

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2005**

**MINUTE NO. 1**  
**8:00 a.m. – Room 8**

1. **Present:** Speaker Kowalsky in the Chair and Members Bjornerud, Hagel, Hamilton, Morgan\*, Stewart, and Trew.

**Substituting Members**

Mr. Morgan for Mr. Elhard

2. On motion of Mr. Morgan:

Ordered, That the proposed agenda was adopted.

3. The chair presided over the election of a deputy chair. Mr. Stewart nominated Mr. Morgan for the position. There being no further nominations, it was moved by Mr. Stewart:

That Don Morgan be elected to preside as deputy chair of the Standing Committee on Privileges.

The question being put, the motion was carried.

4. The Committee considered its order of reference as follows:

That this Assembly urge Government and Crown Corporation officials to respect the rights and privileges of all Members of this Assembly by ensuring that Official Opposition Members and their staff are allowed to attend any embargoed news conferences and technical briefings open to members of the news media; and

that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges, and

that the Committee table its report in the Assembly no later than Wednesday, April 20, 2005.

5. It was moved by Mr. Morgan:

That the Committee recommend the following:

1. That Official Opposition Members and staff be allowed to attend all news conferences and technical briefings that are open to the members of the news media and that deal with matters to be considered by the Assembly; and
2. That any person or persons who act to prohibit Official Opposition Members and staff from attending any such news conferences or technical briefings shall be considered in contempt of the Assembly.

A debate arising, it was moved by Ms. Hamilton in amendment thereto:

That item 1 be replaced with the following:

1. That the Standing Committee on Privileges recommend that technical briefings be made available to all Members of the Legislative Assembly in advance of any media briefings.

A point of order was raised by Mr. Morgan stating that the amendment was out of order as it was beyond the scope of the Committee's order of reference. The Chair ruled that the scope of the reference was open to debate and interpretation and as the amendment was within our practice, he found the point of order not well-taken and ruled the amendment in order.

The debate continuing, the Chair interrupted proceedings and adjourned the meeting at the previously agreed adjournment time of 9:00 a.m.

6. The Committee adjourned at 9:00 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Gwenn Ronyk  
Committee Clerk

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Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky  
Committee Chair