

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) (M)

THE ASSEMBLY AND STATUTORY COMMITTEES

cc: PS/PUS (L&B)(M)
 PS/Sir E Bell
 Mr Bourn
 Mr Brennan (M)
 Mr Merifield
 Mr Angel (M)
 Mr Buxton
 Mr Palmer
 Miss Davies
 Mr Abbott (M)
 Mr Boys Smith (M)
 Mr Coulson
 Mr Edis

1. Please refer to my minute of earlier today.
2. Mr Kilfedder announced this morning the names of Chairmen, Deputy Chairmen and Members appointed to the Statutory Committees. Since he had received no nominations from the UUP, he appointed only persons from the DUP and Alliance, leaving vacant those positions which he yesterday allocated to the UUP. He urged the Committees to get down to work quickly, specifically including those Committees for which he had been unable to appoint Chairmen.
3. The list of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen appointed is as follows:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairmen</u>	<u>Deputy Chairmen</u>
Education	J Cushnahan (Alliance)	W McCrea (DUP) (Vacant)
Agriculture	I Paisley (DUP)	S Gibson (DUP) (Vacant)
Environment	P Robinson (DUP)	W Glendinning (Alliance) (Vacant)
Finance and Economic Development	(Vacant)	J Allister (DUP)(Vacant)
Health and Social Services	(Vacant)	J McClure (DUP)(Vacant)
Economic Development	(Vacant)	W Beattie (DUP) S Neeson (Alliance)

4. The UUP meeting which began at 1115 ended at about 1400, when Messrs McCartney, Maginnis and (Edgar) Graham went to see the Speaker. According to Assembly officials, the meeting was brief and icy: McCartney in particular was very angry. The three said that the UUP

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were united in feeling aggrieved at the allocation of Chairmanships. The UUP had specifically put Economic Development, Agriculture and Environment at the top of their list. Of these three, two had gone to the DUP, even though the UUP was the largest party in the Assembly. The UUP had therefore decided to make no nominations to any post in any Assembly Committee, Statutory or otherwise. They would meet again at 1030 on Tuesday 14 December to consider their next steps. They hinted that these might include a motion of censure on the Speaker. Mr Kilfedder told them that he had made his mind up and would not change it.

5. The UUP's action represents an ultimatum, with Tuesday as the deadline. The choice of delegation (McCartney, Maginnis and Graham) was no doubt partly intended to show that even the pro-Assembly elements in the UUP share the party's sense of grievance. Tempers may cool over the weekend, but though it is perhaps unlikely that the UUP will choose to wreck the Assembly over this issue, they will feel bound to take some action - perhaps by delaying their nominations to Committees over Christmas and more probably by putting down a censure motion. Mr Kilfedder, by making the nominations in para 3 above, has (probably deliberately) left himself no room for manoeuvre. Indeed, we are told that he has instructed his staff to distribute First Day Briefs to those Committees to which Chairmen have been appointed.

6. As to the nominations themselves, they are much as expected. Dr Paisley's assumption of the Agriculture Chairmanship was rumoured earlier this week, but it seemed hard to believe he would take on yet another job.

7. We shall keep in touch with Mr Kennedy and his staff, but I continue to believe it would be wrong for Ministers or officials to become directly involved. The Government would rapidly become the scapegoat, Mr Kilfedder's position would be further damaged and the DUP and Alliance would resent our interference.



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9 December 1982

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