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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Standing Orders Committee - Report relating to

Subject: Chapter XIV of the current Standing
Orders



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HON D J WORDSWORTH

MR PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO PRESENT A REPORT FROM THE STANDING
ORDERS COMMITTEE RELATING TO CHAPTER XIV OF THE CURRENT
STANDING ORDERS.

MR PRESIDENT:

I MOVE THAT THE REPORT DO LIE UPON THE TABLE AND BE
PRINTED.



REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE RELATING TO
CHAPTER XIV - QUESTIONS

On Tuesday, August 21 1984, the House referred back the major part of the redrafted rules relating to questions to the Standing Orders Committee for further consideration.

So far as can be ascertained, certain members desired to retain the ability to give oral notice of their questions. The draft standing orders annexed to this report make provision accordingly.

An analysis of each standing order follows -

14.2.1 - No change from the former redraft has been made except the deadline has been extended to the time at which the House sits on each day.

14.2.2 - This puts beyond doubt the fate of a notice delivered after the time at which the House first meets on the day on which notice is delivered. While the provision may appear superfluous, your committee sees no harm in spelling out the substance of what might otherwise be taken for granted.

14.2.3 - A member who has delivered written notice in terms of SO 14.2.1 may state it orally in the House at the appropriate time. The point should be made that subsequent oral re-iteration of a notice already delivered is an optional procedure; a member, content with giving written notice, is not obliged to restate it orally.

14.2.4 - This rule makes clear the fact that the order in which questions appear in written form is determined by delivery of the written notice and not by oral re-statement.

14.3 - 14.5 - No substantive change has been made since the original report and recommendations were tabled. Comments made in the original report remain applicable to these proposals.

Generally, your committee remains firmly of the opinion that the proposed rules will result in a more efficient procedure for dealing with questions and recommends that:

- (a) the proposed standing orders be adopted in place of those already in force;
- (b) the proposed standing orders, if adopted, remain in force for the duration of this current Session.



- (b) (i) arguments;
- (ii) inferences;
- (iii) imputations;
- (iv) unnecessary epithets;
- (v) ironical expressions;
- (vi) hypothetical matter;
- (c) discreditable references to either House or its members, or any offensive or unparliamentary expression.

14.5.2 - Questions shall not:

- (a) seek an expression of opinion or a legal opinion;
- (b) quote or refer to speeches made in either House during the same session, or proceedings of a committee not reported to the Council;
- (c) refer to a case pending adjudication in a court of law;
- (d) anticipate discussion of an order of the day.

14.5.3 - The President may disallow any question that is the same in substance as one already answered, disallowed or to which an answer has been refused in the same session.