REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON ITS DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO.65 AND THE MATTER OF NOTE TAKING IN PARLIAMENT

Members of the Honourable House are reminded that on the 4th day of April 2002, the House on a motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the House passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 68 and 70, this House appoints a Standing Orders Committee comprising of the following members:
Hon Violet Neilson - Chairman
Hon Dr Peter Phillips MP
Mr Horace Cline MP
Mr Harry Douglas MP
Ms Alethia Barker MP
Me Canute Brown MP
Dr Donald Rhodd MP
Mr Karl Samuda MP
Mr Delroy Chuck MP
Mr Derrick Smith MP

Members of the Honourable House are also reminded that on the 14th day of May 2002, on a motion moved by the Leader of the House, the House passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the under-mentioned draft amendment to Standing Order No 65 be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration and report:
Amendment
To add a new sub-paragraph as follows:
“(12) Ministers appointed from the Senate under section 69(3) of the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1962, may be invited to participate in the deliberations of the Committee.”

Your committee also considered a matter which was raised by Jamaicans for Justice about the prohibition on note taking by visitors to Parliament.

Your Committee held one meeting in consideration of these two matters and is pleased to present its findings and recommendations.
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON

(1) The motion

The substance of the motion is to enable Ministers appointed from the Senate to attend meetings of the Standing Finance Committee of the House of Representatives. Your committee felt that Ministers appointed from the Senate have similar responsibilities with respect to their Ministries, as Ministers appointed from the House of Representatives. They should therefore be able to participate in discussions relating to the budget of their Ministries. In addition it would be beneficial to the Standing Finance Committee to be able to have the input of these Ministers when the budgets of their Ministries are being discussed.

Your committee felt that the resolution should be reworded to state that Ministers appointed from the Senate “may attend and participate” instead of “may be invited to participate.” It would be in the ambit of the chairman to determine when it is appropriate for them to attend.

Your committee therefore recommends that Standing Order 65 be amended by adding a sub-paragraph 12 as follows:

(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.”

(ii) Note Taking

Jamaicans for Justice had expressed concern about the convention that prevented visitors from taking notes of proceedings in Parliament. In view of the fact that the media is allowed to take notes and report on proceedings of Parliament and there are also the records of Hansard, your committee felt that the convention that prevented note taking by visitors, of Parliamentary proceedings, should be abolished. Persons taking notes should however ensure that parliamentary proceedings are not disturbed.

Your committee therefore recommends that note taking of parliamentary proceedings by visitors should be allowed provided there is no disturbance to the proceedings.

THANKS

Your committee wishes to thank the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel for their input and the Clerk to the Houses and staff for their invaluable assistance.

Houses of Parliament
June 4, 2002
## ATTENDANCE
### 1 MEETING

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Hon V Neilson

Hon Dr P Phillips

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Mr H Clue

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Mr K Samuda

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Mr D Chuck

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Mr D Smith