



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OFFICIAL REPORT**

**RECORTYS OIKOIL
Y CHOONCEIL SLATTYSSAGH**

P R O C E E D I N G S

D A A L T Y N

(HANSARD)

Douglas, Tuesday, 13th March 2007

Present:**The Hon. President of the Council (The Hon. N Q Cringle)**

The Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man (The Rt. Rev. Graeme Knowles), The Attorney General (Mr W J H Corlett QC), Mr D Butt, Mrs. C M Christian, Mr E A Crowe, Mrs. P M Crowe, Mr. A F Downie, Mr E G Lowey and Mr G H Waft, with Mrs M Cullen, Clerk of the Council.

Business transacted*Page***Orders of the Day**

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The Council adjourned at 11.10 a.m.

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Legislative Council

The Council met at 10.30 a.m.

[MR PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

PRAYERS
The Lord Bishop

COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE

The President: Hon. Members, now if I may, as Commonwealth Day was yesterday, and I know that most Members will have been made aware of the message from Her Majesty, the Head of the Commonwealth – it was certainly printed on our menu at last night’s Commonwealth Parliamentary Association dinner – nevertheless, Hon. Members, for the purposes of our record, and the fact that the message from Her Majesty The Queen, the Head of Commonwealth, should be read on Commonwealth Day, I propose to put the message on our record this morning.

‘Today’s Commonwealth is home to nearly a third of the world’s population. Its almost two billion citizens come from so many faiths, races, cultures and traditions.

I think that one of the reasons for the success of this organisation is that it draws not only on certain shared values, but also from the principles and practices of everyday life, which can be observed day after day in the cities, towns and villages of our 53 member countries.

Over thousands of years, the very basis of community life has been the pooling together by individuals of their resources and skills.

Rather than having to be good at everything, people were able to practise their own skill or craft. The lesson of community life is that to flourish we must help each other. To do this, there has to be a sense of fairness, a real understanding of others’ needs and aspirations, and a willingness to contribute.

Despite its size and scale, the Commonwealth to me is still at heart a collection of villages. In close-knit communities like these, there are beliefs and values we share and cherish. We know that helping others will lead to greater security and prosperity for ourselves.

Because we feel this way, our governments and peoples aim to work even more closely together. And as individuals, we find that taking part in Commonwealth activities can be inspirational and personally rewarding.

In today’s difficult and sometimes divided world, I believe that it is more important than ever to keep trying to respect and understand each other better. Each and every one of us has hopes, needs, and priorities. Each of us is an individual, with ties of emotion and bonds of obligation – to culture, religion, community, country and beyond. In short, each of us is special.

The more we see others in this way, the more we can understand them and their points of view. In what we think and say and do, let us as individuals actively seek out the views of others; let us make the best use of what our beliefs and history teach us; let us have open minds and hearts; and let us, like the Commonwealth, find our diversity a cause for celebration and a source of strength and unity.

This is a thought worth bearing in mind as we gather on Commonwealth Day: we are a thriving community; we value our past; we make the most of our present; and we are working together to build our future. By respecting difference and promoting understanding, that future will be a better one for us all.

Elizabeth R.

12 March 2007’

The message, Hon. Members, is signed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and dated 12th March 2007.

Orders of the Day

Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill Clauses considered

2. Mr Downie to move.

The President: We turn then, Hon. Members, if I may, to our straightforward Order Paper for today. As we are aware, Hon. Members, we took the First Reading and the Second Reading of the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill. This morning, Mr Downie, we are starting with the clause stage of your Bill, sir, and we take clause 1.

Mr Downie: Thank you, Mr President.

Hon. Members will be aware that there were a number of questions raised at the First and Second Readings of this Bill last week and, with the assistance of Mr Paul Gelling, who is with us today in the public gallery, representing the Department of Tourism and Leisure, I have produced a set of background papers so that Hon. Members will get a better understanding of the involvement, in particular, of the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club and the Department of Tourism’s relationship in the organisation of these races.

Yesterday, there was a meeting that took place between the Police, emergency services and the Department of Transport. You will see from the first paper that has been circulated, the safety of the event is very much in the mind of all of those involved and, in particular, the importance of using our resources in a proper and careful manner.

There is also a letter within the pack from the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club answering the queries raised. For example, it deals with the situation that was raised about the clearing up of litter. It confirms that formal consultation will take place with Arbory, Malew and Castletown Commissioners as is the usual case but they, themselves, felt that it was sensible to do this in more detail when they knew the Bill had received approval. Contact is being made with all the bodies to let them know that approval is being sought.

I also provided for Hon. Members a copy of the letter which will be sent to every household on the Southern 100 circuit by the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club, advising them what the arrangements are, what the closing periods are, and giving them as much information as possible.

Finally, I provide for Hon. Members the very last draft of the schedule for the 2007 races. The area which is interesting to us is on the back page, which does show the road closing format for the Sunday, where it is indicated that the roads close at 1.30 p.m. They do intend, or have the ability, to run the event, up to eight o’clock, but, since we last spoke, there is now a provision being made here to break for tea. This will allow the circuit to be accessed and people can go about their business and not be inconvenienced for too long a period of time.

I think, by doing this, it does maintain the goodwill of the people in the area and, of course, the other added bonus,

if you are a bit aggrieved about the number of road closures, is that the entire Monday now in the south of the Island is free. So, apart from the practising on the Friday night, a few hours on the Saturday, and then the Sunday, the bank holiday Monday can be fully enjoyed by everyone in the south and there will be no restrictions on movement at all on that day.

With that, Mr President, I beg to move that clause 1, which provides a temporary exemption from section 1(2) of the Road Races Act 1982 to enable a road race order to authorise a motor cycle race on the Billown circuit on Sunday, 27th May 2007, do stand part of the Bill.

The President: Mr Waft.

Mr Waft: I beg to second, Mr President, and reserve my remarks.

The President: Mrs Christian.

Mrs Christian: Mr President, I did have some concerns about the hours of closure which are embodied in this particular clause, particularly in the light of the indications that consultation had been minimal – if you can call it consultation, in some cases. We have had circulated to us this morning some further documentation about the road closures. It just says that there is enclosed a letter to residents who live in the Billown circuit. I have not got one of those. I do not know whether anybody else has.

Mr Downie: Yes, it is in the pack.

Mrs Christian: No, firstly, there is a letter from the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Racing Club, which is here.

Mr Downie: Is it not that?

Mrs Crowe: This one – the letter.

Mrs Christian: Ah, right. I have not had a chance to read that yet, Mr President.

But I do think it is slightly curious that the information is going to the people after we have dealt with the Bill and not before. I should have thought, where you were doing something extraordinary in terms of the road closures, that you would consult before you dealt with the Bill.

Now, that might not be the fault of the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club, I do not know. But, Mr President, the fact that the roads are going to be open for a short time mid-afternoon will, I am sure, help, and because this is going to be a once only occasion, I will not move any amendment to the clause.

The President: Mrs Crowe.

Mrs Crowe: Thank you, Mr President.

I do note that, after the comments about ambulance cover, the letter from the Southern Health Authority says that the time has now had to be moved because of the need for ambulance cover which would have been unavailable. So, I am pleased that that has actually been covered.

I do believe this letter to the residents went out some time ago, because it does say, ‘we will write to you again if the Bill has been passed.’ So, they are giving advance note to the residents. I did believe that no residents had had any

advance notice, so I do not quite know when this letter went. It is not dated actually, but an advance notice letter has gone to residents and another letter will be following up, if the Bill is, indeed, passed.

So, I support the Bill. I am pleased that they were able to change the times so that ambulance cover was available. As we know, the St John Ambulance at this time will be severely stretched to provide ambulance cover for all the events taking place.

The President: I do not think there was any advance letter at all.

Mr Downie: No.

The President: Mr Lowey.

Mr Lowey: Mr President, let me, first of all, declare an interest, because I think I know just about everybody that has signed – George Peach and all the rest – I know each and every one of them.

I know the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club is a very responsible organisation. They do take their job very professionally and seriously. So, therefore, there is no criticism from my point of view of the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club.

However, I do take the point that has been raised last week and this week that consultation... If the word is used, then it should mean what it says, and that is consultation, not a *fait accompli* and talking to people, that ‘This is what is going to happen’. That is not the accepted norm of consultation.

I think most Members would then say, ‘Well, why are we having six races on the Sunday afternoon? Could they not have put some of these on the Saturday evening and reduce the times substantially?’ I think that is a matter of when you get all the bikes and the back-ups to those bikes on the line, working with machines, it is better to get it all done in one day, as opposed to spreading it over two days.

So, I take note of that. There are practicalities that have to be taken into consideration.

I do not think there was anybody around this table who had any objection to the Bill as a special occasion, on the assurance that it is not the forerunner of, ‘Well, it was a success this year, let us repeat the dose’ – and I know the Bill falls at midnight so, therefore, it is not on the shelf. It would have to come back again. That is a reassurance. That is pre-empting that argument, so I do not think it is an argument that is legitimate.

However, having said that, I will be supporting this Bill and I wish the meeting a successful, safe and happy event.

The President: Mr Downie to reply.

Mr Downie: Thank you, Mr President.

I would like to thank all those who have spoken. Those who had doubts, at the end of the day, were prepared to support the principle of the Bill, and I am grateful for that.

Mrs Christian raised the issue about consultation. I think to run an event such as the Southern 100 on the Billown circuit, the Club itself does a very, very good job of being neighbourly, promoting what they do and they have a good following down there.

But I would agree that perhaps, with hindsight, a little bit more consultation earlier on and making sure that people were on board would have been more sensible. But if you

look at the correspondence, they were concerned to do that because they did not want to start hares running without the strength of the legislation around them. So, I think they are in a difficult situation themselves.

In fairness, the Club does all this organisation themselves. They are not being paid to do this. It is a volunteer organisation. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) I think it is very, very commendable, the work that they do.

If I can move on to my hon. colleague, Mrs Crowe, she made reference to the letter to residents. There is only a draft in being and what I have circulated now is a draft. I am advised that, if the legislation gets clear today or goes off for Royal Assent, what the Club will do is start to build up their relationship again with the residents, by this letter and another letter nearer the event, so that everybody is totally *au fait* with what is likely to happen over that bank holiday weekend.

Mr Lowey also remarked about consultation. He said that they had a good relationship and as long as this was a special occasion, he would support the Bill. I would go along with that. This is not a back-door method of introducing racing on a Sunday on a regular basis. As I stated at the last Reading, Sunday is special on the Isle of Man and I am one of the people who wants to fight to preserve that.

I do not think I have missed anybody out, Mr President. With that, I would like to move the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill – that the clauses stage be read.

The President: We just deal first, Hon. Member, with clause 1.

Mr Downie: Clause 1, I should say.

The President: For the purposes of our record, I put to Council that clause 1 stand part of the Bill. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Mr Downie, if you will formally move the short title and expiry clause, which is clause 2, sir.

Mr Downie: Yes, this Act may be cited as the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Act 2007. Subclause (2):

‘This Act shall expire at midnight on 27 May 2007.’

I beg to move that clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The President: Mr Waft.

Mr Waft: I beg to second, sir.

The President: Hon. Members, I put to Council that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill Standing Order 22(2) suspended to take Third Reading

The President: Now, Mr Downie.

Mr Downie: Yes, Mr President, I would like to suspend Standing Orders to take the Third Reading of this Bill. Obviously, the sooner we can get it off from here and get Royal Assent, then all the further outstanding arrangements

can be dealt with. Things like the traffic management scheme that was discussed last week can be properly investigated and, perhaps, be put on a more formal basis; and, of course, the residents living around Silverdale can be fully briefed as to what is likely to happen during this period.

So, Mr President, I beg to move that the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2007 be read a third time.

The President: Just jumping one step ahead of me but, nevertheless, I think we did agree last week that we would probably take Third Reading. So, Hon. Members, again for the record, I put to you that we suspend Standing Orders to take the Third Reading. Are we agreed, Hon. Members?

Mrs Christian: I second.

Members: Agreed.

Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill Third Reading approved

The President: Now, Hon. Members, accepting that Mr Downie has then moved the Third Reading, Mr Waft, would you second the Third Reading?

Mr Waft: Thank you, Mr President.

I think the important thing to notice within the correspondence that we have is that it is in the interests of public safety to exceptionally hold these things at this time. It is for this year only, and we are talking about once every 100 years. I think we have talked through this quite conclusively for the amount of difficulty that will ensue with regard to this Bill. The difficulties that ensue for me every morning trying to get out of my drive are phenomenal and the same in the evening at half past six! But, nevertheless, I do think we should study these things and make sure all the dots are in the right place and the t's are crossed.

So, I think the wholehearted support of the Legislative Council is called for.

The President: Mr Butt.

Mr Butt: Thank you, Mr President.

I am pleased to support the Bill because it does allow some classic racing to take place during the TT period. In view of the significance of the TT this year and the history of the event, I think it is a shame that the only time that classic bikes will be seen this year will be on the Billown circuit.

It would have been, I think, very opportune to have classic racing on the TT circuit, because a lot of the extra visitors that are coming over this year are people who have been here in the past that have come back for that special purpose. Although I am pleased that Billown is providing classic races, I do wish that we had, actually, had some classic racing on the TT course for the benefit of the returning fans from yesteryear.

The President: Hon. Members, before Mr Downie winds up, I would just make the comment, because it has been raised in relation to the consultation, I got a visitation to my house, late on Sunday evening, bringing me these letters from the Southern 100 Motor Cycle Club. I was somewhat concerned when they told me, in fact, that they had been

told *not* to circulate any letters by the Tourist Department until the Bill had been passed. So, they felt they were under a restriction not to consult.

Mr Downie.

Mr Downie: Yes, thank you, Mr President.

Taking your point first, I am not a member of the Department, I am only taking the Bill, but I can tell you I have had three meetings this last week. I have gone into this matter very, very thoroughly and I think, perhaps, if I had had the benefit of being a member of the Department, we might not have had some of the difficulties that we have had, and the points that have been raised could have been dealt with in a much more positive manner.

But not to detract from that, Mr President, I think the Club is very capable. They have got a good relationship down there and the fact that they came to see you should stand them in good stead, really.

Getting back to the comments that were made by Mr Waft, I thank Mr Waft for seconding all the clauses and the various sections of the Bill. As he said, it is a once in a 100 years opportunity. At the end of the day, this type of racing is now very much part of the Isle of Man and this is a special year.

I would like to thank Mr Butt for his support, and also the positive comments he made about classic racing and, in particular, that this was going to be the only opportunity to see classic racing this year. But I think we must not lose sight of the fact that one of the reasons for this Bill was that we did not want there to be a huge clash with the re-enactment in St John's, because that is going to be a unique event itself.

The way that the programme was coming together meant that the two events were going to be held on the same day. That would have stretched resources to the limit. It would have caused big traffic problems, because people would want to go to and fro to both events. I think that, by going down this very, very sensible route, we have been able to bring some balance back and not over-extend our emergency services and the Police and the marshals and everybody else. As usual, we have come up with a good old Manx compromise.

So, with that, Mr President, I thank the Members for their support. I would also like to put on record my thanks to Paul Gelling, who is not really a member of the Department of Tourism. He is from Customs and Excise but he has been seconded. It just shows that we have a fairly flexible approach to work within Government.

I would like to finally move:

That the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2007 be read a third time and do pass.

The President: In that case, Hon. Members, the motion that I put to Council is that the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill be read for a third time. Those in favour, Hon. Members, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Civil Service (Amendment) Bill First Reading approved

3. Mr Waft to move:

That the Civil Service (Amendment) Bill be now read a first time.

The President: That particular Bill, Hon. Members, having now completed its journey through the Council, we turn to Item 4, which is the Civil Service (Amendment) Bill. It is in the hands of the Hon. Member of Council, Mr Waft, down this morning for its First Reading. Mr Waft.

Mr Waft: Thank you, Mr President.

This Bill is promoted by the Council of Ministers following the Written Statement to Tynwald by the Hon. Tony Brown, MHK, in relation to his nomination for the position of Chief Minister in December 2006. Mr Brown gave notice in his Statement that it was his intention, at an early stage, to have introduced a Bill to amend the Civil Service Act 1990, to provide for the Chief Minister to be the political head of the Civil Service, with the authority to appoint the members of the Civil Service Commission and to give direction to the Commission.

The Bill alters the constitution of the Commission with the chairperson of the Commission being supported by a vice-chairperson, with both positions being filled by Members of Tynwald. Further, the lay membership of the Commission will be increased from one person up to no more than three persons, who shall not be Members of Tynwald.

The Chief Secretary will no longer be a member of the Commission. However, the Chief Secretary will attend meetings of the Commission in an advisory capacity.

The Bill also provides that the Tynwald Members of the Commission will be eligible to serve as members of Departments of Government. Currently, the Members of the Commission are precluded from being a member of a Department.

The Bill also requires the Commission to provide an annual report to the Chief Minister, with such report being required to be laid before Tynwald for information, thus putting it in the public domain. The Chief Minister can also request reports from the Commission at other times on any issue he or she deems to be appropriate.

I would just briefly mention the clauses, Mr President. Clause 1 amends section 2 of the Civil Service Act 1990 and provides that the Civil Service Commission shall consist of a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, who shall be Members of Tynwald, and three non-Tynwald members, all appointed by the Chief Minister. The existing requirement of the Civil Service Act preventing the chairperson of the Commission from being a member of a Department or Statutory Board is abolished.

Clause 1 also amends the current legislation so that the Chief Secretary and members of the Civil Service will no longer be qualified for membership of the Commission.

Clause 2 determines that members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Chief Minister and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Chief Minister. The current Commission is appointed by the Council of Ministers and approved by Tynwald.

During the clauses stage in the Keys, clause 1 was amended to include a provision that the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the Commission remains in post until a successor is appointed if that person ceases to be a Member of Tynwald, for example, after an election.

Clause 2 of the Bill amends section 2(7) of the Civil Service Act 1990. This subsection confers a power on the Chief Minister to issue directions to the Commission regarding the exercise of its functions.

Currently, the Chief Minister has powers of direction

which can only be exercised when it is in the public interest. This clause removes the reference to 'public interest', thereby enabling the Chief Minister to give directions to the Commission as he or she sees fit.

Clause 3 of the Bill requires the Commission to submit a report of its work to the Chief Minister on carrying out its functions. The report must be laid before Tynwald.

Clause 4 amends section 1 of the Civil Service Act 1990 and makes ineligible civil servants, officers of Departments, Statutory Boards and certain statutory bodies to be members of those bodies. Disqualification does not apply in respect of the Financial Supervision Commission, the Insurance and Pensions Authority and the Manx Electricity Authority.

Clause 5 provides for transitional arrangements for the implementation of the amendments of the Civil Service Act 1990. In effect, this clause provides that the current members of the Civil Service Commission will stay in place until replaced.

Clause 6 of the Bill provides for the short title of the Bill.

Clause 4 of the Bill will come into operation on a day or date to be specified by an Appointed Day Order made by the Council of Ministers. The other provisions of the Bill will come into operation when the Bill is passed.

The Bill is not expected to affect Government expenditure or income, although it is recognised that the increase in lay membership of the Commission from one lay member to three will have the effect of an increase in the payment of attendance allowances and membership payments of the Commission.

It is the view of the Chief Minister, on the advice of the Attorney General's Chambers, that the provisions of the Bill are compatible with the Convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 2001.

Mr President, I beg to move the First Reading of the Bill.

Mr Lowey: I beg to second, sir, and reserve my remarks.

The President: Lord Bishop.

The Lord Bishop: Thank you, Mr President.

I think this is a wholly laudable Bill, but when we come to clause stage, I shall be asking Mr Waft why the certain exceptions have been made, and especially when it comes to the MEA, why in clause 4(c), the Electricity Act 1996 is not to be amended in order to stop the chief executive being a full member of the board. I think, considering the difficulties we have faced in the past, this is a rather bizarre part of this particular Act.

I might also then ask the same of the Financial Supervision Commission and of the Insurance and Pensions Authority.

I raise it now because I think it will need a detailed answer.

Thank you, Mr President.

The President: Mrs Christian.

Mrs Christian: Mr President, there has been some concern for a while that the Chief Minister has no authority – or Government, effectively, has no authority – in respect of the Civil Service Commission, and so I think the principle of the Bill is to be supported.

But I have also some concerns about the specifics of the clauses and would certainly be looking for an explanation as to why the power of appointment shall lie solely with the Chief Minister in future – the power to appoint and, indeed, to dismiss – without any reference either to Council of Ministers or to Tynwald. I do think it would be useful to have an explanation of the thinking behind that proposal, before we actually vote on the clauses stage.

I do think that the power of the Chief Minister to direct is a fundamental part of the Bill, and one which I would support wholeheartedly. It would be interesting to also consider in what circumstances that sort of direction might be applied, but I imagine that as this is a new principle we are embodying here, it may be difficult to envisage the circumstances where it may be applied, though I do have a view about the remuneration of the Civil Service in relation to overall Government expenditure being a matter which Government might well, in future, have some say in.

The President: Mr Lowey.

Mr Lowey: Yes, thank you, Mr President.

I support the Bill, its aims and objectives, but I have reservations, like most of the Members round here.

My view is that to pass the Bill and then to continue present practices would damage confidence and that is my biggest fear. What do I mean by that? Well, I tell you... Why the proposals? Why the Bill? Mrs Christian and others have mentioned the fact that the Chief Minister, to his credit, has raised over the last year – and I have been raising it for the last few years – storm clouds about what has been happening, the unaccountability.

When you think that the present Chief Secretary has sat in on the appointments of virtually every chief executive officer of every Department of Government, it puts the lady... This is not about personalities; this is about the customs and the practices, and there has been a view growing – and I think it has now been confirmed – that the office seems to be unaccountable, or it is accountable sometimes and it is not accountable others.

It is an unsatisfactory state of affairs and I do think, if we have a Chief Minister, he should be able to direct. It is like having a conductor of an orchestra who then says, 'By the way, you are conducting the strings but you are not really the conductor of the wind or the percussion.' There are bits and pieces. Perhaps that is an analogy a step too far but I am sure you have got the trend, and you have heard me on about it, anyway, over the years.

I do believe that this Bill is necessary, but I think of itself it is not the total answer. I do believe that the Chief Minister... When we talk about reform – and we are talking about reform on a whole series of fronts – I believe the Chief Minister's role is an unsustainable one at the moment, whereas he can advise, but he cannot control, he cannot direct his team.

I think that is unacceptable – only by charm, personality, but not by statute, and I believe that he should be able to direct by statute. Either we have a Chief Minister or we do not have a Chief Minister, and I believe that more power should be in his hands in the national interest, but taking Mrs Christian's view that even that should be accountable. It should be accountable on the floor of Tynwald. That is where it should be accountable.

This Bill is at the right time and for the right reasons, but

I have got an awful suspicion that when we pass it, it will just drift into what I would call practice by default. Already we see in the moves that have been made and presented to us and voted on – in a democratic way – a complete split of both this Chamber and the elected House, which decided that the status quo should remain and they have reconstructed all the senior management of the Civil Service.

The Commission, I believe, would be very wise to take note of this legislation that was in the branches, was proposed and signalled before these changes took place. Let us hope that they will adopt the principle that is enshrined in this piece of legislation in any new set-up that may come in the future, for the rest of the Civil Service, if not for the very top echelons.

Mr President, I will be supporting the Bill.

The President: Mr Waft to reply.

Mr Waft: Thank you, Mr President.

I thank the Members who have spoken. I thank my seconder, Mr Lowey, and I acknowledge the comments that he makes; Mrs Christian, with regard to the principle of the Bill and the explanation as to why the Chief Minister is solely given power and in what circumstances might he direct and perhaps the expenditure in the future; the Lord Bishop with regard to the clause, why certain exceptions are made with regards to the MEA and the Electricity Act,

the Financial Supervision Commission, the Insurance and Pensions etc.

So, with those comments, Mr President, I will try and clarify the situation for the Second Reading we have on this Bill.

The President: Okay, Hon. Members, the motion that I put to Council this morning is that the Civil Service (Amendment) Bill 2007 be read for a first time. Those in favour, Hon. Members, please say aye; and against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Now, Hon. Members, there is no indication that in fact we would progress any further with the Civil Service (Amendment) Bill this morning, so that therefore draws to a conclusion the business in front of Council this morning.

We are adjourned to the sitting of Tynwald on 20th March and thereafter to the 27th day of March to deal with legislation, Hon. Members. Then we may have yet even further legislation to come before Council.

Can I also remind Council Members that it is the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association branch's annual general meeting today at lunchtime.

Thank you, Hon. Members.

The Council adjourned at 11.10 a.m.