

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
Tuesday 8 April 2008

Executive Committee Business
Commission for Victims and Survivors Bill
Consideration Stage

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Mr Speaker: The Consideration Stage of the Commission for Victims and Survivors Bill — I call the junior Minister Mr Donaldson.

The junior Minister (Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister) (Mr Donaldson): The Consideration Stage of the Commission for Victims and Survivors Bill will not be moved today.

Mr Speaker: I confirm that the Consideration Stage of the Bill will not be moved today. Order, order.

Mr Ford: I appreciate the fact that the junior Minister has not moved the Consideration Stage of the Bill. Mr Speaker, will you explain, particularly in the context of the Bill's having received accelerated passage, the timetabling implications for the remaining stages?

Mr Speaker: The junior Minister and the Executive will determine the subsequent stages of the Bill.

The Chairperson of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (**Mr Kennedy**): On a point of order, Mr Speaker. Will the junior Minister detail the new timetabling arrangements?

Mr Speaker: Maybe the junior Minister is prepared to clarify the position for Mr Kennedy.

Mr Donaldson: The matter will be brought before the Business Committee at 12.30 pm.

Mr Kennedy: May I ask — and this is probably not a point of order — whether there are any plans to consult my Committee on the matter?

Mr Speaker: I have given some latitude to points of order, but that is not an issue for the Chamber. It is for the junior Minister, the Executive and the Business Committee to deal with.

Mrs D Kelly: On a point of order, Mr Speaker. This is an extraordinary event. I know that the timetable that Members have before them is indicative, but the decision not to debate the Committee Stage means that we move straight on to the next item of business. What latitude can you give to other Members of the House who are due to speak on today's other motions?

Mr Speaker: I hear what the Member is saying, but we must move on to the next item of business. The debate on the Committee Stage has been withdrawn, and we should move on.

Mr S Wilson: Further to that point of order, Mr Speaker. I have been the victim of such a move in the past. [Laughter.]

Would it not be proper to adjourn for half an hour so that Members can be contacted? It is unfair for Members to have these things sprung on them.

Mr Speaker: I suggest that the House suspends for 10 minutes to allow Members to gather. We will reconvene at around 10.45 am.

Sitting suspended at 10.37 am.

On resuming (Mr Speaker in the Chair) —