

DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

27 March 1992

Friday, 27 March 1992

Notice convening meeting	. 1
Swearing-in of members	. 1
Election of Presiding Officer	. 3
Election of Chief Minister	. 4
Statements by members	. 6
Leader of the Opposition	. 7
Statements by members	. 8
Election of Deputy Presiding Officer	. 11
Authority to record broadcast and photograph proceedings	. 12
Subordinate legislation and commencement provisions	
Title of Presiding Officer	
Authority to publish Hansard	. 16
Authority to receive resignations of members and Speaker	. 16
Committees:	
Establishment	. 17
Membership	. 21
Special adjournment	. 25
Adjournment	. 25

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (Hansard)

SECOND ASSEMBLY

Friday, 27 March 1992

Members assembled at 9.30 am.

NOTICE CONVENING MEETING

The Clerk: I inform members of the following notice convening the first meeting of the Second Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory:

Pursuant to subsection 17(2) of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988, I, David John Prowse, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, do by this Notice convene the first meeting of the Second Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory at 9.30 am on Friday, 27 March 1992, in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly, Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory.

Dated 20 March 1992

DAVID PROWSE

Speaker, Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

The Clerk: Section 9 of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 provides that a member of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory shall, before taking his or her seat, make and subscribe an oath or affirmation in accordance with the form set out in that Act.

The oath or affirmation is required to be made before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.

His Honour Mr Justice Miles, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, will attend the chamber so that members may make an oath or affirmation.

The Chief Justice attending accordingly -

The Clerk: I present the instrument notifying the names of candidates elected to the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory.

The instrument read as follows:

David J Prowse The Speaker ACT Legislative Assembly 1 Constitution Avenue Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Mr Speaker

RESULT OF 1992 ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

In accordance with section 283(b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 as modified by the Australian Capital Territory (Electoral) Act 1988, I hereby notify you of the result of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly election, held on 15 February 1992. The following candidates have been elected:

> **Rosemary FOLLETT** Wayne BERRY **Bill WOOD** Roberta McRAE Terry CONNOLLY Annette ELLIS David LAMONT Ellnor GRASSBY **Trevor KAINE** Tony DE DOMENICO Greg CORNWELL Kate CARNELL Gary HUMPHRIES Lou WESTENDE Michael MOORE Helen SZUTY **Dennis STEVENSON**

Yours sincerely

Lynne Puckeridge

Australian Capital Territory Electoral Officer 20 March 1992

The elected members made and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

The Chief Justice retired.

ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICER

The Clerk: Is it the wish of the Assembly to proceed with the election of the Presiding Officer?

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister): Mr Clerk, I propose Ms Roberta McRae as Presiding Officer of the Assembly and I move:

That Ms McRae do take the chair of this Assembly as Presiding Officer.

Ms McRae: I accept the nomination.

The Clerk: Is there any further proposal?

The time for proposals has expired. There being no further proposals, I declare Ms McRae, the member proposed, to have been elected as Presiding Officer.

The Presiding Officer having taken the chair -

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: I would just like to express my thanks for the confidence you have all shown in me and thank the Assembly for the honour you have conferred on me today.

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister), by leave: Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate you very warmly on your election to what is a very important office. I understand that you will be going into history as only the fourth woman Presiding Officer in an Australian parliament. I am sure that all members here believe that the position of Presiding Officer in any house of parliament is a very important one. That is because the occupant plays a leading role in setting the tone for members' conduct and in determining whether the parliament works effectively. The impartiality and fairness, or otherwise, of the Presiding Officer is a very key factor in this equation.

Madam Speaker, the responsibility in your case, of course, is all the greater because you are only the second Speaker in the Legislative Assembly for the ACT and this Assembly is still very much in its formative stages. As the Speaker of this new Assembly, you will be playing a major role in defining the position of Speaker and the way in which future assemblies function.

Madam Speaker, the Assembly has shown its confidence in you today and they have shown that confidence because you are, in fact, well qualified for the job. In deciding to elect you to this position, members are conscious of the work that you have done in the community, your reputation for fairness and your reputation for being willing to listen and to consider everybody's views. I am confident that you will fill the role of Speaker with great distinction and earn the respect of all members here. I certainly offer you the support and the full cooperation of the Government, and I wish you every success in your new role.

ELECTION OF CHIEF MINISTER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: The next item of business is the election of a Chief Minister.

MR BERRY: Madam Speaker, I propose that Rosemary Follett be elected as Chief Minister for the Australian Capital Territory and I move:

That Rosemary Follett be elected Chief Minister for the Territory.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: Is there any further proposal?

MR HUMPHRIES: Madam Speaker, I propose that Trevor Thomas Kaine be elected as Chief Minister for the Australian Capital Territory and I move:

That Trevor Kaine be elected Chief Minister for the Territory.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: Is there any further proposal?

The time for proposals has expired. There being two candidates proposed, the election of a Chief Minister will proceed by ballot. Debate may ensue.

There being no debate, pursuant to standing order 3(f) the bells will now be rung and a ballot taken.

The bells having been rung and a ballot having been taken -

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: The result of the ballot is: Rosemary Follett, 10 votes; Trevor Kaine, six votes. Therefore, Rosemary Follett, the candidate with a majority of four votes, is declared elected as Chief Minister.

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister), by leave: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Assembly for the confidence that they have shown in me by electing me as Chief Minister. I would also like to thank the people of Canberra for the support that they gave to the Australian Labor Party at the election in February.

I am honoured to accept this position, and I recognise the great responsibility that it involves. I am conscious that that responsibility is a great one, because it places in my hands, and those of my colleagues, a very large part of the task that is bestowed on this Assembly and the ACT Government by the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act. The task for all of us here is to serve the people of Canberra; to govern on their behalf, in their interests and according to their wishes.

Madam Speaker, our goal must be to secure our Territory's future and the well-being of our community. This goal places my election in context. The most important thing today is not the election of a new Chief Minister. The most important thing is, in fact, the meeting of a new Legislative Assembly. The new Assembly marks a new phase in self-government, and of course some new opportunities. Collectively, the members of this Assembly face a very important choice. The choice is between the instability, the antics and the rancour of the First Assembly, on the one hand, and the great potential for rational, intelligent and informed decisions that the new composition of this Second Assembly provides.

The people of Canberra have opted for many new faces amongst those who represent them in this Assembly. It is up to us to reflect that choice with a change in the conduct of the Assembly. Madam Speaker, now is the moment to commit ourselves to an Assembly which will act in terms of what is best for Canberra and its future, and not for personal interest or out of political animosity. Now is the moment to decide that in three years' time each of us should be able to recall that our efforts to serve the community were sensible, dignified and, above all, carried out with a genuine desire to make our community a better place in which to live.

Madam Speaker, recent comments by the Federal Leader of the Opposition, and even by a Federal Minister, are a reminder to us of our vulnerability to those who seek to cash in on prejudices about Canberra. We are all painfully aware of the image of Canberra that is projected to Australia as a whole. Canberra is often seen simply as a creation of the Commonwealth Government, and therefore indistinguishable from it. Combined with Australians' cynicism about government, it is easy for Australians to see us as a drab, out-of-touch and even un-Australian city. The First Assembly can only have provided evidence for this stereotype.

For as long as this image persists, our community remains a target, not just for the knockers but, most importantly, for the Commonwealth Government itself, whatever its political colour. So, with this danger in mind, one of our roles as an Assembly over the next three years must be to help our community fashion its own identity and to project that identity beyond our borders. Canberra is already much more the creation of the people who live and work here than it is a product of the politicians and administrators who worked to create the city from nothing.

Our city's physical setting and planned environment is without peer. We are a highly educated and innovative community with the capacity to create original solutions to many of our own problems. Our population is diverse in its origins and, as a result, has the strengths that come from a very cosmopolitan view of the world. But, most importantly, we do have a real sense of community. This sense of community is obvious at times like the recent Canberra Day celebrations. It is shown more subtly by the thousands of people who, without recognition, devote their energy towards assisting those in need and in running the many community groups that help to create the life of our community. While these parts of Canberra's identity may not be perceived by the rest of Australia, they provide us as a community and as an Assembly with a great deal to build upon.

Madam Speaker, securing the ACT's economic and financial future must be central to our efforts. While we may have fared comparatively well in the current recession compared with the rest of the country, we must be careful that we share in the recovery at least at the same rate. Without creative and well thought out strategies for economic and financial security, we will not be successful in creating a fair and just community.

The many people in our community who face real disadvantage - the ageing, those with disabilities or poor health, Aboriginal people, people from other cultures, the unemployed and those simply down on their luck - all look to us to assist in creating an economy and a community in which social injustice can be fought successfully. Many other challenges face the Assembly and our community. Protection of the environment, enhancing our health and education systems, and providing for the needs of a growing and energetic community are some of those challenges.

Madam Speaker, the start of this Second Assembly marks another stage in our development as a self-governing Territory. We have gained further control over our own destiny. The Commonwealth has transferred the responsibility for the ACT electoral system to this Assembly. As I promised before the referendum, the Labor Government is fully committed to implementing the electoral system chosen by our community. We must now consider how to give detailed effect to the choice made by the people of the Territory.

As a further sign of our maturity, another task facing us is to consider plans for modest and appropriate accommodation for the Assembly in the future. In principle, the Government favours the South Building as the new location. I believe that this issue is best progressed through our committee system, and I shall further announce the Government's intentions in this area at a later stage.

Madam Speaker, our ability to help fashion a Canberra identity and help tackle the challenges I have outlined depends a lot on how we conduct ourselves as an Assembly and, indeed, the quality of our efforts. The Government will make every effort to encourage sensible, well-focused debate, to ensure that legislation is high in standard, that the Assembly has the chance to consider carefully all Bills, and that the committee system allows full consideration of the more complex or contentious issues of public policy facing our community.

The Government will seek to be open and accountable. I have asked Ministers to be as helpful as possible in providing members with information on government policies, and in providing details of forthcoming legislation and other relevant matters of government business. We will seek to focus on the substance of issues, not on personalities or cheap political point scoring. I do not suggest for a moment that debate will not be lively or will fail to reflect the real political differences that exist within this Assembly. I hope that the composition of this Second Assembly means that all members will be willing to adopt the same approach in the interests of all Canberrans.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Assembly again for electing me as Chief Minister and I trust that all members here will seek to echo the ideals that I have outlined.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

MR KAINE: Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the Assembly that I have the honour to lead the ACT Parliamentary Liberal Party.

MR MOORE: Madam Speaker, I have the honour to inform the Assembly that I shall be sitting in this Assembly as an Independent.

MR STEVENSON: I have the honour to inform the Assembly that I shall be the leader of the Abolish Self Government Coalition in this Assembly.

MS SZUTY: Madam Speaker, I seek leave of the Assembly to declare myself as an Independent in this Assembly.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: Under standing order 5A, the Leader of the Opposition shall be the leader of the largest non-government party, with the consent of that member. As Mr Kaine, as leader of the Liberal Party, is the leader of the largest non-government party, I now seek his consent to being Leader of the Opposition.

MR KAINE: Madam Speaker, I accept the responsibilities of the Leader of the Opposition. If it is the will of the Assembly that I accept that office, then I would seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR KAINE: Thank you, members. I should, first of all, like to congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election to the position of Speaker of this Assembly. The Liberals, in opposition, took the view that it was the responsibility of the Government to provide the Speaker. We accept your election to that office and we accept that you will exercise that office in an unbiased fashion.

I would also like to congratulate Rosemary Follett on her election as Chief Minister. The Liberals would have preferred it otherwise, but the electorate has expressed its view and the Assembly has now done so.

However, having noted and acknowledged the election of Rosemary Follett as leader of the Government and Chief Minister, there are some things that flow from that. We in the Opposition believe that there are some points that need to be made in connection with the life of this Assembly for the next three years. The magnitude and nature of the job ahead of this Assembly, and of the Government in particular, means that it is not an easy one. There are major issues that need to be addressed. Some of them have been in existence during the entire life of this Assembly and have not yet been resolved. They need to be resolved now and they need to be resolved quickly. I refer to just a few.

First, there is the state of the employment market in the ACT. Unemployment is approaching 9 per cent, and our youth figure very largely in those unemployed. The Government has to do something, and it has to do something quickly, to address that problem. It is unacceptable in the national capital that we should have an unemployment rate of that magnitude.

Accompanying the question of unemployment, of course, is the question of getting the private sector started in this Territory. The private sector is going to be the engine of growth. It is there that the job creation will occur. It is up to this Government now to address the problem of getting the private sector economy moving again in this Territory so that they create some jobs and remove that unacceptable level of unemployment that plagues our society. So, I give notice to the Government that we in the Opposition expect them to address these issues.

Another one, of course, is the health problem, the hospital beds problem that plagues us. There has been a non-productive and often spurious debate going on about hospital beds. The debate has to stop. The Government has to do something about fixing the problem. That debate should now be set aside. The Government has to address the question of fixing the hospital beds problem. It cannot be allowed to go on any longer.

The planning problem has to be resolved quickly. Legislation is in place and the Territory Plan is out there for debate. There is much public comment on it, as one would expect with something as fundamental to this society as that. The Government has to address the question of planning very quickly.

The education problem is still unresolved. The outgoing head of the Education Department made it clear that he thought there was still much to be done. The Opposition agrees with that, and we expect the Government to address it.

Finally, and not by any means the least of the problems, there is the continuing need - and the Chief Minister spoke of it - to deal with the problems of those in this community who need and deserve the support of the community. They are major issues and many of them ought not exist in a city and a community such as Canberra. Sadly, they do, and the Government now has the task of addressing them.

I would note, Madam Speaker, that the Government is still a minority government. It will rely on support from others to have its initiatives put into place. Sometimes it will deserve the support of the Opposition, and it will get it; sometimes it will have to seek that support elsewhere. In terms of the Liberal Opposition, I would make the point that we have no constraints; we have made no commitments to anybody in this Assembly; we are free to operate independently as a strong Opposition, and we will do just that. In other words, we will ensure that the Labor Government performs over the next three years.

Our concern, Madam Speaker, for the next three years is that good government should be established in the ACT, good government in the interests of this community. In ensuring that that good government is provided, we will support the Government where it is reasonable to do so; we will oppose the Government when it is necessary; we will propose our own legislation and we will put our views forward forcefully in other ways where we believe it to be in the community interest to do so.

We will confront the task of establishing this Legislative Assembly as a credible institution and one operating with a very high degree of integrity. I support the Chief Minister in the view that one of our roles is to strengthen the sense of community in the ACT. There is much in that that imposes obligations on the Government; there is much in it that imposes obligations on the Opposition. We will play our part and we will make it our business to ensure that the Government plays its part.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

MR MOORE: I seek leave of the Assembly to make a statement with reference to the Michael Moore Independent Group.

Leave granted.

MR MOORE: Thank you, members. I would like to begin by congratulating both Rosemary Follett as the new Chief Minister and Trevor Kaine as the Leader of the Opposition. I look forward to working with both of them and their teams, as well as other members of the Assembly. I was elected as the leader of the Michael Moore Independent Group. That group was formed simply because of the bizarre electoral system that the people of Canberra have now rid themselves of. At the time that the Michael Moore Independent Group was formed I made a commitment to operate, following the election, as an Independent, and I am now meeting that commitment. I made that commitment so that I would be seen, and could remain, as an Independent.

I would like to thank, first and foremost, the citizens of the ACT who felt that they would be happy having me represent them in this Assembly. I would like to thank the people who supported me through the election and through a long and tortuous period of scrutineering. I note that over 2,000 volunteer hours were donated to that task. That makes me wear the responsibility of this Assembly even more heavily than perhaps I would do otherwise.

Turning to the team with whom I went into the election, I would like to thank in particular Helen Szuty, Tina van Raay and Stephen Mugford for their contribution and for the hours that they put in. I would like to thank Joan Kellett, who managed the campaign and who is in the chamber today, and, most importantly, my wife Helen and my children for their unswerving support in what is a difficult job, as most of you well know.

I will work to implement, issue by issue, on the floor of the house, the agenda that we have set and that we went to the people of Canberra with. That, in particular, will deal with the planning of Canberra, public education, the environment, and the more difficult social issues which I have already spent much time on. I spent this last week at an international conference dealing with harm associated with the use and misuse of drugs.

Just shortly after the election campaign a statement was made by the secretary of the ALP suggesting in some way that I would follow and have some commitment to an ALP agenda. That has never been the case and never will be the case. I have made a very limited commitment, and that limited commitment will remain. That limited commitment was that I would support the election of Rosemary Follett as Chief Minister, as I have done, and that I would continue that support over the next three years in any no-confidence motion unless there was some question of fraud - something that I do not expect to arise. The other commitment I made was that I would support her Government in their budget Bills and the supply and appropriation Bills.

That is the extent of the commitment I have made and that commitment was made in order to ensure that there would be a stable government in the ACT over the next three years. Any other items on the agenda will come to the floor of this house and will be negotiated on the floor of this house by a majority of members. I believe that that is an appropriate commitment to the people of the ACT and that it fulfils, as best I can, my role as an Independent.

MR STEVENSON, by leave: My party is a party in name, though not in nature. I believe that the majority-expressed will of the people should be represented. We all understand that that majority will was to never have self-government in the first place. I well understand that the majority of people in this election did not vote that way. I think it unfortunate that many people do not understand that they can bring about that which they want. This is possible; this is always possible. It will remain possible in the future.

Prior to the election and prior to the initial Assembly I made a solemn declaration along with other members of our party, our other candidates. The first point was this: Given the numbers in the Assembly, and it would need to be at least nine out of 17, we would abolish self-government. There is no difficulty in doing that, as anyone here would well understand, given the numbers.

The second point we made was that if we did not have the numbers we would seek to gain agreement from other members to abolish self-government. If that was not possible, the third was to seek to have a referendum so that the people of Canberra could once again have a say on whether or not they wanted self-government. We well understand that in 1978, some time ago now, there was a referendum where some 70 per cent of people voted for something other than self-government.

The fourth point we made was that, if we could not achieve any of the first three, we would seek to represent the majority-expressed will of the people. That is what I attempted to do to the best of my ability in the First Assembly, and that is what I will continue to attempt to do in the Second Assembly.

Many people would say, because the vote in this election was not to abolish self-government, that that is not what people want; yet our polls immediately prior to the election and ever since, through self-government, have shown that between 70 and 80 per cent of people have always wanted self-government abolished. I think it was interesting that we were the only people polling and releasing results on whether or not people wanted self-government. After the election, in the *Canberra Times*, I did see the result of what was said to be a Labor Party poll on whether or not people wanted self-government, and it said that 60 per cent of people had not wanted self-government.

I will work, as I have always worked, to best represent the will of the people. I voted on various issues in the Assembly and I will continue to do so. I have sought to ascertain the will of the people by regular polling throughout the community, and we will continue to do that.

In Australia we have seen more and more that an increasing number of people are voting for Independents. Most parliaments throughout Australia have Independents controlling what is called the balance of power. I think there are some important reasons why people did not want self-government. One of them, of course, is the expense. Many Canberrans do not feel that we who happen to live in the ACT can afford the cost of much of the expenditure that is associated with running a national capital. I think it is relevant to look at the reason why the Commonwealth Government forced self-government on the ACT. It was because of the economics. The suggestion was that they could not afford to look after the ACT. Perhaps many in this community feel that people in the ACT also cannot afford to do that.

I know that a great many people stood and campaigned to serve the people in the best way they saw possible in the last election. One point I would like to make, and make strongly, is that there were many parties and Independents that did not get elected and did not get representation in this Assembly. I think all of us would like to see those parties and those Independents continue to serve the people. It is possible to serve the electorate though not in the Assembly. I would encourage all those members of parties that did get representation and parties that failed to win a seat, and Independents, to continue to represent the people as they see fit. I think that is an important matter. I thank the many people who supported us. I am encouraged that we got an increased number of people supporting us in the election. Indeed, apart from the Labor Party and the Liberal Party, we received more primary votes than any other group standing for the Assembly. The major point that I can make is that I will continue to represent the will of the people, and also the constitutional law of Australia. We all stood today and made the point quite strongly that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. That is a very relevant point to look at.

MS SZUTY, by leave: Madam Speaker, as members will be aware, I stood for election to this the Second ACT Legislative Assembly as the No. 2 candidate for the Michael Moore Independent Group. The primary reason behind the grouping together of the four Independent candidates - Michael Moore, me, Tina van Raay and Stephen Mugford - was to minimise the impact of the modified d'Hondt electoral system adopted by the major parties to eliminate Independents. In the first election for the ACT Legislative Assembly three years ago, Independent candidates who stood alone and attracted significant numbers of votes were not elected.

Thus far I have honoured my commitment to the people of Canberra to support Rosemary Follett's nomination for the position of Chief Minister, and I reiterate my pledge to support Rosemary in the event of a no-confidence motion being proposed against her. I also reaffirm my commitment to guaranteeing passage of the supply and appropriation Bills when they are introduced into the Assembly. Michael Moore and I have always said that once elected we would operate as true Independents, separate from each other, voting issue by issue as matters come before the ACT Legislative Assembly. I am taking the opportunity today to formally declare to you that I will be an Independent member of the Second ACT Legislative Assembly.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: Is it the wish of the Assembly to proceed with the election of a Deputy Presiding Officer?

MR DE DOMENICO: Madam Speaker, I propose that Mr Greg Cornwell's name be put forward for election as Deputy Presiding Officer and I move:

That Greg Cornwell be elected Deputy Presiding Officer.

MR CORNWELL: Madam Speaker, I accept nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: Is there any further proposal?

The time for proposals has expired. There being no further proposals, I declare Mr Cornwell, the member proposed, to have been elected as Deputy Presiding Officer.

MR CORNWELL, by leave: Firstly, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Speaker. I would like, secondly, to thank all members for the trust that they have placed in me. I hope that I can live up to that trust and be as fair to all of you as I would expect you to be to me.

AUTHORITY TO RECORD, BROADCAST AND PHOTOGRAPH PROCEEDINGS

Motion (by Ms Follett), by leave, agreed to:

That the Assembly authorises:

- (1) the recording on video tape with sound by television networks of proceedings from the commencement of business to the announcement of Leader of the Opposition, today, Friday, 27 March 1992;
- (2) the use by any television station of
- (a) "swearing-in" proceedings, with sound; and
- (b) any other part of the recorded proceedings, without sound;

in subsequent news, current affairs and documentary programs and not for the purposes of satire or ridicule; and

(3) the taking of still photographs during proceedings from the commencement of business to the announcement of Leader of the Opposition, today, Friday, 27 March 1992, and the use of such photographs in the print media.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION AND COMMENCEMENT PROVISIONS Papers

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 6 of the Subordinate Laws Act 1989, I present subordinate legislation in accordance with the schedule of gazettal notices for determinations and regulations; and, pursuant to the Noise Control Act 1988, I present an amendment to the Noise Control Manual.

The schedule read as follows:

Air Pollution (Amendment) Act (No. 2) - Notice of commencement (S15, dated 29 January 1992).

Ambulance Service Levy Act - Determination for the purposes of the Ambulance Service Levy Act 1990 - No. 14 of 1992 (S29, dated 21 February 1992).

Building Act -Exemptions -No. 108 of 1991 (S154, dated 17 December 1991). No. 7 of 1992 (S18, dated 3 February 1992).

Revocation, adoption and modification of the Building Code of Australia - No. 12 of 1991 (S24, dated 12 February 1992).

City Area Leases Act - City Area Leases (Betterment Charge Assessment) Regulations (Amendment) - No. 33 of 1991 (S152, dated 20 December 1991).

Community Advocate Act - Notice of commencement (S147, dated 11 December 1991).

Coroners (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement (S146, dated 6 December 1991).

Credit Act -Declaration -

Determination No. 11 of 1992 (G7, dated 19 February 1992). Exemption No. 6 of 1992 (G5, dated 5 February 1992). Determination of fees - No. 113 of 1991 (G1, dated 8 January 1992).

Credit (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement of section 6 (S155, dated 24 December 1991).

Discrimination Act -

Discrimination (Remuneration and Allowances) Regulations - No. 3 of 1992 (S37, dated 25 March 1992).

Notice of commencement (S6, dated 20 January 1992).

Guardianship and Management of Property Act -

Determination of fees and charges - No. 37 of 1992 (G11, dated 18 March 1992).

Guardianship and Management of Property Regulations - No. 36 of 1991 (S2, dated 8 January 1992).

Notice of commencement (S147, dated 11 December 1991).

Health Services Act -Determination of fees and charges -No. 110 of 1991 (S160, dated 23 December 1991). No. 111 of 1991 (S163, dated 30 December 1991). No. 39 of 1992 (S39, dated 23 March 1992).

Land (Planning and Environment) Act -Determinations - Nos 16 to 34 of 1992 (G9 of 1991, dated 4 March 1992). Determination of fees -No. 40 of 1992 (S40, dated 25 March 1992). No. 41 of 1992 (S40, dated 25 March 1992). Land (Planning and Environment) (Casino) Regulations - No. 2 of 1992 (S28, dated 25 February 1992). Magistrates Court (Civil Jurisdiction) Act -Magistrates Court (Civil Jurisdiction) Regulations (Amendment) - No. 35 of 1991 (S2, dated 8 January 1992). Workers' Compensation Rules (Amendment) - No. 37 of 1991 (S3, dated 15 January 1992).

Motor Omnibus Services Act - Revocation and determination of charges -No. 8 of 1992 (S22, dated 14 February 1992).

Motor Traffic Act -Determination No. 114 of 1991 (S5, dated 13 January 1992). Motor Traffic Regulations (Amendment) -No. 34 of 1991 (S152, dated 20 December 1991)

No. 34 of 1991 (S152, dated 20 December 1991). No. 1 of 1992 (S19, dated 31 January 1992).

National Crime Authority (Territory Provisions) Act - Notice of commencement (S13, dated 24 January 1992).

Noise Control Act - Approval for amendment to Noise Control Manual (G1, dated 8 January 1992). (Tabled but not a disallowable instrument.)

Occupational Health and Safety Act - Instrument of approval under section 87 (G7, dated 19 February 1992).

Ozone Protection Act - Notice of commencement of section 5 (S12, dated 24 January 1992).

Public Health Act - Determination of fees - No. 109 of 1991 (S158, dated 20 December 1991).

Public Place Names Act -Determinations -No. 107 of 1991 (S153, dated 17 December 1991).

- No. 5 of 1992 (S16, dated 31 January 1992).
- No. 13 of 1992 (S25, dated 14 February 1992).
- No. 15 of 1992 (S30, dated 26 February 1992).
- No. 35 of 1992 (S31, dated 28 February 1992).

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement (S146, dated 6 December 1991).

Sale of Motor Vehicles Act - Determination of fees and charges - No. 112 of 1991 (G1, dated 8 January 1992).

Stamp Duties and Taxes (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement of sections 4, 6, 7 and 8 (S11, dated 23 January 1992).

Stock Diseases Act -Declarations - Nos 1, 3 and 4 of 1992 (G5, dated 5 February 1992). Stock Diseases (Amendment) Act -

Declaration of defined stock - No. 105 of 1991 (G50, dated 18 December 1991).

Declaration of manner in which certain stock are to be identified - No. 106 of 1991 (G50, dated 18 December 1991).

Superannuation (Legislative Assembly Members) Act - Notice of commencement (S1, dated 6 January 1992).

Taxation (Administration) Act -

Determination No. 1 of 1992 (S7, dated 17 January 1992).

Determination for the purposes of the Liquor Tax Act 1991 - No. 2 of 1992 (S11, dated 23 January 1992).

Teaching Service Act - Determination No. 36 of 1992 (G10, dated 11 March 1992).

Tobacco Act - Exemptions - Nos 9 and 10 of 1992 (S23, dated 7 February 1992).

Water Pollution (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement (S15, dated 29 January 1992).

Workers' Compensation Act -

Determination No. 38 of 1992 (G12, dated 25 March 1992).

Workers' Compensation Regulations (Amendment) - No. 38 of 1991 (S3, dated 15 January 1992).

Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Act - Notice of commencement (S9, dated 22 January 1992).

TITLE OF PRESIDING OFFICER

MS FOLLETT (Chief Minister), by leave: I move:

That, pursuant to subsection 11(2) of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988, the title of the Presiding Officer of this Assembly be "Speaker"; and that this resolution have effect from the commencement of the Second Assembly and continue in force unless and until amended or repealed by this or a subsequent Assembly.

Madam Speaker, the reason for moving this motion is to ensure that there is no uncertainty arising from the motion adopted by the First Assembly in relation to the title of the Presiding Officer. While that motion provided for the title of the Presiding Officer to be Speaker, the motion did not refer to the requirement under the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act for the Assembly to determine the title of the Presiding Officer. Nor did it refer to any time limit in relation to the use of this title.

The motion before us seeks to remove any potential uncertainty and to clarify that, pursuant to the self-government Act, the title of the Presiding Officer is to be Speaker until otherwise determined by this or a future Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH HANSARD

Motion (by **Ms Follett**), by leave, agreed to:

That:

(1) The Assembly:

(a)	authorises	the	preparation	and	publication	of	transcripts	of	debates	and
	proceeding	s (H	<i>ansard)</i> of the	he As	ssembly and	its (committees;	an	d	

- (b) authorises the publication, by the Clerk, of extracts of transcripts of debates and proceedings (*Hansard*) of the Assembly and its committees.
- (2) This resolution have effect from the commencement of the Second Assembly and continue in force unless and until amended or repealed by this or a subsequent Assembly.

AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE RESIGNATIONS OF MEMBERS AND SPEAKER

Motion (by **Ms Follett**), by leave, agreed to:

That:

- (1) Pursuant to section 13 of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988:
- (a) This Assembly authorises the Speaker, or during the absence of the Speaker from the Territory or from duty the Deputy Speaker, to receive the written notice of resignation of a Member as a Member of the Assembly.
- (b) This Assembly authorises the Clerk, on behalf of the Assembly, to receive the written notice of resignation of the Speaker as the Speaker of the Assembly. If the Assembly is meeting when the Clerk receives the written notice of resignation, the Clerk shall announce the resignation before the Assembly proceeds to any further business. If the Assembly is not meeting when the Clerk receives a written notice of resignation from the Speaker, the Clerk shall have published in the Territory *Gazette* a notice of the resignation.
- (2) This resolution have effect from the commencement of the Second Assembly and continue in force unless and until amended or repealed by this or a subsequent Assembly.

COMMITTEES Establishment

Motions (by Mr Berry), by leave, agreed to:

1.	That:	
(1)		The following general purpose standing committees be established to inquire into and report on matters referred to them by the Assembly or matters that are considered by the committee to be of concern to the community:
(a)		a Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment to examine matters related to the environment, conservation, heritage, energy and resources;
(b)		a Standing Committee on Legal Affairs to examine matters related to administrative law, civil liberties and human rights, censorship, company law, law and order, criminal law, law reform and consumer affairs;
(c)		a Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure to examine matters related to planning, land management, transport, economic development, commercial development, industrial and residential development, infrastructure and capital works, science and technology; and
(d)		a Standing Committee on Social Policy to examine matters related to health, hospitals, nursing homes, welfare, employment, housing, social security, the ageing, people with disabilities, the family, Aboriginal people, youth affairs, the status of women, multicultural affairs, industrial relations, occupational health and safety, education, the arts, sport and recreation.
(2)		The Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment and the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs shall consist of three members and the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure and the Standing Committee on Social Policy shall consist of five members.
(3)		If the Assembly is not sitting when the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure has completed consideration of a report on draft Plan variations referred pursuant to section 25 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 or - draft Plans of Management referred pursuant to section

204 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker, or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing and circulation. (4) Each committee shall have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the relevant standing committees appointed during the previous Assembly. Each committee be provided with the necessary staff, facilities and resources. (5) The foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent (6) with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders. 2. That: (1)A Standing Committee for scrutiny of bills and subordinate legislation be appointed. The Committee shall with respect to any instrument of a legislative nature (2)which is subject to disallowance and/or disapproval by the Assembly (including a regulation, rule or by-law) made under an Act consider whether the instrument: is in accord with the general objects of the Act under which it is (a) made: (b) unduly trespasses on rights previously established by law; makes rights, liberties and/or obligations unduly dependent upon non-(c) reviewable decisions: or contains matter which in the opinion of the Committee should (d) properly be dealt with in an Act of the Legislative Assembly. (3) The Committee shall with respect to the clauses of bills introduced into the Legislative Assembly consider whether such bills: unduly trespass on personal rights and liberties; (a) make rights, liberties and/or obligations unduly dependent upon (b) insufficiently defined administrative powers; make rights, liberties and/or obligations unduly dependent upon non-(c) reviewable decisions:

(d)	inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or	
(e)	insufficiently subject the exercise of legislativ parliamentary scrutiny.	e power to
(4)	The Committee shall consist of three members.	
(5)	If the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee is ready to and subordinate legislation, the Committee may send its Speaker, or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Sp authorised to give directions for its printing and circulation.	report to the
(6)	The majority of members constitutes a quorum of the Committee	æ.
(7)	The Committee be provided with the necessary additional staff resources.	, facilities and
(8)	The foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they as with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything the standing orders.	
3.	That:	
(1)	A Standing Committee on Public Accounts be appointed to:	
(a)	examine:	
	 (i)the accounts of the receipts and expen Australian Capital Territory; (ii)the financial affairs of authorities of the Aus Capital Territory; and (iii)all reports of the Auditor-General which ha before the Assembly; 	stralian
(b)	report to the Assembly, with such comments as it thinks fit, any matters in those accounts, statements and reports, or any circum connected with them, to which the Committee is of the opinion attention of the Assembly should be directed; and	istances
(c)	inquire into any question in connection with the public a which is referred to it by the Assembly and report to the that question.	
(2)	The Committee shall consist of three members.	
(3)	The Committee shall have power to consider and make use of the and records of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts app the previous Assembly.	

(4)		The Committee be provided with the necessary staff, facilities and resources.
(5)		The foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
4.	That:	
(1)		A Standing Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on:
(a)		the impact of tourism on the ACT economy, community and infrastructure;
(b)		strategies to increase the level of activity in the tourism sector; and
(c)		other matters relating to tourism in the ACT that the Committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Assembly.
(2)		The Committee shall consist of three members.
(3)		The Committee be provided with the necessary staff, facilities and resources.
(4)		The foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
5.	That:	
(1)		A Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on:
(a)		the effectiveness of current legal and social controls on drug taking; and
(b)		other matters relating to drugs that the Committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Assembly.
(2)		The Committee shall consist of three members.
(3)		The Committee shall report by the last sitting day in 1992.
(4)		The Committee shall have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Select Committee on HIV, Illegal Drugs and Prostitution appointed during the previous Assembly.

(5) The Committee be provided with the necessary staff, facilities and resources.

(6) The foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Membership

Motion (by **Mr Berry**), by leave, proposed:

That:

(1)	Mr Kaine, Ms Ellis, Mr Stevenson be appointed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts;
(2)	Mrs Grassby, Mr Humphries, Ms Szuty be appointed to the Standing Committee on Scrutiny of Bills and Subordinate Legislation;
(3)	Mr Moore, Mr Westende, Ms Ellis be appointed to the Standing Committee on Conservation, Heritage and Environment;
(4)	Mr Humphries, Mr Lamont, Mr Stevenson be appointed to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs;
(5)	Mr Lamont, Ms Ellis, Mr Kaine, Mr De Domenico, Ms Szuty be appointed to the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure;
(6)	Ms Ellis, Mrs Grassby, Mrs Carnell, Mr Cornwell, Ms Szuty be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Policy;
(7)	Mr De Domenico, Mr Lamont, Ms Szuty be appointed to the Standing Committee on Tourism and ACT Promotion; and
(8)	Mr Moore, Mrs Grassby, Mrs Carnell be appointed to the Select Committee on Drugs.

MR STEVENSON (10.41): The motion includes my name in the membership of two committees. I have previously informed Mr Berry and others that I do not wish to stand on those committees. It is interesting to note that during the last Assembly there were three times when I sought to be placed on committees. I think that both these committees are committees that I sought to be placed on, though I was not successful at that time. This time I do not wish to be on those committees. I feel that I could well represent people in Canberra by perhaps being on a select committee that involved an investigation of citizens referenda.

Mr De Domenico: I take a point of order, Madam Speaker. Mr Stevenson is obviously now debating his decision as to why he should or should not be standing on committees. May I suggest humbly that he may move an amendment to that effect?

MR MOORE (10.42): Madam Speaker, it seems to me that membership of committees is a very important part of the life of this Assembly. I am very disappointed that Mr Stevenson has decided that he will not contribute in this way. I feel that there is a major contribution to be made by all members who are not already involved, such as you in your position, Madam Speaker, or Ministers, as far as the committees go. It is important to note that the most positive aspect of the First Assembly was generally recognised to have been the work done by the committees over the three years. I think this is an opportunity for members to work together and to try to work in a cooperative way in the best interests of Canberra.

For that reason, Madam Speaker, while Mr Stevenson feels that it is inappropriate for him to stand on these committees, I am prepared to move amendments, for which I have the agreement of Mr Stevenson, to delete Mr Stevenson's name from No. (1) and No. (4), as indicated in Mr Berry's motion. My amendments then indicate that I will replace Mr Stevenson. I move:

- 1. Paragraph (1), omit "Mr Stevenson", substitute "Mr Moore".
- 2. Paragraph (4), omit "Mr Stevenson", substitute "Mr Moore".

Mr De Domenico: No deals will be done, though.

MR MOORE: Quite clearly, it is in order for me to do that. There have not been any particular deals done. I would be absolutely delighted should anybody else put their name up to do that. As part of the negotiations that went on prior to this Assembly between me, Helen Szuty, the Liberal Party and the Labor Party, there were negotiations to establish these committees. You do not get to a result like this without negotiations. If you want to interpret that as deals being done, then use the words; that is fine. It does not worry me greatly. What we have had, as I perceive it, is a very positive and cooperative approach to how the committees should operate.

I am disappointed that Mr Stevenson has not been prepared to go onto the committees. When you look at the commitment of time that will be made by Helen Szuty and me to these committees, it is extraordinary; it will require an extraordinary amount of time. We made a commitment to the electorate that we would do what we could to strengthen those committees. I think that we will see a very appropriate set of committees. When I look at the names of the people who are standing on these committees, I think that there will be an even more positive contribution made to this Assembly and to the people of Canberra through these committees.

Therefore, I commend my amendments to members. They will delete Mr Stevenson's name from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and replace it with mine; and, similarly, delete Mr Stevenson's name from the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, to which I will then be appointed.

MR KAINE (Leader of the Opposition) (10.45): Madam Speaker, since the membership of the Public Accounts Committee, in particular, is now in question, I move as an amendment to Mr Moore's amendments:

Amendment No. 1, omit "Mr Moore", substitute "Mrs Carnell".

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Kaine, we will deal with Mr Moore's amendments one by one first; then we will come back to yours.

MR KAINE: As mine is an amendment to his, you have to put mine first, surely.

MADAM SPEAKER: No; there are two amendments that Mr Moore has presented. Perhaps he can seek leave to move them together.

MR MOORE (10.46): It would be my pleasure, Madam Speaker. I seek leave to move both of those amendments together.

Mr De Domenico: I raise a point of order, Madam Speaker. I propose that we should deal with those amendments separately. It is getting confusing and out of hand. Can we take the names for the first committee first, and the second committee next?

MADAM SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the Assembly to divide that question?

MR BERRY (10.47): No. Madam Speaker, the issue before us is participation in the work that members of this Assembly are elected to perform by way of the management of business in this Assembly. Mr Stevenson's nomination for committees was done in accordance with the spirit of the standing orders. The standing orders themselves recognise that members are here to work and to perform a job for the community. Standing order 221 says:

Membership of committees shall be composed of representatives of all groups and parties in the Assembly as nearly as practicable proportional to their representation in the Assembly.

Quite clearly, the standing orders seek to impose upon members the responsibility that the electorate gave them when they were elected to this Assembly. Clearly, Mr Stevenson does not want to do the job he was elected to do. There have been two examples this very day of Mr Stevenson walking away from his responsibility. He refused to be in the chamber when the election of the Chief Minister was conducted and he refused to be in the chamber when the election of the Deputy Speaker was apparently imminent.

Madam Speaker, this Assembly has a responsibility to the people of the ACT to require that members perform a role in accordance with the standing orders. It is true that intensive negotiations took place prior to these motions being circulated. It is always a very difficult job to get agreement for everybody to participate in the committees of their choice.

Mr Stevenson made it very clear to me that he was prepared to participate in committees provided that everybody agreed that he should chair the committee and what the committee should do. Mr Stevenson is one in this chamber; no more than that. He ought to accept that he is one in this chamber, and he ought to participate in the legitimate affairs of this Assembly by way of acceptance of the spirit of the standing orders. It seems as though he is not prepared to do that. Not only has he done a job on the people of the ACT; he is prepared to perpetuate that by refusing to work. I am not going to sit by and let that go unnoticed. It has to be reported and placed on the record that Mr Stevenson has now refused to perform his work in the committees of this Assembly. I am disappointed that Mr Moore has assisted him in this regard, but I acknowledge that Mr Moore has been prepared to fill the gaps that Mr Stevenson has left.

Madam Speaker, it would be an error for us to approve of these amendments as they stand at this point. I think this needs to be thought through a little more rather than dealt with on the floor of the chamber. Much thought went into developing the process in the first place. I would seek leave to adjourn the debate. Perhaps it might be better to have the amendments withdrawn or defeated on the floor in order that we can deal with it by way of negotiation. That seems to me to be the most sensible approach for those members who want to work.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is leave granted?

Mr Humphries: To do what?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Berry seeks to move that the debate be adjourned. Is leave granted?

MR MOORE (10.51): I do not think he moved that. Madam Speaker, I think this could be clarified if I seek leave to withdraw the amendments that I proposed. I take the sense of what Mr Berry is saying. I had moved in an attempt to resolve the problem, but I am quite happy for further negotiations to take place and further deals to be done. I am quite happy to withdraw my amendments, with the leave of the Assembly.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is leave granted?

MR KAINE (Leader of the Opposition) (10.52): Madam Speaker, I seek leave to speak on this matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Moore has asked for these amendments to be withdrawn and I have asked - - -

MR KAINE: I have sought leave to speak on the matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, but I wanted to deal with Mr Moore's leave first.

MR KAINE: No, I want to discuss it before they are withdrawn; that is the point. Madam Speaker, this does not augur well for the future of this Assembly. On the very first day we enter into a debate about who is not going to sit on committees and who is. I protest at what is happening here. I agree with Mr Berry that Mr Stevenson has an obligation to work for the money that he is being paid. If he does not want to, he should resign from the Assembly and let somebody else who is willing to do the job take it on.

But that is not the point of this debate. I noticed that Mr Moore jumped in very smartly to fill two vacancies. He is one of 17 too. Under the standing orders, he has no greater entitlement and no less right to sit on committees than Mr Stevenson does.

Mr Moore: No, but I was prepared to work hard.

MR KAINE: Oh, yes; Mr Moore, as a single Independent member of this Assembly, already pretends to take the chairmanship of two committees. Now he wants to sit on two others. I think that it does not say very much about Mr Moore or Mr Stevenson, quite frankly. To simply withdraw this whole motion about committees - - -

Mr Berry: No; just the amendments are being withdrawn.

MR KAINE: Then we have to deal with the matter in some other way, because we have a motion before the Assembly, properly put. Since there are no amendments to it and Mr Stevenson abstains, we have to resolve the issue in some way. If Mr Moore wishes to withdraw his amendments, which means that mine is automatically withdrawn, the simplest thing is to amend Mr Berry's motion to delete Mr Stevenson's name from the appointments to the two committees. That will leave two vacancies to be filled at some later date by the Assembly. That seems to me to be the simplest way to do it.

I think it is very poor that before the Assembly begins its work we have some people who do not want to sit on any committees, and we have others who would love to sit on all of them, out of proportion to their responsibility.

MR BERRY (10.54): Madam Speaker, I move the following amendment, if I may, by leave: That the name of Mr Stevenson be deleted where it appears - - -

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Berry, Mr Moore's amendments are still before the Assembly, because leave was not granted to withdraw them.

MR MOORE (10.55): To clarify this issue, Madam Speaker, I seek leave of the Assembly to withdraw my amendments.

Leave granted.

Amendments (Mr Moore's), by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment (by **Mr Berry**), by leave, agreed to:

Omit "Mr Stevenson" (wherever occurring).

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by Ms Follett) agreed to:

That the Assembly, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 7 April 1992, at 2.30 pm, or until a date and hour to be fixed by the Speaker either at the request of the Chief Minister or on receipt of a request in writing from an absolute majority of Members and that the date and time of meeting shall be notified by the Speaker to each Member in writing.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Ms Follett**) agreed to:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Assembly adjourned at 10.57 am until Tuesday, 7 April 1992, at 2.30 pm