

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF
HOUSE OF KEYS**

**Douglas, Tuesday, 28th April 1998
at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

The Speaker (the Hon N Q Cringle) (Rushen); Mr L I Singer and Hon A R Bell (Ramsey); Mr J D Q Cannan (Michael); Hon H Hannan (Peel); Mr W A Gilbey (Glenfaba); Mr S C Rodan (Garff); Hon D North (Middle); Mr P Karran, Hon R K Corkill and Mr J R Kniveton (Onchan); Messrs J R Houghton and E A Crowe (Douglas North); Hon D C Cretney and Mr A C Duggan (Douglas South); Mr R P Braidwood and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East); Messrs J P Shimmin and A F Downie (Douglas West); Hon J A Brown (Castletown); Hon D J Gelling (Malew and Santon); Sir Miles Walker CBE LLD (hc), and Mrs P M Crowe (Rushen); with Prof T StJ N Bates, Secretary of the House.

The Speaker took the prayers.

Election To The Legislative Council

The Speaker: Hon. members, the purpose of our meeting this morning is again the election of one person to serve as a Member of the Legislative Council for a period expiring on 28th February 2003. Hon. members, I will simply repeat what I said at the last meeting that in fact we had: since the last time that we attempted to elect someone to the Legislative Council sufficient time, I feel, has elapsed and the choice is entirely ours this morning, if you wish to take it. I call upon the hon. member for Douglas West, Mr Shimmin.

Mr Shimmin: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to nominate the name of Mr Andrew Cowin Douglas for the post on the Legislative Council. Mr Speaker, it was mindful of the comments you made prior to the last election which causes me to be in this position. It is a surprise to both myself and the candidate, Mr Cowin, that we find ourselves in this position. We have both discussed this issue and had assumed previously that either a present or a past member of the Keys would be the popular choice and would be elected to this position. We are both very mindful that both many members of this Court and also many members of the public have a great deal of concern about those persons representing Tynwald who have not been popularly elected by the people of the Isle of Man. We have therefore waited until such time as all possible opportunities for current or previous members of the Keys who are willing or likely to be elected to have had their opportunity to stand. This is not done lightly. This is something that Mr Cowin and myself feel very strongly is a post which needs to be filled and by a person of stature, and I believe that Mr Cowin fits the bill.

Several Members: Mr Douglas.

Mr Shimmin: Mr Cowin Douglas, Andrew Cowin Douglas. My apologies, Mr Speaker.

We have a man who is well known - albeit apparently not to me! - (*Laughter*) to many members of the public and this House, and Mr Douglas has put forward much of his time and energies into serving the people of the Isle of Man in a variety of ways, but he has not got the popular vote of the people. We cannot change that fact. He is a man of honour and integrity and he has given a guarantee that should he be successful in this election, he will not put his

name forward for reselection at the next election to the Legislative Council in the year 2003, in order to allow the position to be filled by a member who has the popular public support. He realises it is a difficult decision for many members and that people in the past have felt unable to vote for the candidates available. I would please urge all members who have by now had an opportunity of finding out more about the man, or who have had discussion with him on the telephone or communication from the man, to consider his qualities. I do not wish to repeat them. It is an assurance that Mr Douglas has ambitions for the Isle of Man and has always had a political ambition which he attempted to fulfil in 1991. It is not his choice to come in via what has been described as the backdoor route. He is genuine in his desire to serve. I believe he is a strong candidate and he will give great service to the people of this Island. I would hope members would utilise their votes and please be prepared to consider the two candidates putting their names forward to serve the people of the Island. Mr Speaker, I move the name of Mr Andrew Cowin Douglas as a Member of Legislative Council.

Mrs Crowe: Mr Speaker, I fully agree with the comments of Mr Shimmin, the hon. member for West Douglas, and I am delighted to second the nomination of Captain Andrew Douglas.

The Speaker: I call upon the hon. member for Ramsey, Mr Bell.

Mr Bell: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It gives me great pleasure once again to nominate Mr Richard Radcliffe of 12 Park Road, Ramsey. Mr Radcliffe is currently a leading member of Ramsey Town Commissioners, having been first elected in 1984. Although he has never stood for election to the House of Keys, Richard has been elected on five separate occasions to the Ramsey Town Commissioners and has a well-established electoral base to support his nomination in this election. During his time as a member of the commissioners, he has proved himself to have a keen and enquiring mind, closely scrutinising all aspects of the commissioners' activities. He currently serves as chairman of the commissioners' Finance and General Purpose Committee, a position he has held since 1986, with the exception of 1994 and 1995, when he was chairman of the board. Although his leadership qualities and financial abilities have kept the town's finances on a sound basis, he has also shown an independent spirit which has added considerably to the quality of political debate in the north of the Island.

Mr Radcliffe comes from a well-known Ramsey family and is married with one daughter. His career path led him into the Isle of Man Bank in 1971 and he is currently employed as investment manager for MeesPierson (Isle of Man) Limited, and his experience with these companies has given him a sound knowledge of the workings and problems of the finance sector. I believe that this experience is particularly important at the present time, bearing in mind the external pressures which are currently being exerted on our major revenue-earning industry. Should he be successful in being elected today, it is his intention to reduce his involvement with MeesPierson commensurately. Mr Radcliffe is well known in sporting circles within the Island, having competed in the London Marathon on several occasions and again this last weekend and raising considerable sums of money for charity in the process. He is also an active member of the Northern Athletic Club and the Isle of Man Veterans' Athletic Club and is currently a class 1 football referee. As a result of his enthusiasm for Manx sport, he has been appointed a director of the Sports Aid Foundation and is also a member of the Mann 2000 events committee. Locally he is involved in charitable work through his membership of the Ramsey Endowments Committee and the Ramsey Charitable Trust.

I believe that Mr Radcliffe would make an excellent Member of the Legislative Council because of his wide experience in both business and local government. Having won five elections to the Ramsey Town Commissioners, he has demonstrated a clear and consistent level of public endorsement for his policies and his abilities for nearly 14 years, never having lost an election. Aged 43, Mr Radcliffe will bring a fresh perspective to the proceedings of the Legislative Council and Tynwald at a time when the future of the Council is undergoing a review, and I believe that his commitment to reform will enhance the level of debate on that issue. I therefore have no hesitation, Mr Speaker, in proposing Mr Richard Radcliffe as a candidate in this morning's election to the Legislative Council.

Mr Corkill: Mr Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Richard Radcliffe, and I have known him for many years. I am pleased his name is before us today because I know him to be a sound individual and he has the interest of the people of the Isle of Man central to his thinking. He has been keenly involved, as his proposer has mentioned, in local authority politics and I believe, indeed I know, he is very close to the people. He is young and enthusiastic but he is diligent also. Hon. members, if Mr Radcliffe is elected, you will not be disappointed with his open-minded, caring approach, and I beg to second the nomination.

The Speaker: Now, hon. members, we have had the ballot papers printed with the two names on. Are you content that we use those ballot papers?

Members: Agreed.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. members, the nominations are the two which are printed on your ballot paper, that of Mr A C Douglas and Mr R Radcliffe. You are required to vote for one member. May I ask that the hon. member for Middle, Mr North, and the hon. member for Douglas South, Mr Duggan, act as our tellers, please?

A first ballot took place.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the result of the ballot is that Mr Douglas received 9 votes and Mr Radcliffe received 4 votes. There were 9 spoiled papers, hon. members. We will ballot again on the same two names. The same two tellers, please.

A second ballot took place.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the result of that ballot is that Mr Douglas received 10 votes, Mr Radcliffe received 4 votes.

Hon. members, again the House has failed to elect someone to serve for the period up till 28th February 2003. In that case, hon. members, I again call for fresh nominations for Friday next, 1st May at 5 p.m., and we will ballot at our sitting on May 12th.

Thank you, hon. members, that concludes the sitting for this morning. We will shortly join Tynwald in Tynwald Chamber at 10.30.

The House adjourned at 9.17 a.m.