

BUSINESS PAPERS

TUESDAY, 16th JANUARY 2001

PART 1 - SECTION A

AGENDA

The session will commence at 2pm

Questions to the First Minister (30 minutes)

A list of the Oral questions are on the Internet (and Chamberweb)

Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister

Debate on the Post 16 Education Committee Report on Arts & Culture Policy in Wales.

To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 9.9, notes the report from the dissolved Post 16 Education and Training Committee entitled 'A Culture In Common' which is published on the

Intranet at:

<http://assembly/committees/Post%2016%20Education%20&%20Training/Reports/Main.htm>

Plaid Cymru Minority Party Debate.

The National Assembly recognises that:

- manufacturing industry is a major component of the Welsh economy which is therefore vulnerable to short-term variations in the parity of the pound, as illustrated by the recent job losses in the electronics and steel industries
- there are manufacturing units in Wales which employ the most advanced technology and have the highest levels of productivity but are still unable to compete within the Euro zone because of the overvalued pound
- the parity of the pound is a direct result of Government policy, in particular the decision to use monetary rather than fiscal measures to control inflation in the south-east of England, and the failure to give any firm commitment to adopting the Euro in the near future

- the government has failed to balance its monetary policy with a regional policy adequate to reverse the present widening of the prosperity gap between the three regions in the south-east of England and the other regions and nations of the UK.

The National Assembly therefore urges the Government in London to:

- use fiscal rather than monetary measures to control inflation in the most prosperous areas, by increasing tax raised on taxable incomes greater than £50,000 a year, and investing the extra revenue in an active regional policy
- amend the present guidelines to the Monetary Policy Committee, laid down in the Bank of England Act (1997), which only refer to the control of inflation, to ensure that proper consideration is given to the overall strength of the economy and to the level of employment throughout the UK
- reduce the levels of Corporation Tax and employers' National Insurance contributions in those regions designated to receive European structural funds
- provide extra tax credits for Research and Development in those regions designated to receive European structural funds
- establish employment protection measures in the UK similar to those that apply in the other major economies of the EU.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 - William Graham (South Wales East);

After "*This National Assembly recognises that:*" delete the remainder of the motion and replace with:

manufacturing industry is a vital part of the Welsh economy and that recent job losses have had caused considerable social and economic problems in many communities in Wales;

policies affecting industry pursued by the current UK Government and the Lib/Lab Assembly Administration - such as the introduction of the climate change levy and additional burdens of tax and red tape - have been a contributory cause of many of the job losses;

the weakness of the Euro has also been a contributory cause of many of the job losses;

The National Assembly therefore urges the Lib/Lab administration and the UK Government to:

abort the introduction of the climate change levy;

radically reduce the levels of red tape imposed on business;

rule out the introduction of supplementary business rates; and

devise a coherent partnership strategy with Corus to prevent further job losses in the steel industry.

Amendment 2 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Delete all after "productivity" in second bullet point and insert:

"The National Assembly is committed to developing the conditions in which Welsh businesses can succeed and looks to the support of the Westminster government in the creation of these conditions"

The session will conclude at 5.30pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 18th January 2001

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly