

22. The Committee recommends that if a Member whose name is entered in the Register of Paired Members for a particular day casts any vote in the House on that day, the vote or votes shall be disallowed.

SPEAKERSHIP

The Committee believes that election of the Speaker by secret ballot represents a major evolution in the House of Commons. This change, which was instituted in 1985, has changed the way that the House operates. The Committee, however, wishes to take this reform a step further.

The Speaker is assisted by a Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole, a Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole, and an Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole. These four individuals constitute the presiding officers of the House, and rotate the duties of chairing the proceedings of the House.

The Committee believes that two of these presiding officers should be chosen from the opposition benches. In other words, two of the four positions should be held by Opposition Members. This is the practice in Great Britain, and would, we believe, enhance the independence and credibility of chairing of the House. We would expect the four presiding officers to work together as a team, by getting together to discuss rulings and so forth.

We would propose that the system work as follows: Once the Speaker of the House is elected pursuant to the Standing Orders, then if the Speaker is from the Government side, the Leader of the Opposition would propose a Member to be Deputy Speaker, or if the Speaker is from the Opposition side, the Prime Minister will propose a member to be Deputy Speaker. The Assistant Deputy Speaker will then be appointed by the leader of the side to which the Speaker belongs, and the Assistant Chairman of Committees will be appointed by the other. We would note that there would be no requirement that any person nominated come from a particular party. It would be perfectly in order, and perhaps desirable, for instance, for the Leader of the Opposition to choose one nominee from another opposition party.

23. The Committee recommends that two of the presiding officers of the House of Commons should be appointed from the opposition benches.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

1. *Selection of Matters*

Standing Order 38 provides for adjournment proceedings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Commonly known as the "late show," this provides an opportunity for certain matters to be raised in more detail than is possible in oral Question Period.

In order to make the adjournment proceedings more relevant, we would propose that priority be given to matters raised earlier that day in Question Period. In other words, matters should be chosen first from those of which notice has been given that day or the previous day if