MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE HELD
ON MAY 28, 2002 AT 2:20 P.M.

PRESENT WERE

Hon. V. Nielson - Chairperson
Hon. Dr. P. Phillips MP
Mr. C. Brown MP
Dr. D. Rhodd MP

ABSENT WERE

Mr. H. Clue MP
Mr. H. Douglas MP
Ms. A. Barker MP
Mr. K. Samuda MP
Mr. D. Chack MP
Mr. D. Smith MP

ALSO PRESENT WERE

Mrs. S. Lewis Clerk to the Houses of Parliament
Mrs. H. Cooke Deputy Clerk to the Houses of Parliament
Mrs. M. John Committee Co-ordinator

Houses of Parliament

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called of meeting to order and welcomed those present

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

DISCUSSION

The chairperson said the purpose of the meeting was to deal with a proposed amendment to Standing Order 65 of the House of Representatives.

Dr. Phillips said there was an amendment to the draft which was proposed by Mr. Brown. That was to delete “be invited to” and state instead “attend and” The new subparagrrh would therefore read.
(12) Ministers appointed from the Senate under Section 69 (3) of the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council 1962 may attend and participate in the deliberations of the Committee.

Dr. Phillips said it would be in the ambit of the chairman to determine when it was appropriate for the Minister to attend.

In the absence of opposition members of the Committee it was mentioned that the opposition had supported the proposal. The members of the Committee accepted the proposal as amended.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Phillips said Jamaicans for Justice had raised the issue of note taking in Parliament. He said he was not averse to rescinding the rule with respect to note taking. Currently the Press was allowed to take notes, and make a report on what was done. There was also a record made by Hansard. People could also surreptitiously tape what was said. He wished to propose abandoning the convention which prevented note taking in Parliament.

Mrs. Lewis said there should be a rider that it should not cause any disturbance, nor be disrespectful to the House.

The Chairperson agreed with the proviso. She said the convention came in because sometimes visitors did not just listen, but talked etc. Dr. Rhodd expressed his support for the proposal.

It was agreed to recommend to the House that the convention against note taking in Parliament be abolished. Afterwards the Clerk should write Jamaicans for Justice.

PRAYER

It was mentioned that the next meeting to deal with the prayer could not be set until they had heard from The Church representatives who had been given an assignment at the previous meeting.
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned sine

Houses of Parliament

June 3, 2002