

PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

REPORT #4

PART I — DELETION OF REFERENCE IN CERTAIN STANDING ORDERS TO REQUIREMENT FOR “SECONDING”

With the exception of those motions moved on formal occasions where seconding is an integral and traditional element of proceedings, the House, on May 23 2001, abolished the requirement that motions be seconded before a question can be put from the Chair.

The current print of standing orders retains a provision for seconding in 3 rules not included within the traditional exception. They should be amended by removing the words requiring seconding.

The Committee therefore **recommends** that standing orders be amended as follows —

108. Objection to ruling of President

delete “, if seconded, ”.

112. Adjournment of debate

delete “ A motion for the adjournment of a debate need not be seconded. ”.

433. Suspension of standing orders

delete “ and seconded ”.

PART II — SO 230 ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE AT CONCLUSION OF 2ND READING SPEECH

Where the Minister or member having charge of a bill moves the 2nd reading immediately following introduction and 1st reading, SO 230(a) makes mandatory the adjournment of the debate at the conclusion of the 2nd reading speech. In most cases, the Opposition Whip will move the adjournment.

Because of the mandatory nature of the rule, it seems reasonable for this Committee to propose that adjournment of the debate should be automatic rather than have the Chair put the question and the subsequent question for adjournment.

Paragraph (b) provides an alternative to paragraph (a) — commencement of 2nd reading may be set down as an order of the day for a subsequent sitting. Although it does not guarantee that the House will reach or deal with an order of the day under paragraph (b) on a particular

day, members introducing private member's bills may care to move under paragraph (b) that the 2nd reading stage commence on a specified [sitting] day.

The Committee **recommends** that —

SO 230 (a) be amended by deleting all words after “debate” and substituting “stands adjourned”;

SO 230 (b) be amended by inserting after “sitting” the words or for a specified sitting day”.



Hon John Cowdell
Chairman

