

STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.⁽¹⁾

PART I.—GENERAL.

Parts.

1. These Standing Orders are divided into Parts, as follows:—

- Part I.—General.
- Part II.—Proceedings at Meetings.
 - Division 1.—Order of Business.
 - Division 2.—Petitions.
 - Division 3.—Questions.
 - Division 4.—Motions.
 - Division 5.—Bills.
- Part III.—Conduct of Members and Rules of Debate.
- Part IV.—Voting.
- Part V.—Miscellaneous.

Definitions.

2. In these Standing Orders, unless the contrary intention appears—
 “Clerk” means the person acting as the Clerk of the Council;
 “Council” means the Legislative Council for the Territory;
 “member” means a member of the Council;
 “presiding member” means the Administrator or, in the absence of the Administrator, the senior official member of the Council who is present.

Appointment of Clerk.

3. The Administrator may, by notice in the *New Guinea Gazette*, appoint an officer of the Public Service of the Territory to be the Clerk of the Council.

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S.O. 4 sub. by S.O. made on 5. 2. 1934 ; rep. by S.O. made on 27. 2. 1936.

S.O. 5 am. by S.O. made on 5. 2. 1934 ; rep. by S.O. made on 27. 2. 1936.

(1) The *Standing Orders of the Legislative Council* (made under the *New Guinea Act 1920–1935*) comprise the original *Standing Orders of the Legislative Council*, as amended by the other Orders referred to in the following Table:—

Description.	Date on which made by Legislative Council.	Date on which published in <i>N.G. Gaz.</i>
<i>Standing Orders of the Legislative Council</i>	10. 5. 1933	31. 5. 1933
<i>Amending Orders</i>	5. 2. 1934	(a)
<i>Amending Orders</i>	6. 2. 1934	(a)
<i>Amending Orders</i>	25. 2. 1936	(a)

(a) Not published in *N.G. Gaz.*, but published in the *Legislative Council Debates*.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

Business paper.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934 ;
sub. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

6. Before each sitting, the Clerk shall deliver to each Member a paper, called the Business Paper, containing the subjects, as entered in the Order Book, to be brought before the Council.

Hour of meeting.

Sub. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934 ;
re-sub. by
S.O. made on
27.2.1936.

7. Except as otherwise appointed under section 19A of the *New Guinea Act 1920-1935*, and unless otherwise ordered by the Council, the Council shall meet at ten o'clock in the forenoon on each week-day during each session.

Presidency of Council. No. 51 of 1932, s. 22.

8.—(1.) The Administrator shall preside at all meetings of the Council at which he is present.

(2.) In his absence the senior official member of the Council who is present shall preside.

Quorum. No. 51 of 1932, s. 20.

9. The presence of at least one-third of the members (other than extraordinary members) of the Council (including the presiding member) shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Council for the exercise of its powers.

Adjournment in case of no quorum.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

10. Should a quorum of members not be present at the expiration of half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting or at any time during the sitting, the presiding member shall adjourn the Council until the next sitting day.

Motion for adjournment to debate matter of urgency.

11.—(1.) A motion without notice that the Council at its rising adjourn to any day or hour other than that fixed for the next ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of debating some matter of urgency may be made only after Petitions have been presented, and Notices of Questions and Motions given, and before the business of the day is proceeded with, and such motion may be made notwithstanding there is on the Business Paper a motion for adjournment to a time other than that of the next ordinary meeting.

(2.) The member so moving shall make in writing and hand in to the presiding member a statement of the matter of urgency.

(3.) The motion shall be supported by two members other than the mover rising in their places.

Para. (3.) sub.
by S.O. made on
5.2.1934 ;
am. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

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Para. (4.)
rep. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

(5.) Not more than one such motion may be made during a sitting of the Council.

Para. (6.)
am. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

(6.) In speaking to the motion, the mover and the official member of the Executive Council who first speaks to the motion shall not exceed

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

twenty minutes each, and any other member or the mover in reply shall not exceed ten minutes each, and every member shall confine himself to the one subject in respect of which the motion has been made:

Provided that the whole discussion on the subject shall not exceed two hours.

Order Book.

12. The Clerk shall keep an Order Book in which he shall enter, in accordance with the priority of the receipt of notification, the subjects to be brought under discussion at each meeting.

Minutes.

13.—(1.) The Clerk shall keep a Minute Book in which he shall record the names of the members present at each meeting and all proceedings at each meeting.

(2.) When directed by the presiding Member, the Clerk shall read the Minutes of the previous Meeting, which shall thereupon be confirmed, or corrected and settled:

Para. (2.)
ad. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

Provided that, if copies of the Minutes have been previously distributed to Members or have been previously published in the *New Guinea Gazette*, any Member may move that the Minutes may be taken as read, and if the motion is adopted they may be confirmed, or corrected and settled, without being read by the Clerk.

Opening of proceedings.

14. On each sitting day of the Council, if there is a quorum present at the time appointed for the meeting or within the time specified in Order No. 10 the presiding member shall take the Chair.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934,
and by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

Adjournment of Council.

14A.—(1.) Except in the cases mentioned in Order 10, the Council may only be adjourned by its own resolution.

S.O. 14A
ad. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

(2.) The adjournment of the Council may be moved at any time by an official member of the Executive Council and, on such motion, matters irrelevant thereto may be debated.

PART II.—PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS.

DIVISION 1.—ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Order of Business.

15. With the exception of messages from the Administrator and Questions of Privilege, which shall take precedence over all other matters, the business of the Council shall be arranged in the Business Paper and taken in the following order:—

- (1) Petitions.
- (2) Questions.
- (3) Motions.
- (4) Bills:

Provided that a departure from the order arranged may be allowed by the presiding member for good reason shown.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

DIVISION 2.—PETITIONS.

Presentation of Petitions.

16. A Petition may be presented to the Council by any member, provided that there shall be endorsed upon it a certificate signed by a member that in his opinion the Petition is throughout respectful and deserving of presentation.

Motion that Petition be read.

17. Where any Petition has been presented in accordance with the last preceding order, any member may move that the Petition be read and, in moving, shall confine himself to a brief statement of the persons from whom the Petition comes, of the number of signatures attached to the Petition, of the material allegations contained in the Petition, and of the purport of the prayer of the Petition. If the motion is carried, the Clerk shall read the Petition.

No debate on Petition.

18. On the presentation of a Petition, no debate upon or relating to it shall be allowed, but it shall be laid upon the table of the Council or, on motion duly made, and carried, shall be referred to a Special Committee. A motion referring the Petition to a Special Committee shall specify the number of members who shall form a quorum of the committee.

Hearing of parties whose rights are affected.

19. When any Petition is referred to a Special Committee, all persons whose individual rights or interests are peculiarly affected by any proposed action or Ordinance, Bill, or regulation to which the Petition relates may be heard by the committee either in person or, at the discretion of the committee, by counsel.

DIVISION 3.—QUESTIONS.

Notice of question.

20. Any member desiring to ask a question shall give notice of the question by delivering a copy of it, in writing, to the Clerk at least one day before the day on which he intends to ask it.

Provided that, with the leave of the Council, a question may be asked without notice.

Mode of asking questions.

21. When the time for asking questions has arrived, the presiding member shall call on the member in whose name a question appears in the Business Paper. The member so called on shall ask the question by simply referring to its number in the Business Paper.

Matters to which questions shall relate.

22.—(1.) Questions addressed to an official member shall relate to public affairs or to a matter of administration.

(2.) A question addressed to a non-official member shall relate to some Bill, motion or other matter connected with the business of the Council for which he is responsible.

Conditions relating to questions.

23. Questions shall comply with the following conditions:—

(a) A question shall not publish any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934, and
by S.O. made on
27.2.1936.

Proviso ad. by
S.O. made on
27.2.1936.

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

- (b) If a question contains a statement, the member asking it shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement.
- (c) A question shall not contain any argument, inference, imputation, epithet, or ironical expression.
- (d) A question shall not refer to any debate that has occurred or answer that has been given at the current meeting.
- (e) A question shall not be asked about proceedings in Committee which have not been placed before the Council by a report from the committee.
- (f) A question shall not ask for an expression of opinion, or for the solution of an abstract legal question or of a hypothetical proposition.
- (g) A question shall not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity.
- (h) A question reflecting on the character or conduct of any person, whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion, shall not be asked.
- (i) A question making or implying a charge of a personal character may be disallowed.
- (j) A question fully answered shall not be asked again.

Answers.

24. In answering any question, a member shall not debate the subject to which it refers. The reply to a question may be read, and in such a case a written copy of it shall be at once handed to the Clerk.

Notice of Motion.

24A. Notice of Motion shall be given by a member delivering to the Clerk a signed copy of the motion showing the day proposed for bringing on such motion.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

DIVISION 4.—MOTIONS.

Power to move.

25. Any member may propose any resolution, of which notice has been given, which does not propose the disposal of, or a charge upon, any part of the revenue of the Territory.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Proposal of money votes. No. 51 of 1932, s. 26.

26. A resolution or question the object or effect of which is to dispose of or charge any part of the revenue of the Territory, shall not be proposed in the Council except by the Administrator, unless this proposal has been expressly allowed or directed by him.

Motions to be seconded.

27. A motion not seconded shall not be further debated, and an entry of the motion shall not be made in the minutes.

Vote on motions.

28. When a motion has been made and seconded and the debate upon the motion concluded, the question shall be put to the meeting by the presiding member.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

Withdrawal of motions.

29. A motion may be withdrawn with the leave of the Council, but if so withdrawn may be made again at some other meeting of the Council on notice.

Reintroduction of motions.

30. No motion which is the same in substance as any motion which during the previous twelve months has been resolved in the affirmative or negative shall, except by leave of the Council, be proposed.

DIVISION 5.—BILLS.

Initiation of Bills. No. 51 of 1932, s. 26.

31. A Bill the object or effect of which is to dispose of or charge any part of the revenue of the Territory, shall not be proposed in the Council except by the Administrator, unless this proposal has been expressly allowed or directed by him.

Leave to introduce a Bill.

32.—(1.) Any member desiring to introduce a Bill shall upon motion obtain leave to do so, stating at the same time the object of the Bill.

(2.) The member, before the motion is made, shall deliver to the Clerk a copy of his motion containing the title of his proposed Bill.

Delivery of copy of Bill to Clerk.

33. The leave referred to in the last preceding order having been granted on question being put and carried, the member introducing the Bill shall deliver a copy of the Bill to the Clerk, and a day shall thereupon be fixed for the first reading of the Bill.

Publication of Bill.

34. When a day has been fixed in accordance with the last preceding order, the Clerk shall cause the Bill to be printed and circulated amongst the members, unless this has already been done, and laid upon the table as hereinafter provided with respect to Bills generally.

Precedence of Government Bills.

35. Government Bills shall take precedence in the Business Paper over all other Bills, unless the Council directs otherwise.

Copies of Bills to be circulated and laid on the table.

36. Except in cases where the Administrator thinks it impracticable, a copy of every Bill shall, at least 21 days prior to the day fixed for the first reading, be sent by the Clerk to every member. At the first reading of every Bill, a copy of the Bill shall be laid upon the table accompanied by such documents as the Administrator shall deem necessary for the information of the Council. The accompanying documents shall not be removed from the table until the Bill to which they relate has been passed or otherwise disposed of.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

First reading.

37. On the motion being made "That this Bill be now read a first time", the question shall be put immediately by the presiding member and shall be determined without amendment or debate.

Sub. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Second reading.

38.—(1.) On the motion being made, "That this Bill be now read a Second Time", the discussion shall be confined to the principle and merits of the Bill.

Para. (1.)
am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

(2.) The only amendment to the motion permissible shall be a motion postponing the second reading to some subsequent date or a motion referring the Bill to some Special Committee. If the motion for the second reading of the Bill is carried, the Clerk shall then read the title of the Bill and a day shall be fixed for the consideration of the Bill in Committee, which may be either the same or a subsequent day.

Bill in Committee.

39.—(1.) When the time for considering a Bill in Committee has arrived, the presiding member shall, without motion made, put the question, "That the Council do now resolve itself into Committee to consider the Bill entitled clause by clause".

(2.) When the Council has resolved itself into Committee, the presiding member shall call the several clauses in order by reading the number of each clause. If no amendment is moved to a clause when called, the presiding member shall put the question, "That this clause stand part of the Bill". If any amendment to the clause has been carried, he shall put the question, "That this clause as amended stand part of the Bill".

Amendments.

40.—(1.) When any member has given notice or expressed a desire to move an amendment in Committee, the presiding member shall call upon him to state his amendment.

Para. (1.)
am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

(2.) When the committee has given a decision on any motion for amendment, no amendment of a prior part of the clause may, except by leave of the Committee, be moved.

Para. (2.)
am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

(3.) All amendments in Committee shall comply with the following conditions:—

- (a) An amendment shall be relevant to the subject matter of the Bill and to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates.
- (b) An amendment shall not be inconsistent with any previous decision of the committee in relation to the Bill.
- (c) An amendment shall not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical.
- (d) If an amendment refers to, or is dependent upon, or is not intelligible without, a subsequent amendment or Schedule, notice of the subsequent amendment or Schedule shall be given before or when the first amendment is moved so as to make the series of amendments intelligible.

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- (e) An amendment which aims at the omission of the whole substance of a clause for the purpose of substituting different provisions may only be attained by a motion to negative the clause and by proposing a new clause in its place.
- (f) The presiding member may refuse to put an amendment which is, in his opinion, frivolous.

Postponement of consideration of clauses.

41. The consideration of a clause may, on motion made, be postponed.

New clauses.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

42. New clauses shall be considered after the clauses in the Bill as printed have been disposed of and before the consideration of the Schedule (if any).

Procedure on proposal of new clauses.

43. The presiding member shall call on the member who has given notice that he proposes to move for a new clause, and, if that member moves, the Clerk at the table shall read the marginal note of the clause and it shall then be taken to have been read a first time. The question shall then be put, "That this clause be read a Second Time". If this is agreed to, amendments may be moved, and after these (if any) have been disposed of the question shall be put, "That this clause (or that this clause as amended) be added to the Bill as clause No. and that the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly".

Schedules.

44. The consideration of the Schedule or Schedules (if any) shall follow the consideration of the clauses. Schedules shall be put by the presiding member and may be amended in the same manner as clauses, and the consideration of new Schedules shall follow the consideration of original Schedules.

Adjournment.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

45. If the consideration of a Bill in Committee is not completed, it may, on motion made, be adjourned until some subsequent sitting.

Resumption.

46. When the time arrives for the resumption of the consideration of a Bill in Committee, the Council shall, without question put, be deemed to have resolved itself into Committee.

Conclusion of committee stage.

47. When the consideration of a Bill in Committee has been completed, the Council shall resume its sitting without question put.

Third reading.

48.—(1.) When the Bill has been considered in Committee, it may, on motion made, be read a third time, either forthwith or at some subsequent sitting.

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

(2.) On motion for the third reading of a Bill being made and seconded, the presiding member shall put the question as follows:—
“That this Bill be now read a Third Time”.

(3.) To this question, the only amendments shall be:—

- (a) That the third reading be postponed to some subsequent day.
- (b) That the Bill be re-committed, either generally or for a limited purpose.

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Para. (3.) (c)
rep. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

Preamble and enacting clause.

49. If a motion for the third reading is carried, the Clerk shall read the title to the Bill, and the preamble (if any), and the enacting clause.

Verbal or formal amendments.

49A. Amendments of a verbal or formal nature may be made and clerical or typographical errors may be corrected, in any part of the Bill by the presiding member.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Naming Ordinances.

50. After the Bill has been read a third time, the question shall, on motion made, be forthwith put, “That the Bill do now pass and be Ordinance entitled, ‘An Ordinance to . . .’”.

Presentation for assent.

51. After the question referred to in the last preceding order has been put and resolved in the affirmative, the Ordinance as passed shall be presented by the Clerk to the Administrator for his assent.

PART III.—CONDUCT OF MEMBERS AND RULES OF DEBATE.

Order to be maintained.

52. Order shall be maintained by the presiding member.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Presiding member always to be heard.

53. When the presiding member rises during a debate, any member then speaking or offering to speak shall sit down and the presiding member shall be heard in silence and without interruption.

Members to take their places.

54. Every member when he comes into the Chamber shall take his place and shall not at any time stand in any of the passages or gangways.

Members to address presiding member standing and uncovered.

55. Every member desiring to speak shall rise uncovered and address himself to the presiding member.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

Indulgence to members unable to stand.

56. The presiding member may permit a member unable conveniently to stand by reason of sickness or infirmity to speak sitting and uncovered.

Presiding member to call upon member to speak.

57. When two or more members rise together to speak, the presiding member shall call upon the member who in his opinion rose first in his place.

Right of Speech in Council.

58. Every member may speak once only—
(a) on any question before the Council;
(b) on any amendment on a question before the Council; and
(c) in reply, if he is entitled to reply,
and not otherwise, except by leave of the Council.

S.O. 58 sub. by
S.O. made on
5.2.1934;
re-sub. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

Right of speech in Committee.

59. In Committee, members may speak more than once.

Personal explanation.

60. By the indulgence of the Council, a member may explain matters of a personal nature although there may be no question before the Council; but such matters shall not be debated.

Right of reply.

61. A reply shall be allowed to a member who has made a substantive motion to the Council or moved any reading of a Bill.

Reply closes debate.

62. In all cases, the reply of the mover of the original question shall close the debate.

Offensive words.

63. No member shall use offensive words against the Council or any member, and all imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on members shall be considered disorderly.

Debate confined to present question.

64. A member shall not digress from the subject-matter of any question under discussion or anticipate the discussion of any subject which appears on the Business Paper.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Irrelevance or tedious repetition.

65. The presiding member may call the attention of the Council or Committee to continued irrelevance or tedious repetition and may direct any member to discontinue his speech:

Provided that the member shall have the right to require that the question whether he be further heard be put, and thereupon that question shall be put without debate.

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

Interruption not allowed except in certain cases.

66.—(1.) A member shall not interrupt another member whilst speaking unless—

- (a) to request that his words be taken down;
- (b) to call attention to a point of order; or
- (c) to call attention to the want of a quorum.

(2.) When any member objects to words used in debate and desires them to be taken down, the presiding member shall direct them to be taken down by the Clerk accordingly.

(3.) Every objection to words used in debate shall be taken at the time when the words are used and shall not afterwards be entertained.

Speaking to order.

67.—(1.) Any member may rise to speak to order.

(2.) All Questions of Order until decided shall suspend the consideration and decision of every other question.

Decision on Questions of Order.

68. Upon a Question of Order being raised, the member called to order shall resume his seat and, after the Question of Order has been stated to the presiding member by the member rising to order, the presiding member may give his decision thereon, or he may first hear further argument thereon, at his discretion.

Objections to ruling of presiding member.

69. If any objection is taken to the ruling or decision of the presiding member, the objection shall be taken at once, and in writing, and a motion made which, if seconded, shall be proposed to the Council. The debate on the motion shall forthwith be adjourned to the next sitting day, unless the Council decides, on motion without debate, that the question requires immediate determination.

Closure of debate.

70. On the motion being made (without argument or opinion being offered) "That the question be now put", the question shall be put immediately by the presiding member and shall be determined without amendment or debate.

Sub. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934 ;
am. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

Member not to speak after question put.

71. A member shall not speak to any question after it has been put by the presiding member.

Procedure after decision on motion "That the question be now put".

72. If the motion "That the question be now put" is carried, the Council shall vote on the question before it without further debate or amendment; and if the motion is lost, the debate shall be resumed where it was interrupted.

Am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934 ;
sub. by S.O.
made on
27.2.1936.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

Adjournment of Debate.

S.O. 73 sub. by
S.O. made on
27.2.1936.

73.—(1.) No debate shall be allowed on the motion “That this debate be now adjourned”.

(2.) A debate may be adjourned either to a later hour of the same day or to any other day.

Member adjourning debate entitled to pre-audience.

74. The member upon whose motion any debate is adjourned by the Council shall be entitled to pre-audience on the resumption of the debate.

Motion negatived, mover and seconder may afterwards speak.

75. In the event of a motion for the adjournment of the debate upon any question being negatived, the members moving and seconding the motion for the adjournment may, if not otherwise disqualified, address the Council at any time during the debate.

Resumption of interrupted debate.

76. If a debate is interrupted by a count-out or by any adjournment of the Council, the debate may, on motion after notice, be resumed at the point where it was so interrupted.

Infringement of order.

77. If any member—

- (a) persistently and wilfully obstructs the business of the Council; or
- (b) is guilty of disorderly conduct; or
- (c) uses objectionable words and refuses to withdraw them; or
- (d) persistently and wilfully refuses to conform to these Standing Orders, or any one or more of them; or
- (e) persistently and wilfully disregards the authority of the Chair,

the presiding member may report to the Council that the member has committed an offence.

Offence in Committee.

78. If any member in a committee of the whole Council commits any of the offences referred to in the last preceding order, the presiding member may suspend the proceedings in the committee and report to the Council that the member has committed the offence.

Proceedings on report of offence.

79. When any member has been reported as having committed an offence referred to in order 77 of these Standing Orders, he shall be called upon to stand up in his place and make any explanation or apology he may think fit, and afterwards a motion may be moved, “That (the member) be suspended from the sitting of the Council”. No amendment, adjournment, or debate shall be allowed on the motion, which shall be immediately put by the presiding member.

Duration of suspension.

80. If any member is suspended, his suspension on the first occasion shall be for the remainder of that day's sitting; on the second occasion within the same session for one week; and on the third or any subsequent occasion within the same session for fourteen days.

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

Member suspended excluded from Chamber.

81. When a member has been suspended, he shall not be permitted to enter the Council Chamber during the period of his suspension. If during that period the member enters the Chamber, the presiding member may order any person to remove him from the Chamber.

PART IV.—VOTING.

How questions determined. No. 51 of 1932, s. 23.

82.—(1.) Questions arising in the Council shall be determined by a majority of votes.

(2.) The presiding member shall in all cases be entitled to vote, and shall also, if the members are equal, have a casting vote.

Method of voting.

83.—(1.) Voting shall be by show of hands.

(2.) The Clerk shall make a list of the names of the members voting and show in the list how each has voted.

(3.) The Clerk shall then hand the list to the presiding member, who shall declare the result of the voting to the Council.

(4.) The Clerk shall enter in the minutes the particulars of the list.

(5.) Where all members vote in the affirmative or the negative it shall not be necessary for the Clerk to make a list of the members voting and the presiding member shall declare the result of the voting to the Council. The Clerk shall enter in the minutes the result of the voting.

(6.) Should the list show that a quorum of members is not present, a decision shall not be considered to have been arrived at.

Members present when question stated to vote.

84. Every member present in the Chamber when the question is stated shall vote, except the presiding member, with whom voting shall be optional.

In case of error, Council again to vote.

85. In case of confusion or error concerning the counting of votes on any question, unless correction can otherwise be made the Council shall again vote on the question.

Mistakes corrected in minutes.

86. If complaint is made to the Council that a division has been inaccurately recorded, the presiding member shall cause the minutes, if inaccurate, to be corrected.

Voting in Committee.

87. Voting in Committee shall be in the same manner as in Council itself.

Para. (1.)
am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

Para. (2.)
am. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT—

PART V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Procedure, &c., where not provided for.

88. Any question relating to procedure or the conduct of the business of the Council not provided for in these Standing Orders, shall be decided according to the practice in the Senate in the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

Special Committees.

88A.—(1.) Unless otherwise ordered by the Council, all Special Committees shall consist of five members, at least one of whom shall be a Non-Official Member.

(2.) The members to serve on a special Committee shall be nominated by the mover, but if one member so demands they shall be selected by ballot: Provided that if a ballot is demanded, the Non-Official Members shall, by ballot, select a Non-Official Member to serve on the Special Committee, before the Council proceeds to the selection by ballot of the other members of the Special Committee.

(3.) On the appointment of every Special Committee, a day shall be fixed for the reporting of their proceedings to the Council.

(4.) The Clerk shall fix the time of the first meeting of a Special Committee.

(5.) Subject to this Order the provisions of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Senate relating to Select Committees in force on the first day of January, 1934, shall, as far as applicable, apply to the procedure, and the conduct of the business, of a Special Committee appointed under these Standing Orders.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

89. If the presiding member declares that a Bill is of an urgent nature or that the exigencies of the case require it, motion may be made at any time without notice that the Standing Orders be suspended. If the motion is carried, the Standing Orders shall be suspended so far as is necessary to carry out the object for which the motion was made. No debate shall be allowed on the motion.

S.O. 88A.
ad. by S.O.
made on
5.2.1934.
Para. (1.)
sub. by S.O.
made on
6.2.1934.
Para. (2.)
sub. by S.O.
made on
6.2.1934.