

The proposal was agreed unanimously. Mr Haughey took the chair.

Mr Dalton joined the meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF STANDING ORDERS

- Agreed:
- to examine the working draft prepared by the Secretariat of non-contentious and other more difficult rules, which used the Standing Orders of the 1973 Northern Ireland Assembly as a base;
 - to commence this examination by working through the listed non-contentious rules.

1973 Assembly

Rule No 1 Notice of First Meeting of New Assembly
(Page 3)

- Agreed following discussion.

Rule No 2 Procedure at First Meeting of New Assembly
(Page 3)

In the course of discussion, the following points were made:

- while members of the Committee were generally content that the Presiding Officer should be referred to as 'Speaker', it was noted that the Agreement reached at the multi-party negotiations referred to the Chair of the Assembly;
- it was acknowledged that the Rule needed to be redrafted to take account of the requirements in Rule 3 of the Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly with particular reference to registering a designation of identity;
- concern was expressed at the use of the designation 'other' in Rule 3(1) of Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly, and of the ability to change designations permitted in Rule 3(3) of Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly, and it was agreed that these topics should be considered in detail at the next meeting.

NB

At this point the Committee called for copies of the Northern Ireland Bill, and the Chairman suspended the meeting at 11.00 am, resuming at 11.30 am.

Rule No 3 Election of Speaker
(Page 4)

- 3(1) Agreed
- 3(2) Agreed, with the omission of 'Mr' in line 3.

3(3)& (4) Agreed, subject to redrafting in accordance with Rule 12(2) [voting: cross community support] and Rule 13 [election of Presiding Officer] of Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly.

Rule No 4
(Page 5)

Procedure when office of Speaker becomes vacant

Agreed: - Clerk to report any vacancy to Assembly.
- Assembly to elect Speaker, election being chaired by outgoing speaker or in his absence by the Clerk.
- Where there is no agreement on the election of a Speaker, sessions will be presided over by the Deputy Speakers.

Rule No 5
(Page 5)

Assistant Speakers

Agreed: 2 deputys to the Speaker should be elected.

Noted: - that the Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly are silent on the need for cross community support for the election of a Deputy Presiding Officer.
- that Rule 5(2) is redundant and will not be required.

Rule No 6
(Page 6)

Roll of Members

Agreed: - that Rule 6(1) should be modified to make reference to the requirement stated in Rule 3(1) of the Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly that Members signing the Assembly's Roll of Membership should register a designation of identity.

- that discussion on the "Other" designation should be deferred to the next meeting.

- that Rule 6(2) was acceptable.

- that Rule 6(3) should be amended to refer to the requirement to register a designation of identity.

Rule No 7
(Page 7)

Office of the Clerk and Records of the Assembly

Agreed: - that Rule 7(1) and (2) were acceptable and that Rule 7(3) would require amendment as the Clerk to the New Assembly would have no powers.

Rule No 8
(Page 7)

Quorum

Agreed: that the quorum of the New Assembly should be set at 10, as indicated in the Initial Standing Orders of the New Assembly.

Rule No 12
(Page 11)

Pecuniary Interest

Agreed: that this Rule will require redrafting to reflect the requirements on Members' Interests set out in Clause 35 of the Northern Ireland Bill.

Rule No 13
(Page 11)

Delaying Motions

Agreed: that discussion in the reformulation of this Rule should be deferred to the next meeting, the discussion to include the need to refer to Petitions of Concern (see Initial Standing Orders for the New Assembly - Rule 12(5), the need to find a better descriptive word than 'Delaying' and the need to refer to other devices eg, guillotines and closures.

Rule No 14
(Page 12)

Business of the Assembly

In the course of discussion, the Committee identified the need to establish a Business Committee of the Assembly under the chairmanship of the Presiding Officer, at which the future business of the Assembly could be discussed, agreed and scheduled.

It was agreed that the Order Paper for next day should be issued to members before the end of a sitting.

With regard to Rule 14(2) which dealt with the Order of Business, it was agreed that the Secretariat would seek the Scottish and Welsh proposals and the source of messages to the Assembly and to revisit this particular rule at the next meeting.

Mr Kelly left the meeting at 12.00 noon.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 12 noon, resuming at 12.15 pm.

Rule No 14
(Page 12)
(Continued)

Agreed: that the Secretariat should produce a re-draft of Rule 14 (including the Order of Business) at the next meeting.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

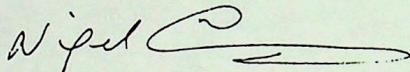
5.1 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed: that the next meeting should take place on Monday 24 August 1998 at 10.30 am in Room 115, Parliament Buildings.

Noted: that as Mr McCartney will be on holiday, Mr Boyd will represent him at this meeting.

5.2 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 1.00 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Nigel Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NIGEL CARSON
Deputy Clerk (Business)

Mary McKeever } TAX etc Personal etile.
— BT 532487.

Seamus Pete
J Udell 521718.