

立法會  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2) 191/00-01

Ref : CB2/H/5

**House Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting  
held in the Legislative Council Chamber  
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 3 November 2000**

**Members present :**

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, JP  
Hon David CHU Yu-lin  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP  
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, JP  
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP  
Hon NG Leung-sing  
Prof Hon NG Ching-fai  
Hon Margaret NG  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon HUI Cheung-ching  
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han  
Hon Bernard CHAN  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon SIN Chung-kai  
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong  
Hon WONG Yung-kan

Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, JP  
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP  
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum  
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP  
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon CHOY So-yuk  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon SZETO Wah  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP  
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP  
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP  
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP  
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee  
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP  
Hon LAU Ping-cheung

**Clerk in attendance :**

Mrs Justina LAM Clerk to the House Committee

**Staff in attendance :**

Mr Ricky C C FUNG, JP	Secretary General
Mr Jimmy MA, JP	Legal Adviser
Mr LAW Kam-sang, JP	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Ray CHAN	Assistant Secretary General 3
Mr Stephen LAM	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser (Acting)
Ms Bernice WONG	Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Miss Anita HO	Assistant Legal Adviser 2

Miss Connie FUNG	Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Mr Arthur CHEUNG	Assistant Legal Adviser 5
Mr KAU Kin-wah	Assistant Legal Adviser 6
Mrs Vivian KAM	Chief Assistant Secretary (Complaints)
Miss Kathleen LAU	Chief Public Information Officer
Miss Odelia LEUNG	Chief Assistant Secretary (1)1
Mrs Constance LI	Chief Assistant Secretary (2)5
Mrs Betty LEUNG	Chief Assistant Secretary (3)1
Miss Betty MA	Senior Assistant Secretary (2)1

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**I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 4th meeting held on 27 October 2000**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 142/00-01)*

The minutes were confirmed.

**II. Matters arising**

**(a) Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)**

2. Regarding Members' request for the Chief Executive (CE), CS, Financial Secretary and Secretary for Justice to brief the Council after official visits to Beijing or abroad, the Chairman said that CS had reiterated that the Administration did not consider that there was need for a standing arrangement for such briefings.

3. The Chairman further informed Members that she had relayed to CS that Members would in future take the initiative to invite CE and other senior officials to brief the Council after their visits to Beijing or abroad. The Chairman added that as agreed by the House Committee at the last meeting, she had written to CE inviting him to attend a meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to brief Members on his visits to Beijing and London, and to answer questions from Members.

4. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that there was also the question of the format of such briefings that needed to be discussed with the Administration. He pointed out that the format of making a statement in Council was too restrictive as Members could only ask short questions for the purpose of elucidating the statement. Miss Emily LAU and Mr Fred LI concurred with Mr CHEUNG.

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5. Mr Andrew WONG said that the Rules of Procedure allowed a Member to seek the President's permission to ask the Administration a "private notice question" relating to an official visit made by a senior official. The Secretary General responded that the President would permit a Member to ask a question without notice only on the ground that it was of an urgent character and related to a matter of public importance. He suggested that Members could consider raising a question relating to an official visit as one of the six oral questions scheduled for a regular Council meeting. The President could then be asked to consider allocating more time for Members to raise supplementary questions.

6. Mr Fred LI said that briefings by CS or other senior officials could be held at meetings of the House Committee.

7. Miss Emily LAU and Miss Margaret NG said that CE did not attend regular meetings of the Council. They suggested that briefings by CE should take the format of a CE's Question and Answer Session to enable Members to put questions to him. Mr Fred LI concurred. The Chairman undertook to convey Members' views to CS, and to ascertain whether CE was agreeable to give a briefing on his visits to Beijing and London.

8. Concerning the proposal of the Panel on Housing that residents affected by Cottage Area clearance should be granted a special ex-gratia allowance, the Chairman said that she had also written to CE on the matter, as agreed by the House Committee at the last meeting.

(b) **Occupational Retirement Schemes (Recovery of Arrears) Rules**  
(Letter dated 27 October 2000 from Assistant Legal Adviser to Financial Services Bureau (FSB) and FSB's reply dated 31 October 2000)

9. Referring to the reply of the Secretary for Financial Services (SFS), Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung sought clarification on the Registrar's discretion to institute legal proceedings to recover contribution arrears. The Legal Adviser explained that the existing policy as stated in SFS's reply was that the Registrar would decide whether to issue further notices or to institute legal proceedings, if payments were still outstanding after issuing three notices. The Legal Adviser added that the Registrar, in considering each case on its own merit, would be expected to act with fairness and reasonableness, and in accordance with the legislative intent of the Rules, i.e. to maintain the financial stability of the Occupational Retirement Schemes.

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- (c) **Financial Resources (Amendment) Rules 2000**  
*(Letter dated 28 October 2000 from Assistant Legal Adviser to Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and SFC's reply dated 31 October 2000)*

10. Members did not raise further queries on the subsidiary legislation.

**III. Business arising from previous Council meetings**

- (a) **Legal Service Division's reports on bills referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)**

- (i) **Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2000**  
*(LC Paper No. LS 15/00-01)*

11. Referring to the report, the Legal Adviser said that the Bill introduced amendments to the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance and the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance to further enhance the effectiveness of the confiscation and anti-money laundering provisions.

12. Dr David LI said that the banking industry had expressed serious concern about the proposed amendments to the two Ordinances, and suggested that a Bills Committee be formed to examine the Bill.

13. Mr James TO and Mr Eric LI expressed support for Dr David LI's suggestion. Mr Eric LI added that the Hong Kong Society of Accountants had submitted views on the Bill to the Administration and was awaiting a response.

14. The Chairman proposed that a Bills Committee be formed. Members agreed. The following Members agreed to join : Mrs Selina CHOW, Mr Martin LEE, Mr Eric LI, Dr David LI, Miss Margaret NG, Mr James TO, Mr Bernard CHAN, Mr Henry WU and Mr WONG Sing-chi.

- (ii) **Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Bill**  
*(LC Paper No. LS 9/00-01)*

15. Introducing the paper, the Legal Adviser said that the Bill provided for the licensing of voluntary residential treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug dependent persons. He added that the Administration had indicated that it would propose a grace period of four years for the existing private treatment and rehabilitation centres to comply with the licensing requirements.

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16. The Chairman proposed that a Bills Committee be formed to study the Bill. Members agreed. The following Members agreed to join: Ms Cyd HO, Mr James TO, Mrs Sophie LEUNG, Mr Andrew WONG, Mr LAW Chi-kwong, Mr MAK Kwok-fung, Dr LO Wing-lok and Mr IP Kwok-him.

**(iii) Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Bill 2000**  
(*LC Paper No. LS 14/00-01*)

17. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill sought to revise the Ordinance to bring it in line with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code Requirements for classification, labelling and packaging of dangerous goods. He added that when the Panel on Security was consulted on the proposed amendments in the last term, some members had expressed concern about the detailed implementation of the proposals made in the Bill, and the impact on the trade.

18. The Chairman proposed that a Bills Committee be formed. Members agreed. The following Members agreed to join: Mr James TO, Mr HUI Cheung-ching and Mrs Miriam LAU.

**(b) Legal Service Division's report on subsidiary legislation tabled in Council on 1 November 2000 (gazetted on 27 October 2000)**  
(*LC Paper No. LS 13/00-01*)

19. The Legal Adviser said that the only item of subsidiary legislation gazetted on 27 October 2000 proposed revisions for 11 items of fees payable under the Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance and the Amusement Rides (Safety) (Fees) (Amendment) Regulation 2000. The Legal Adviser added that the deadline for amending the subsidiary legislation was 29 November 2000, or 6 December 2000 if extended by resolution.

20. Members did not raise any queries on the subsidiary legislation.

**IV. Business for the Council meeting on 15 November 2000**

**(a) Questions**  
(*LC Paper No. CB(3) 111/00-01*)

21. The Chairman said that 16 questions (six oral and 10 written) had been tentatively scheduled. She reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of questions was Monday, 6 November 2000.

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(b) **Bills - First Reading and moving of Second Reading**

22. The Chairman said that no notice had been received from the Administration.

(c) **Government motion**

23. The Chairman said that no notice had been received from the Administration.

(d) **Members' motions**

(i) **Motion on "Rental subsidy"**

(ii) **Motion on "Extending the effective period of concessionary duty rate for ultra low sulphur diesel"**

24. The Chairman said that the wording of the motions had been circulated to Members. She reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice to amend the motions was 8 November 2000. Members did not raise objection that the speaking time limits stipulated in rule 17 (c) of the House Rules should apply.

V. **Advance information on business for the Council meeting on 22 November 2000**

**Members' motion**

**Motion on "Increasing the support to District Council members"**

25. The Chairman said that Mr IP Kwok-him had been allocated a debate slot. She also referred Members to Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong's letter of 3 November 2000 tabled at the meeting and invited Mr CHEUNG to speak.

26. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the House Committee should consider putting in place a procedure to enable Members to bid for a debate slot in the situation where a vacant slot(s) still existed after the deadline for applications but before the deadline for giving notice of motions. Mr CHEUNG added that he would also like to invite the House Committee to consider whether the vacant debate slot for the Council meeting on 22 November 2000 could be allocated to a Member belonging to the Democratic Party, since the deadline for giving notice of motions under the Rules of Procedure had not yet expired.

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27. Mr CHAN Kam-lam said that as Members were well aware of the deadline for applications of debate slots, any request made after the deadline should not be entertained. He added that if an exception was made on this occasion, it would give rise to confusion.

28. Mr James TIEN said that he shared Mr CHAN Kam-lam's views that any application received after the deadline should not be processed as the allocation system for debate slots prescribed in the House Rules was agreed to by Members themselves. Mr NG Leung-sing, Mr Howard YOUNG and Mr Henry WU concurred with Mr CHAN and Mr TIEN.

29. Assistant Secretary General 3 advised that although rule 13 of the House Rules laid down the principle that not more than two debates on Members' motions not intended to have legislative effect should be held at a regular Council meeting, there had been occasions where only one debate was held. He added that for the Council meeting on 22 November 2000, the President had just given approval for Mr Martin LEE to move a resolution under the Rules of Procedure to set up a select committee to inquire into the "opinion poll incident" and related matters.

30. Mr Andrew WONG said that Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong's request was a reasonable one. He pointed out that the Rules of Procedure required 12 clear days' notice for a motion, and that the deadline for Members' motions in respect of the Council meeting on 22 November 2000 had not yet come up. He further said that the House Rules merely provided a procedure to facilitate the bidding of debate slots and could not supersede what was stipulated in the Rules of Procedures regarding notice of motions. He suggested that the 24 days' requirement for applications should perhaps be shortened. He also considered that a Member should provide the wording of his or her motion when applying for a debate slot.

31. Mr Martin LEE, Mr Fred LI and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong shared the view that the 24 days' notice for application required by the House Rules was only a gentlemen's agreement to facilitate the drawing of lots when more than two applications were received. They proposed that as the House Rules did not provide for the situation where there was still untaken slot(s) after the deadline for applications but before the deadline for giving notice of motions, a procedure should be put in place to cater for such a situation.

32. Dr YEUNG Sum said that the Committee on Rules of Procedure (CRoP) should be invited to consider the matter. Miss Margaret NG concurred with Dr YEUNG.

33. The Chairman proposed that the matter be referred to CRoP for consideration. Members agreed. The Chairman added that under the Rules of Procedure, a Member was only required to give 12 clear days'



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notice for a motion. It would be for Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong to decide whether he would give notice in accordance with the Rules of Procedure to move a motion for debate at the Council meeting on 22 November 2000 in the light of Members' comments expressed at the meeting.

**VI. Bills Committee and Subcommittee reports**

(a) **Position report on Bills Committees/subcommittees**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 146/00-01)

34. The Chairman said that there were three Bills Committees and three subcommittees in action.

(b) **Report of the Subcommittee on Prison (Amendment) Rules 2000, Immigration (Vietnamese Migrants) (Detention Centres) (Amendment) Rules 2000 and Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Rules 2000**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 162/00-01)

35. Ms Cyd HO, Chairman of the Subcommittee, said that she had nothing to add to the verbal report she made at the last meeting except that she had obtained the President's consent to speak on the subsidiary legislation at the Council meeting on 8 November 2000.

**VII. Report of the Panel on Housing on follow-up actions to examine the building problems in public housing**

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 117/00-01)

36. Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Chairman of the Panel on Housing, said that the paper reported on the Panel's deliberations on the way forward in examining the building problems in public housing. He added that the paper also provided details of the work progress of the investigations, studies and review initiated by the Housing Authority (HA) and Government. Mr CHAN informed Members that the various investigations, studies and review, except the investigation undertaken by the Ombudsman, would either be completed or expected to be completed by March 2001 the latest, as detailed in Appendix IV of the paper.

37. Mr Albert HO Chun-yan said that at the meeting of the Panel on Housing on 24 October 2000, four members voted in favour of, and three members abstained from voting on, the proposal to set up a select committee to inquire into the building problems in the production of public housing units. Mr HO further said that some Panel members had expressed concern about the efficacy and independence of the investigations, studies and review initiated by HA or Government,

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particularly because the committees concerned had no power to summon the attendance of witnesses and production of evidence at their hearings. Mr HO stressed that the building incidents in question had undermined public confidence in public housing, and that a select committee should be set up immediately to inquire into the problems.

38. Mr Albert HO added that the proposed terms of reference of the select committee as set out in Appendix III were different from those of the other committees. He pointed out that the Construction Industry Review Committee chaired by Hon Henry TANG Ying-yen, for example, aimed at reviewing the practice of the construction industry rather than focusing on the problems in the production of public housing units. He hoped that Members would support the Panel's proposal.

39. Mr Martin LEE, Mr Fred LI, Mr James TO, Dr YEUNG Sum, Mr Andrew CHENG and Mr Albert CHAN expressed support for the Panel's proposal to set up a select committee to inquire into the building problems in the production of public housing units. They were of the view that as this was a matter of wide public concern, LegCo had the responsibility to investigate the problems and give its views and recommendations. They considered that the other investigations, studies and review had not covered some important areas. They pointed out that with the setting up of a select committee, Members would be able to summon witnesses to give evidence under oath with the powers conferred by the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance. They added that the investigation by the proposed select committee had more transparency as the hearings would be open to the public, while those of the other investigations were held behind closed doors.

40. Miss Emily LAU, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung also expressed support for the proposal to set up a select committee to inquire into the building problems of public housing. They said that there was public expectation that LegCo should conduct an independent inquiry into the problems in the production of public housing units. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan added that in the last term, members of the Panel on Housing who belonged to different political groupings supported the setting up of a select committee. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung pointed out that the question of overlapping of work between the select committee and the other committees would not arise as by the time the select committee commenced work, the other committees would have completed their work.

41. Miss Emily LAU sought clarification on paragraph 7 of the paper which stated that the proposed inquiry by LegCo should be to address the problems rather than to identify any particular persons for punishment. Mr CHAN Kam-lam said that the Panel had endorsed the working group's recommendation that the inquiry should aim to ascertain the facts with a

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view to making recommendations to address the problems, rather than to seek out particular officers for punishment. Mr Albert HO added that the term of reference as proposed in Appendix III of the paper would not preclude the select committee from giving views or making recommendations on whether any officers concerned should be held responsible.

42. Mr James TIEN agreed that it was more important for the proposed LegCo inquiry to find out the facts than to identify officers for punishment. However, he expressed concern that the work of the select committee would overlap that of the other committees. As the committee headed by Mr Stephen SELBY would complete work by the end of 2000, Mr TIEN suggested that the House Committee should consider deferring a decision on the matter until the report of Mr SELBY's committee was available. He said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party did not support setting up a select committee right away.

43. Mr James TO said that although the proposed select committee would be able to summon witnesses to give evidence under powers conferred by the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance, he expressed concern that the longer the time lapse between the housing incidents and the inquiry, the greater the risk of losing evidence essential to the investigation.

44. Mr Abraham SHEK said that he was previously in support of setting up a select committee to inquire into the public housing problems when confidential reports on the two investigating committees initiated by HA were not available at that time. Having now perused these reports, Mr SHEK said that he had come to the view that a select committee was not necessary as Members should be forward looking and should focus on the future reforms of public housing. Mr SHEK opined that the proposed LegCo inquiry would only add more burden to HA and the Housing Department, given that they had so much work to do and there were other investigations and studies going on.

45. Mr NG Leung-sing declared that he was a HA member. Mr NG said that at the Panel meeting on 24 October 2000, he had abstained from voting on the proposal to set up a select committee to look into the public housing building problems. Mr NG considered that Members should defer the decision on the proposal until after they had seen the reports of the on-going investigations and studies. He added that he was against setting up a select committee at the present moment.

46. Mr LAU Ping-cheung pointed out that there was also the question of subjudice to consider as criminal investigations and/or court proceedings were underway in respect of the incidents to be investigated

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by the proposed select committee. He considered that the present moment was not the appropriate time for LegCo to conduct the inquiry.

47. Mr Martin LEE said that he could not accept the argument that the LegCo inquiry would overburden HA or the Housing Department because they had work to do. He pointed out that the Hong Kong International Airport was in full operation during the time when LegCo inquired into the chaos at the opening of the Airport. As regards the question of subjudice, Mr LEE considered that the select committee could defer examination of those matters which were under investigation by another committee or authority.

48. Mr Albert CHAN was of the view that the scale of the public housing problems amounted to an international scandal, and that LegCo should have investigated the problems a long time ago. He considered that it was important to find out the truth before the problems in public housing led to loss of lives and properties.

49. Mr Fred LI pointed out that the LegCo inquiry could proceed in parallel as its scope of work would not overlap those of the respective committees chaired by Hon Henry TANG Ying-yen and CS. As for the investigation undertaken by Mr Stephen SELBY, Mr Fred LI further pointed out that it only covered two of the four housing estates in question. Regarding the Ombudsman's investigation, Mr Fred LI added that LegCo had conducted its inquiry into the chaos at the Airport's opening at the same time the Office of the Ombudsman did its investigation, and no problem had been encountered.

50. Mr IP Kwok-him said that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong were of the view that a decision on whether to conduct an inquiry should wait until after the reports of the current investigations, studies or review were available. He pointed out that Members could then make reference to these reports and consider the way forward. Mr IP stressed that the proposed LegCo inquiry should not overlap the work of other committees.

51. Miss CHAN Yuen-han agreed that the decision of setting up a select committee should be deferred until the work of the various committees had been completed.

52. Mr Andrew WONG said that although LegCo had the responsibility to establish the facts of the public housing problems, there was no urgency in conducting the inquiry right away since the other committees would provide their reports soon. Prof NG Ching-fai concurred with Mr WONG.

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53. Miss Margaret NG considered it difficult to assess whether or not the proposed scope of work of the select committee would overlap that of the other committees. Nevertheless, she agreed that a select committee could be set up right away as by the time the select committee commenced work, the other investigations and studies would have been completed, according to the information given in Appendix IV of the paper. She added that she did not agree with the comments made by some Members that the other committees lacked credibility because they were appointed by HA or Government.

54. Mr Frederick FUNG said that as the other committees had their own focus and priorities of work, LegCo should conduct its own independent inquiry to ensure that the facts relating to the housing incidents would be revealed. He was in support of setting up a select committee to inquire into the problems in the production of public housing units.

55. Mr Albert HO proposed that Members should vote on the question "that the Chairman of the House Committee should move a motion in Council to set up a select committee to inquire into the building problems in the production of public housing units having regard to the circumstances surrounding the incidents in Tin Chung Court, Shatin Area 14B Phase 2, Tung Chung Area 30 Phase 3 and Shek Yam Estate Phase 2".

56. Mr James TIEN proposed that voting on the question proposed by Mr Albert HO in paragraph 55 above should be deferred to the first House Committee meeting in January 2001.

57. The Chairman put Mr James TIEN's question to vote. Mr Fred LI requested that Members' names be recorded.

58. The following Members voted in favour of Mr James TIEN's question :

Mr Kenneth TING, Mr James TIEN, Dr Raymond HO, Mr Eric LI, Dr LUI Ming-wah, Mr NG Leung-sing, Prof NG Ching-fai, Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, Mr CHAN kam-lam, Mrs Sophie LEUNG, Mr Andrew WONG, Dr Philip WONG, Mr WONG Yung-kan, Mr TSANG Yok-sing, Mr Howard YOUNG, Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr LAU Kong-wah, Mr LAU Wong-fat, Mrs Miriam LAU, Miss CHOY So-yuk, Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Dr TANG Siu-tong, Mr Abraham SHEK, Ms LI Fung-ying, Mr Henry WU, Mr Tommy CHEUNG, Mr IP Kwok-him and Mr LAU Ping-cheung  
(Total : 28 Members).

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59. The following Members voted against the question :

Miss Cyd HO, Mr Albert HO, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr Martin LEE, Mr Fred LI, Miss Margaret NG, Mr James TO, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr SIN Chung-kai, Dr YEUNG Sum, Mr LAU Chin-shek, Miss Emily LAU, Mr Andrew CHENG, Mr SZETO Wah, Mr LAW Chi-kwong, Mr Michael MAK, Mr Albert CHAN, Mr WONG Sing-chi and Mr Frederick FUNG (Total : 20 Members).

60. As 28 Members voted in favour of Mr James TIEN's question and 20 Members voted against the question, the Chairman declared that the vote on Mr Albert HO's question in paragraph 55 above would be taken at the first House Committee meeting in January 2001.

**VIII. Report of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs on the arrangements for the election of the Chief Executive**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 172/00-01)*

61. Mr Andrew WONG, Chairman of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs, briefed Members on the background of the Panel's requests as set out in paragraph 8 of the paper. He said that Panel members were very dissatisfied that the Administration's representatives had failed to provide any information on the timetable and arrangements for the election of CE at the Panel meeting on 31 October 2000. As the Administration's representatives had not undertaken to provide the information referred to in paragraph 8(a)-(c) of the paper at the next Panel meeting on 20 November 2000, the Panel had asked that the matter be further pursued by the House Committee.

62. Miss Margaret NG and Mr Martin LEE were of the view that the bill on the CE election should be introduced into LegCo as early as possible to allow sufficient time for scrutiny. Mr LEE added that it was irresponsible of the Administration not to let members of the Election Committee know whether they would be responsible for selecting the second-term CE, in addition to returning six Members for the second term of LegCo.

63. The Chairman suggested and Members agreed that the Panel's requests in paragraph 8(a)-(c) be raised with CS.

**IX. Any other business**

**(a) Use of "cocktail language" at meetings**

*(Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing's letter of 28 October 2000)*

64. Referring to her letter of 28 October 2000, Miss Emily LAU requested Members to comply with rule 24 (m) of the House Rules and refrain from using "cocktail language" at committee meetings. Miss LAU said that apart from facilitating the work of the simultaneous interpreters, Members should have regard to the needs of those Members and members of the public who did not have any knowledge of English and might have difficulty in understanding the matters under discussion.

65. Mr James TIEN requested committee clerks to assist the respective chairmen in reminding Members, Government officials and deputations to refrain from using "cocktail language" at meetings.

**(b) LegCo Fun Day 2000-2001**

*(LC Paper No. AS 49/00-01)*

66. In response to Miss Emily LAU, Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) said that the LegCo Fun Day was for Members and LegCo Beat reporters and their families to share a day of fun and games. CPIO added that there had been feedback from some reporters that a change of format was desirable, and that the event should not take a full day so that reporters would not need to take leave to participate in the event.

67. Referring to paragraph 6 of the paper, the Chairman invited Members' views as to whether a LegCo Fun Day should be held in 2000-2001, and what format it should take. She also asked Members to consider whether an Organizing Committee should be formed if a LegCo Fun Day was to be organized.

68. Mr Andrew WONG, Mr LAW Chi-kwong and Mr IP Kwok-him expressed support for a LegCo Fun Day to be held in 2000-2001. They also suggested that an Organizing Committee be formed to consider the format and other arrangements. Mr IP added that he preferred option (ii) in paragraph 6(b) of the paper.

69. The Chairman suggested that an Organizing Committee be formed to work out the proposed arrangements. Members agreed.

70. There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5:05 pm.