibilities canvassed included reducing the time in which a motion is dealt with, for example, from four to two hours, and reducing the speaking times within that so that we would effectively be able to deal with a motion on a single day. That way we would get through the motions much quicker. Obviously, the committee will look at the nuances of how to achieve that or whether there is another way to achieve the same result. They are the kinds of examples the parties have been talking about. I commend the motion to the house.

Point of Order

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: I have not seen the motion; can the motion be distributed?

Hon SUE ELLERY: It is on the notice paper. I gave notice of it in the first week we were sitting this month. It is order of the day 37 on page 4 of today's Business Program.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Robin Chapple): The motion is that the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges review the standing orders relating to motions on notice. Notice of this motion was given on 13 June 2018 and it was made an order of the day on 14 June 2018.

Debate Resumed

HON COLIN HOLT (South West) [7.33 pm]: I want to make some quick remarks. The challenge of the house in any reference to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges is that it might produce a report, but when do we get to debate it in the house? There is a number of reports delivered by that committee on the notice paper, yet we have not debated them. Although I am happy to refer this motion to the PPC, it is a good question for this house about how we deal with the committee's reports that already lie before us. I know there has been discussion around consensus on changing standing orders, but at some time we have to debate the committee reports that sit on the notice paper now. In my brief contribution, I want to raise that point. Although we might refer this matter to the procedure and privileges committee, there is no guarantee that we will get to debate it.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [7.35 pm]: I will say a couple of things; I do not want to hold up the house. There is really goodwill regarding this motion. I take on board Hon Colin Holt's comments. There is unanimous agreement that the current format for motions on notice is broken. It is not working. A perfect example for those who were not here then is that during the whole four years of the last Parliament, motions were moved condemning and congratulating our government. I am not criticising it; that is the format of the way it is now. We want to avoid that, so there is consensus that that must change. We have tried in good faith to reach a point at which we could have a gentlemen's and genteladies' agreement on the changes. We could not quite get there, and that was fine, but there was general consensus that we would not abuse the procedure this time. We hope to let the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges come back with a recommendation. Having been to all the meetings, I am very confident that we will all agree to that. I would like to think so, anyway. The business of the house is up to the Leader of the House, but I think she is just as keen to have a resolution to this issue as we all are. Once the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges reports, in September, which is a very short time frame, we should have something in place not long after that. I would like to think so anyway. I support the motion.

HON ALISON XAMON (North Metropolitan) [7.36 pm]: I am rising on behalf of the Greens to indicate that we, too, have had discussions behind the Chair. We likewise agree with the motion. Hopefully, we will come up with a good resolution. The Greens do not have a representative on the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges, but feel confident we can put in a submission with our views to be taken into account. Hopefully, there will be some creative solutions. Who knows? We might decide to amend the standing orders so we no longer consider motions that contain the words "condemn" or "congratulate" in them. Maybe that will cut out a whole range of potential options. Failing that, I am sure that we will come up with a good proposal.

Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Martin Aldridge; Acting President; Hon Colin Holt; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Alison Xamon

Question put and passed.