

B. R.
PRIME MINISTER

Speaker

Murdo Maclean came to tell me how things were going with consultations for the Speaker.

He said that the tide is running strongly in favour of Jack Weatherill.

The feeling coming in from the Government side is far and away in favour of Jack Weatherill (although it is not known how this would be affected if they believed that Francis Pym were a candidate).

The Labour Party have said that if Francis Pym were standing, he would be the clear favourite; otherwise they would support Weatherill.

The Liberals have withdrawn their reservations about Weatherill, although they cannot guarantee that all their members would vote in favour of him. The SDP's position is similar.

The SDLP and Ulster Unionists will support Weatherill, although the latter do not yet know Enoch Powell's views: Mr. Atkins and Mr. Pym are not acceptable because of their previous association with Northern Ireland affairs.

The Leader of the House and the Chief Whip will report formally to you tomorrow.

13 June, 1983

PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENT: THE FIRST TWO DAYS

Election of the Speaker: 15 June

The House will meet at 2.30 with Mr. James Callaghan (the Father of the House) in the Clerk's chair at the Table.

Black Rod will summon the House to the Lords, where the Commission for opening the new Parliament will be read and the Lords' Commissioners will direct the Commons to proceed to the election of a Speaker. The procession to and from the Lords will be led by Mr. Callaghan, followed by the Clerk, and then members, led by you and Mr. Foot.

When the procession returns from the Lords, Mr. Callaghan will again take the Clerk's chair and will call the proposer and seconder. Mr. Speaker-Elect will then make a short speech signifying his willingness to be elected.

If there are any other candidates, they will then be proposed and seconded as amendments to the motion and will submit themselves for election. The amendments are then put and presumably defeated. The question is then put.

Either way, the Speaker-Elect will then be conducted with the traditional reluctance to the upper Chair. He will stand on the upper step and express his acknowledgment of the honour done him. He will then sit down in the Chair and the Serjeant will place the mace upon the Table.

Congratulatory speeches follow, with your speech first. You should allow time for the mace to be placed on the Table before rising to speak. You need only speak for about 5 minutes.

I attach some speech notes at A.

/Swearing In: 16 June

Swearing In: 16 June

The House will meet at 1430. Black Rod will once again summon Members to the Lords to hear the Royal Approbation for the Speaker. The procession is led by the Serjeant at Arms, the Speaker-Elect, the Clerk, the Proposer and Seconder, followed by other Members - led once again by yourself and Mr. Foot.

When the procession returns to the Commons, the Speaker takes the Oath first, announces the timetable for the Swearing In of other Members, and then you take the Oath. If you agree, the usual procedure is for you to invite Mr. Foot to take the Oath next, before the Government Front Bench. If you are happy with this, I will tell his office of your decision.

W. F. S. RICKETT

13 June, 1983

Mr. Speaker-Elect, there have been over 150 Speakers that this House has met to elect, many of them more than once. It is over 600 years since the Commons met at Westminster "just after sunrise" to elect men like Sir Thomas Hungerford or Sir Peter de la Mare to speak on their behalf. Today we are honouring, fortunately, a little later in the day than our ancestors, one of the oldest traditions of this House. It is a real pleasure to put aside the arguments of the Election and to join the long list of hon. and rt. hon. Members who have risen over the centuries to congratulate the new Speaker-Elect.

It is a privilege to congratulate you on behalf of the House, and to express the happiness of the House at your election. Perhaps the only drawback is that there can by now be few new or original ways of congratulating you. But whatever I say, you can take pride in achieving the highest office this House can bestow, and in upholding the great traditions of our democracy.

Of course, the office of Speaker is more than just a tradition; it is an office whose burdens have changed with the times. You will preside over a House that has fifteen more members than the last. On occasions it will no doubt be correspondingly noisier and while I hope that your call for order will not have to be heard too often, I have little doubt that it will quickly become as famous as your predecessor's.

/With the

With the changes there have been in the character of the House, it is no longer safe to rely on the words of Speaker Yelverton when he described the qualities required of his office some 400 years ago. "He that supplieth this place", he said, "ought to be a man big and comely, stately and well-spoken, his voice great, his carriage majestic, his nature haughty, and his purse plentiful".

In modern circumstances that sounds more like a Master of Foxhounds than a Speaker of the House, and though some may see some remote similarities between those two offices, I'm not sure Speaker Yelverton was really describing someone who would win the confidence, respect, and love of this House. Maybe he realised that himself, for he was one of our most famous Speakers and he described himself as "small, not so well-spoken, my voice low, my carriage lawyerlike and of the common fashion, my nature soft and bashful, my purse thin, light and never yet plentiful".

Whatever our ancestors may have had to say about the office of Speaker, despite their different qualities ^{each one of} your predecessors has risen to the demands of his position. Some may have been executed, one may have been canonised, but they have all seen it as their greatest duty to protect our liberties and guide our deliberations. It is a lonely job but you bring to it your own unique experience and abilities. (Passage on these). To those qualities I know you will add the support and friendship of this House and the respect and admiration of the nation.

MR. BUTLER

Election of the Speaker

The House meets on 15 June to elect a Speaker. The timetable will be tight, and consultations on the preferred candidate may be difficult to complete. Obtaining Royal approval should however present few problems.

Procedure for the election is simple. The Father of the House (most likely, James Callaghan) will take the Clerk's chair at 1430 on 15 June. Black Rod will summon the House to the Lords where the Commission for opening the new Parliament will be read and the Lords Commissioners will direct the Commons to proceed to the election of a Speaker. Back in the Commons, the Father of the House will again take the Clerk's chair and will call the proposer and seconder. If there are any other candidates they will then be proposed and seconded as amendments to the Motion. A few speeches follow, including those by the candidates signifying their willingness to be elected. The amendments are put and presumably defeated. The question is then put. Mr. Speaker-elect then expresses his thanks and is conducted to the Upper Chair. The Prime Minister makes a short speech of congratulation, followed by the Leaders of the other Parties and usually the Father of the House.

Royal Approbation will take place at 1430 the next day. This is followed by the swearing in of Members, which last year took more than two full days.

Consultation with Other Parties

There were wrangles over the election of the Speaker in 1951, 1959, and 1971. Following the last, the Select Committee on Procedure reviewed procedure for the election of the Speaker. They blamed the previous wrangles on "the failure of consultation between Leaders of both Parties and their backbenchers". The Select Committee largely accepted the view of the then Lord President that it was "clearly the duty of a Leader of the House in a matter of such importance ... to ensure that the soundings of opinion are as wide and as thorough as possible, not only among the members of his own Party, but in the House as a whole".

/ They

They rejected a proposal that the Speaker should be elected by secret ballot of Members.

There will be little time between 9 and 15 June for the Conservative Party to consult on its preferred candidate, put his name to the Labour Party and the Leaders of the minority Parties, and give them time to react. As you said, an early meeting of the Prime Minister, Lord President, Chief Whip, Chairman, and Home Secretary is clearly necessary. I imagine the earliest date would be the Sunday after the Election, or that Monday. But since the candidate will come from the Conservative Party in any event, the Prime Minister may wish to consider an earlier meeting so that consultations can begin on 10 June, despite the fact that the Cabinet will not have been formed by then.

The meeting will need to consider not only who should be the preferred candidate, but the form that consultations within the Conservative Party should take. In 1976, the Labour Party held a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and impressed on the Conservative front bench the need for wide consultation with their backbenchers.

Royal Approval

Two submissions to The Queen are required: one from the Prime Minister and one from the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chancellor is involved since he has to signify The Queen's approval in the House of Lords. Although The Queen will be at Ascot that week there should be few problems. I suggest you agree with Sir Philip Moore that we and the Lord Chancellor will send him in advance submissions covering the two most likely eventualities: the election of the preferred candidate nemine contradicente, and the opposed election of the preferred candidate. The standard submission is attached. If the election is opposed the words "nemine contradicente" are simply omitted. Once the Commons have completed their deliberations we can let Sir Philip Moore know which one to submit to The Queen. In the unlikely event of the election of another candidate, we will send him

a revised submission. He need only return the approved submissions to the Lord Chancellor before the House meets the next day.

Prime Minister's Speech

The Prime Minister will have to make a speech congratulating the Speaker on his election. We cannot draft this until we know the preferred candidate. I would have thought that the Prime Minister could easily speak off the cuff since she will presumably know the candidate fairly well. If there is to be a draft this may be best left to her PPS.

CM

25 May 1983



Agd
EL

10 Downing Street
Whitehall

, with his humble duty to The Queen,
has the honour to acquaint Your Majesty that, by a
Resolution passed nemine contradicente by the House
of Commons today,

has been appointed Speaker of the House,
and humbly submits this appointment for
Your Majesty's most gracious approval.

3 February 1976

12 DOWNING STREET,
S.W.1.

pm.
W
19/5

With

The Private Secretary's

Compliments



Parliament

Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

MR TOWNLEY

cc MR RICKETT
MR HEYHOE

HUMBLE ADDRESS FOR MR SPEAKER

Mr Heyhoe sent me a copy of his minute to you of
16 May on this subject.

Whilst not in any way disagreeing with the need to
have a motion available in good time, I am extremely
doubtful that Wednesday 15 June would be the right
day to take this - indeed it is a fairly fine
point as to whether the House would in fact have
the right to do so on that day.

M MACLEAN

18 May 1983

110.111.1983



Privy Council Office,
Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2AT

*With the Compliments
of the
Private Secretary
to the
Lord President of the Council*

20
Mr Heyhoe

c Mr Hilary

Please copy
up to Mr Rickett
(No. 10),

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER

84
25/5.

1. You asked for a note on the procedures for consultation, etc in connection with the election of a Speaker.
2. The most convenient source of information about the procedure for electing a Speaker is the First Report from the Select Committee on Procedure, 1971-72. The annexes to this, in particular the memorandum by the Clerk of the House (pages 13 to 20), are particularly useful. Paragraphs 3 to 11 of the Clerk's memorandum deal with the history of complaints from backbenchers about "lack of consultation" up to and including the election of Mr Speaker Selwyn Lloyd in 1971.
3. It was the controversies behind the scenes, and on the Floor of the House, surrounding the election of Mr Speaker Selwyn Lloyd on 12 January, 1971 that led to the examination of the existing procedure by the Select Committee on Procedure in Session 1971-72. On that occasion an alternative Member was proposed for the Speakership (Sir Geoffrey de Freitas) by Mr Maxwell Hyslop and Mr William Hamilton. Sir Geoffrey de Freitas had not been consulted about this, but the House divided on the Motion that Mr Selwyn Lloyd should take the Chair, and the Motion was carried by 294 votes to 54. Several prominent Members of the House voted against the Motion, eg Mr Michael Stewart, Mr Crossman and Dr Owen.
4. The gravamen of the criticism of the procedures that were followed in 1971 was insufficient consultation with backbenchers. Mr Hamilton, for example, stated that there had been no attempt whatever to consult backbench Members of the Labour Party. Mr Pardoe also criticised the lack of any formal consultation beyond the Front Benches.
5. The Procedure Committee recommended in their report a number of detailed proposals for changes in the formal procedure for electing a Speaker. These are at paragraph 28 of their report. The principal were:-
 - a. that, where a Speaker has retired, the election should be presided over by the longest-serving Member, instead of the Clerk of the House as previously;

and b. that, even if there were a sole candidate, the question should be put on the Motion for his election (the nomination of Sir Geoffrey de Freitas had been necessary in order to force a vote on the Motion for the election of Mr Selwyn Lloyd).

The Procedure Committee's recommendations were adopted by the House on 8 August, 1972, with two minor modifications proposed by the Government.

6. Although the Procedure Committee did not make formal recommendations on the issue, its report did nevertheless deal at some length (paragraphs 5-13) with the question of prior consultations with backbenchers. There seems to have been a general consensus (eg paragraph 10) that the consultations leading up to Mr Selwyn Lloyd's election had not been as well carried out as they might have been. The Procedure Committee merely drew attention to the points of view that had been expressed in evidence.

7. When Mr Speaker Thomas was elected on 3 February, 1976, it seems clear that there had been much wider consultation beforehand than in 1971. The then Prime Minister (Mr Harold Wilson) referred (OR, 3 February, 1976, column 1160) to the criticism of the previous occasion, and spoke of "fullest consultation among backbenchers" and consideration by the Cabinet and the Opposition Front Bench: "the initiative in your selection came exclusively from backbenchers expressed through party meetings and in other ways". The Motion that Mr George Thomas should take the Chair was resolved without a division, whereupon the retiring Speaker left the Chair.

8. The general sense of the matter seems to be, therefore, that whatever consultative procedures were adopted in 1976 seem to have satisfied the House; and that the public clues as to what these procedures were can to some extent be deduced from what Mr Harold Wilson said on the occasion of Mr Speaker Thomas' election, and from the evidence given to the Procedure Committee in 1971-72 about what had been found wanting on previous occasions. It seems likely that there was in 1976 consultation with backbenchers on the Conservative side through the mechanism of the 1922 Committee, but this is only based on inference and not personal knowledge.

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER AT THE BEGINNING OF A
NEW PARLIAMENT

Aide-Memoire on procedure to be followed

1. The object of this Aide-Memoire is to set forth the detailed procedure which will need to be followed in implementing the new S.O. No. 103A (Election of the Speaker) at the beginning of every new Parliament. In accordance with the recommendations of the Select Committee on Procedure of Session 1971-72 (First Report, paragraph 25) that Standing Order was drafted, "except as provided in their (sc., the Committee's) earlier recommendations, in a form approximating as closely as possible to the procedure established by ancient usage"; this consideration has been borne in mind in devising the proposed consequential detail which follows.

2. The procedure described hereunder is to be observed even if the former Speaker is a candidate for re-election (since he, in common with all other Members, will have ceased to be a Member at the previous dissolution, and the provisions of S.O. No. 103A (1) will therefore apply).

3. Details of Procedure

(1) The back-bench Member present in the House who has served for the longest continuous period¹ takes the lower Chair just before 2.30 p.m.²; the Clerk and Clerk Assistant take the middle and left-hand places at the Table, and the Second Clerk Assistant attends behind the Chair.

(2) When Black Rod has delivered his summons, the senior back-bench Member accompanies him (walking on his left) to hear the Commission read; they are followed by the Clerk of the House, walking alone. On the return journey the senior back-bencher and the Clerk of the House together lead the procession back to the Commons, the Clerk walking on the right. They bow at the Bar, in the middle of the floor and at the Table, to the Speaker's Chair. The Clerk Assistant does not return to the Table till the Senior back-bencher and the Clerk of the House have resumed their places there.

1 The selection of this Member will doubtless have been made beforehand through the usual channels. If a Member senior in service to the Member who it has been agreed should preside wishes to be present, though not in the Chair (as, e.g., would be the case if a candidate for the Speakership were thus senior), he should wait beyond the Bar of the House until the Member who is to preside has taken the Chair.

2 The object in recommending that the senior back-bencher should be established in the Chair before the summons to the Lords, and should thereafter accompany Black Rod to that House, is to ensure (a) that he is identified as early as possible as the man who is going to preside, and (b) that he has immediate access to the Chair on the return from the Lords, which might be difficult if he were to become involved in the body of other returning Members.

(3) The senior back-bencher calls two Members in turn to move and second the motion for a Speaker³, and proposes the question; other Members may then speak, but the Chair should defer calling any Member who may wish to move an amendment until the candidate first proposed has been called to make the usual speech submitting himself to the House. If no amendment is then offered to be moved, the Chair puts the question; if, however, an amendment is moved and seconded⁴, the question is proposed "That the amendment be made", and the candidate whose name is put forward in the amendment is also called upon to submit himself before the question on the amendment is put. If the first amendment is negatived, others may be moved, the procedure being the same in each case. Once any amendment has been agreed to, however, no further amendment can be moved, and the main question as amended must accordingly be decided. When all amendments have been disposed of, the main question (or, the main question as amended) is put.

(4) When all questions have been disposed of, the senior back-bencher leaves the lower Chair and the successful candidate is conducted to the Upper Chair by the Members who have proposed and seconded his candidature. From the upper step he expresses acknowledgement of the honour done him by the House, and sits down in the Chair; congratulatory speeches follow.

3 If it is known beforehand that more than one candidate is likely to be proposed, the decision as to the order in which the Members proposing the respective candidates shall be called rests entirely in the discretion of the Chair (if possible after consultation and agreement with the Members concerned).

4 Despite the removal in 1960 by S.O. No.12 of the formal requirement for the seconding of motions, motions for the election of a Speaker have continued since that date to be seconded. It is considered desirable that under the new procedure amendments also should be seconded, in order to preserve an equality of status among the candidates, and to ensure that whatever the outcome of the election there will be two Members available to conduct the successful candidate to the Chair.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

CHIEF WHIP

Mr. David Steel telephoned me this morning to congratulate the Prime Minister on her election. He then raised two further points:-

i) He said that he hoped there would be consultations with the Opposition parties about the Speakership.

ii) The second was about his own accommodation. He said that it was already too small, both for operational purposes and for receiving visitors. With a larger number of Liberal MPs and the growth in Liberal support in the country, life would be impossible. He hoped that he could have the Prime Minister's support in finding a solution to the problem. He said that a complete solution would be provided if he could have the room next door, hitherto occupied by Mr. Bradshaw as Clerk Assistant, when Mr. Bradshaw vacated it to become Clerk to the House.

Could I put these two points in your hands: it would be very helpful if Mr. Maclean could let me know what transpires on them in case Mr. Steel rings me again.

I am sending a copy of this minute to the Lord President's office.

E. E. R. BUTLER

10 June 1983

file Soc

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. David Steel telephoned me this morning and asked me to convey to you his personal congratulations on your campaign and your Election success, and his best wishes for your new term of office.

He then raised two specific points, set out in the attached minute which I have sent to the Chief Whip.

Would you like me to telephone Mr. Steel back and tell him that you were grateful for his congratulations on the campaign, which you reciprocate, and have asked the Chief Whip to pursue the two points which he raised.

F. E. R. BUTLER

10 June 1983

D. R.

The Prime Minister asked
the Chief Whip to deal with Mr.
I have confirmed with the Chief
Whip that he has been in touch
with Mr. Steel.

ROBIN

FERS 23.6.

David Steel telephoned at 9.55: he
apologised for doing so but has asked
if he may see the Prime Minister about
his accommodation at the Commons.

Preferably he would like to do this
at the House, in order for the Prime
Minister to see the situation.

Apparently it has been suggested that
he has Harold Wilson's suite in the
Norman Shaw Building but Mr Steel does
not think he should move from the House.

Angela

22 June 1983

P. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.
For Distribution to:-

Prime Minister	Bench	Mr P Moore	Mr M Cocks (2)
Mr M Alison (2)	All Whips	Mr Speaker	Clerk of the House
Chief Whip	Leader of the House (3)	Chairman W/M (3)	(3)
D/Chief Whip	Mr M MacLean	Notice Board	

WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE 1983

11 25 am Mr Speaker will take the Chair.

Prayers

11.30 am Black Rod with a message to the Commons to attend the Lords Commissioners in the House of Lords.

Opening of the New Session

On the return from the Lords the sitting of the Commons will be suspended until 2.20 pm, the Mace remaining on the Table.

2.20 pm The Speaker will swear in Members.

2.30 pm The Sessional Orders will be put and agreed to:-

1. Double Elections;
2. Inability of Peers to vote;
3. Bribery;
4. Tampering with witnesses;
5. False evidence;
6. Clearing of approaches to the House;
7. Printing of the Votes and Proceedings;

Outlawries Bill read a First time.

The resolutions relating to the printing of the Journal and Index will be passed.

The Prime Minister to move:

The Address in reply:

Sir Peter Mills to move:

Mr M Thornton to second:

Leader of the Opposition to follow.

The Prime Minister's Speech.

Other Speakers.

Then the Whip to move:

"That the Debate be now adjourned."

When asked when it is to be resumed

The Whip to say TOMORROW

Then the Whip to move:-

"That this House do now adjourn"

Sir Nicholas Bonsor The Treatment of
Juvenile Offenders.
(Mr D Mellor)