**STATES OF JERSEY**

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY 2018**

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[13:16]

**The Roll was called and the Greffier led the Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Prayer.**

# COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER

### 1. The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Before we get on with the Order Paper a couple of housekeeping announcements. We are going to be passing round this sheet which has got your name, your flight number, your departure date, departure time and the pickup time from the hotel. If you could tick your name on here if all the information is correct. If it is not correct then perhaps you could see Lisa afterwards so that she can get the arrangements done for you. So, Lisa, if you could start moving that round that would be helpful. For those of you who are leaving early tomorrow morning if you could do the checkout formalities with the ...

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order, sorry. We were just informed a bit earlier from the C.P.A. (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) not to do that. They told us explicitly not to checkout this evening.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Hang on. Please, can I finish? Thank you, Mr. Shaw. If you could do the checkout formalities at the hotel tonight, in other words settle up any accounts that you may have or whatever and in the morning hand in your key before you go to the airport. If the weather is against us we will make arrangements in the morning to decide what we are going to do and we might see you later on, but if you could do the formalities at the hotel tonight and if you leave in the morning ... assuming it is going to be okay, when you leave in the morning just hand in your key then but, of course, if you do not leave in the morning then other arrangements will have to be made. Okay? Moving to the Order Paper what I propose to do ... we have got a couple of interesting debates and important debates. So we have got 19 questions down. Now, that will take far too long really for this session. It is good that we have got so many questions but time is against us. So what I propose to do is to close question time at 2.00 p.m. and then move on to public business but should there be time left at the end we will go back to the questions. I will be sorry for everyone who does not get their question asked but we have got to be realistic about the time constraints.

Mr. A. Jeffers:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I cannot see you, Mr. Jeffers.

Mr. A. Jeffers:

You can see me.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Jeffers was marked défaut, therefore he is not here. Someone would have to propose that the défaut be raised.

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Can I propose that the défaut is raised for all Members who have just arrived late? If possible.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

For all those who have arrived since they were marked défaut. Okay. I am sure the Greffe can work that out. All those in favour of the défaut being raised please show. Those against. The défaut is raised. I can now see you, Mr. Jeffers.

Mr. A. Jeffers:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to apologise for being late for the meeting.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you very much. **[Approbation]** Okay. So turning to the Order Paper, I have done my communications.

# QUESTIONS

## 2. Oral Questions

### 2.1 Mr. R. Mensah of the Minister for Health regarding ...

I want to know, can the Minister outline how international healthcare standards are reflected in government policies on healthcare?

### Mr. A Stewart (The Minister for Health):

Please repeat the question.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

It is written on your Order Paper, Minister, if you could ...

Mr. A Stewart:

Yes, I know, but I wanted to hear him ask the question.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Mensah, would you ask it one more time please?

Mr. R. Mensah:

Can the Minister ...

Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

Point of order. I would just like to put that I think the Minister for Health is trifling with you and that is totally inappropriate in this House.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I will be the judge of who is trifling with me and who may trifle with me **[Laughter]** and who may not trifle with me **[Approbation]** but thank you very much for your concern.

Mr. R. Mensah:

Can the Minister outline how international healthcare standards are reflected in government policies on healthcare?

Mr. A Stewart:

Thank you for your question. Currently the ministry has put in place the standard guidelines that are reflected internationally to provide the best possible care for the citizens of Commonwealthland. We work closely with healthcare professionals to constantly keep policies updated in regards to this because, as most of us know, healthcare is ever changing.

### 2.1.1 Mr. A. Forgay:

The Minister claims that his Government’s health policies are in accordance with international standards however Article 25 of the United Nations Convention of Human Rights says that all people should be able to have access to healthcare. Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children should have access to primary care. The Opposition today has proposed a motion that would allow Commonwealthland to fall into the co-ordination with those Articles. The question quite ...

Ms. S. Gwynn:

Point of order. Where is the question?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, please allow Mr. Forgay to continue.

Mr. A. Forgay:

The question is quite simple; as the Opposition has a motion on the floor that will address these issues why is the Government opposed to it and why is the Government okay with Commonwealthland citizens not having access to basic human rights? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. O’Neal:

Point of order. He is misleading the House. There is no evidence to suggest that we are opposed to this Bill at this stage.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, I could not hear you.

Mr. A. O’Neal:

He is misleading the House. There is no evidence to suggest that the Government is against this Bill at this stage. We are not debating the Bill. That proposition is not for discussion.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Well, I am sure that the Minister can answer that for himself I hope.

Mr. A Stewart:

Well, first off to clarify, because I am guessing he is unaware of his own country, we do offer basic healthcare. Healthcare treatment and prescriptions are free to all citizens, as we all know. This is included to anyone who is a citizen of Commonwealthland. As you stated, based on ... this is a United Nations requirement, healthcare needs to be provided, not given for free, which we do go the extra mile and provide treatment for all of our citizens as well as cover their prescriptions. **[Approbation]**

### 2.1.2 Ms. R.L. Tiakia:

What is the Minister for Health’s policies on cannabis as an international health standard ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, I do not think that that really results out of the original question which talks about international healthcare standards. I think it may be the following question perhaps. Does anybody else wish to ask a supplementary?

[13:30]

### 2.1.3 Mr. M. Persaud:

My question is: what does the Minister for Health think about medicinal use of marijuana?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I am sorry, I cannot allow that question either as it does not result out of the original question but perhaps the second question.

### 2.1.4 Ms. T. Le Monnier:

My question to the Minister is simply: why does the Government think that it is okay to require citizens to pay for the right of having access to healthcare when generally we do not pay towards to our other human rights? We do not pay to our right to life. We do not pay to our rights of private and family life. Why should we pay for our right to healthcare? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A Stewart:

Well, first I need to clarify that you are not paying for your right for healthcare. You are paying for a service being provided. **[Approbation]** No matter who you are; if you are a construction worker, if you are a parliamentarian, you earn a salary, correct? We offer free health treatment; meaning if you need to be treated by a physician it is covered by our Government. If you need a prescription written or antibiotics or whatever the case may be that is covered by our Government. No, we do not offer a free healthcare system in the sense that you have to pay for your initial visits at a G.P. (general practitioner) but we do cover your treatment, including the prescriptions required. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I will allow one more supplementary question because we have got so many to try and get through.

### 2.1.5 Mr. C. Phillips:

My question to the Minister is: can he name one international healthcare standard that the Government does comply with such as the World Organisation Strategic Healthcare Framework? Name one. **[Approbation]**

Mr. A Stewart:

Everyone started to stamp before the end. Can you just repeat it for me? I did not hear the end portion.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, could you repeat the question please, Mr. Phillips?

Mr. C. Phillips:

Can the Minister name one international healthcare standard that the Government complies with?

Mr. A. Stewart:

I will not ... I am stuck without further research. Thank you.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Okay. We now move on ...

Mr. B. White:

Point of clarification. The Minister did say that we met those international standards. He was provided with ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, Mr. White. We are moving on to the next question now please. Thank you. The next question will be asked by Mr. Sogomonian to the Minister for Health.

### 2.2 Mr. A. Sogomonian of the Minister for Health regarding ...

Mr. Chair, you will appreciate why Members of the Opposition, the Voyageurs, are so keen to get to this question given the allegations that have now surfaced about the Minister. Is the Minister personally, and the Government collectively, committed to upholding Commonwealthland’s illegal substances law including as it relates to the illegality of cannabis?

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry?

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order, Mr. O’Neill.

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Is it appropriate for a Member to circulate libellous information in this House about a Member, (1) without notifying them, and, (2) in order to support a parliamentary question? **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I am assuming that the status of this document is genuine. **[Laughter]** I have no reason to think it is not and if it is genuine then the Member has an absolute right to circulate it.

Mr. A. Forgay:

Point of order. The Government Whip just implied that Mr. Artour was deliberately misleading the House, which is explicitly prohibited in the House rules, so I would appreciate it if he would retract his comments.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I am not sure if he made that allegation. Did you make that allegation, Mr. O’Neill?

Mr. K. O’Neill:

To the best of my knowledge I did not. I referred that the document contained material that could be libellous. I did not say the Member said that. I said the document contained that.

Mr. B Sawyer:

Point of order. Just one thing. While he did say that the ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Could you stand when you are addressing the Chair please?

Mr. B Sawyer:

Sorry. While you did say that the document itself is a true document the very nature of the article, including a police officer talking about the current accusations and an ongoing investigation is in fact illegal.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Can we please try and move on otherwise we are not going to get through question time? Mr. Stewart, could you address the question? Are you happy to address the question?

Mr. A Stewart:

The original question? **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, the original question. The question asked by Mr. Sogomonian.

### Mr. A Stewart (The Minister for Health):

At this time I choose not to answer that question because it is libel and it is not fit ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

You have the absolute right to do that.

### 2.2.1 Mr. A. Sogomonian:

I will repeat the question as it is listed in the Order Paper which has absolutely nothing to do with the allegations. That was not the question. The question is: is the Minister personally, and the Government collectively, committed to upholding Commonwealthland’s illegal substances law including as it relates to the illegality of cannabis? I would also like to record to show that you ruled in favour for them being ...

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Minister, is it ... sorry?

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I am quite happy to take your point of order. I have a duty to take your point of order. I just remind you of the time but, yes, Mr. Shaw.

Mr. M. Shaw:

Less than just a few moments. I wish to circulate this genuine document that states that the Honourable Member Artour murdered children. **[Laughter]** This too is a genuine document and I believe these are questions that need to be answered.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Shaw, that is not a point a point of order. Could you please sit down?

Mr. M. Shaw:

Would you circulate it for me?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Would you please take your seat? **[Aside]** In this Parliament obviously Mr. Shaw is covered by privilege. If he repeats those accusations outside then you have the appropriate remedies to take. Minister, is there anything you wish to add to your previous answer?

Mr. A Stewart:

No, thank you.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

In that case we will move on to the third question, which Ms. Martinez will ask of the Minister for Housing.

### 2.3 Ms. C. Martinez of the Minister for Housing regarding ...

My question is to the Minister for Housing: what progress has the Government made on establishing a “breathing space” scheme for household debt?

### Ms. T. May (The Minister for Housing):

Thank you very much for that question. Regarding the “breathing space” scheme we have just completed a rather lengthy public consultation and from that consultation we are hoping to propose the following schemes. Firstly, we would like to implement the money advice scheme which would be online via a website and also include one-to-one advice with a financial adviser. Secondly, we will be proposing a payment free period for those with overwhelming debt and are currently considering the length of the respite period with the goal of giving our hardworking citizens an opportunity to get ahead financially.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Ms. Slack, did you want to ask a supplementary?

Ms. M. Slack:

Yes. However, it is not to ask a supplementary question. I want to give my apologies at the outset for arriving late to this Honourable House. It was not due to any disrespect on my part. I was feeling unwell and went to get a flu shot. As such, I am humbly requesting that the défaut be lifted.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I think the défaut ...yes, I think the défaut has. **[Interruption]** No, she was not well and she asked the défaut be lifted but I think that has happened.

The Greffier of the States:

She was excused.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

No. Ms. Slack, you were excused.

Ms. M. Slack:

Much obliged.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

There was no défaut on you.

Ms. M. Slack:

Grateful.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Right, does anybody have a supplementary question for the Minister for Housing on question 3?

Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

Supplementary question to the Minister. Could the Minister comment on the effect of cannabis in homes?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, could you repeat the question please?

Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

Okay, my apologies. I withdraw the question. I misunderstood that you had moved on to the next piece of business.

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Wrong Minister, wrong question. Does anybody have a supplementary question for the Minister for Housing on question 3? Right, if not we will move on to question 4 which will be asked by Ms. Martinez again to the Minister for Home Affairs.

### 2.4 Ms. C. Martinez of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding ...

My question is to the Minister for Home Affairs as in: if the police and security services have the necessary resources to keep citizens safe from cyber-crime but also to combat large-scale cyber-attacks from hostile forces?

### Mr. Jack Gillum (The Minister for Home Affairs):

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer, and thank you to my honourable friend for that question. First of all, I want to pay thanks to all our police officers and our security forces for all the hard work which they do in protecting Commonwealthland. **[Approbation]** The Government believes the utmost in the importance for keeping our citizens safe. So the Government currently adequately funds the police service and the security services and in the last budget there was a 2 per cent increase which has also, in terms of crime figures, has led to a 12 per cent decrease. **[Approbation]** On all these issues, especially as we have seen instances of international use of cyber to meddle in elections, et cetera, we work with regional and international partners and friends to share information and relevant skills. So it is not just about the finance and the budget. It is about the skills as well as this Government is committed to a skills led agenda. This Government is committed to developing digital skills but this also includes law enforcement. This is why I am proud to announce today a new introductory £450,000 fund for cyber skills and cyber enforcement made from back office savings.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Does anyone have a supplementary question for the Minister? Right, the Minister has got away with it. We move on to question 5 which Ms. Slack will ask of the Minister for Finance.

### 2.5 Ms. M. Slack of the Minister for Finance regarding ...

Mr. Haroon, what action is the Minister taking to ensure that economic prosperity is spread across every part of Commonwealthland?

### Mr. T. Haroon (The Minister for Finance):

We, the Government of Commonwealthland, are committed to ensuring that economic prosperity is spread across the entire country. Just yesterday we gloriously passed our proposal to impart these skills to people so that different industries can also have digital skills and through which they can grow. We are also now looking into diversifying the economy so that after the great recession we do not rely on just the financial services. We are also looking at individual support packages through which we can look at the rural areas which are not that much developed and also we are trying to bring in investment which was shunned by the Opposition in their last term. So hopefully now we will bring more investment here so that prosperity could be spread across the entire Commonwealthland and our great country of Commonwealthland could be wealthy. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Does anyone have a supplementary question for the Minister? Okay. We will move on to question 6, which Ms. Slack will ask of the Minister for Tourism?

### 2.6 Ms. M. Slack of the Minister for Tourism regarding ...

Mr. O’Neal, good afternoon. What action is the Government taking to promote Commonwealthland as a tourist destination and thereby boost the economy?

### Mr. A. O’Neal (The Minister for Tourism):

Thank you, Ms. Slack, for your question. Now, my Government recognises the significant investment that will be required within our healthcare industry. It would be remiss of us not to attempt to recoup this significant investment. We have identified the medical tourism industry as but one avenue where we can recoup this investment. Therefore, we are committed to tapping into this ever-growing market of medical tourism. Research has indicated that medical tourism attracts the high-end tourist from developed and developing nations, such as the Commonwealthland. If there is an economic boost, that is significant, we foresee that one of the biggest benefits of medical tourism is that it will bring direct foreign investment into this country and would therefore increase the Government’s revenue. Additionally, it offers employment and business opportunities to our citizens. We are, therefore, committed to working with the Opposition, the Independent Members and all stakeholders into developing this industry. I will begin consultations within short order to get this industry up and running in the shortest time possible. We look forward and that is, the usual co-operation of the Opposition and the Independent Members in this regard. My Government also is in the advanced stage of creating 2 agencies to handle tourism related functions. The Commonwealth Port Authority and the Commonwealthland Marketing and Tourism Investment Company. The pilot’s authorities mandate is to develop Commonwealthland’s offering while the Marketing and Tourism Investment Company, as the name suggests, deals with marketing on this great Island and will have satellite offices in all of our main source markets.

### 2.6.1 Mr. A. Forgay:

I was just wondering where the Minister for Tourism, and presumably the Ministry of Health as well, plan to get the money to develop the medical tourism industry when they claim they do not even have the money to provide healthcare to their own citizens. **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. O’Neal:

I can appreciate that the Opposition Member is not in the business of governing this country **[Approbation]** but we have identified some areas in our budget where we can reallocate funds to fund this and these 2 agencies to deal with both the marketing of the Island and the medical tourism offerings that this country would provide as well as to develop it further. **[Approbation]**

[13:45]

### 2.6.2 Ms. S. Gwynn:

My question to the Minister is: is the Government considering a proposal to make Commonwealthland a cannabis tourism destination, much like Amsterdam in terms of medicinal cannabis?

Mr. A. O’Neal:

I think that suggestion is one that this ... we are no dictatorship. I think if the people of this country would like us ... we first have to address our laws on the statute books but if it is the will of the people that we explore this opportunity and it is the will of this House that Opposition, Independent Members ... certainly we can consider that route but I am not in a position to commit this Government to provide any definitive answer at this stage. **[Approbation]**

### 2.6.3 Mr. J. Reid:

Members of the House, it is somewhat alarming to me that the Minister finds money for these things, these new areas, while, if my memory serves me well, in the case study Commonwealthland suffers the case of experiencing a dying culture, right? There is not much emphasis being placed on preserving the native tongue of this land and so I ask the Minister, are there any plans in place to enhance the preservation of this culture and the native tongue and also in our honesty, has there been any consideration given to this matter?

Mr. A. O’Neal:

I can appreciate your question. I want to ask your indulgence, to allow me to consult my Permanent Secretary. I need competent staff. I need the Minister for Tourism so he can provide proper answers to your question. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We will now move on to question 7 which Ms. Bayad will ask of the Minister for Health.

### 2.7 Ms. M. Bayad of the Minister for Health regarding ...

My question goes to Mr. Adrian Stewart, Minister for Health. What is the Government’s position on the proposed nationalisation of healthcare systems?

### Mr. A Stewart (The Minister for Health):

Thank you for the question. Currently the Government’s position is that healthcare of our citizens is of the utmost importance but under no circumstance will we allow the Opposition to dictate the Government’s legislative agenda in no way, shape or form. **[Approbation]** This cannot be done without the correct and complete consultation of all necessary parties involved.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Does anyone have a supplementary question for the Minister?

Mr. A. O’Neal:

I am not raising it ... no, raising on a point of privilege. The Member, Mr. Shaw, had requested to make a document of the House answer allegations to this ... to make Members of this Chamber aware of these allegations. I think it is unfair to allow one document to become a document of the House and circulate to Members and not the other document circulated. So I certainly am very interested in the allegations and indeed the offences of authenticity of the document that Mr. Shaw requested to make a document of the House earlier.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I think you make a reasonable point, Mr. O’Neal. I shall refer the matter to the Privileges Committee and that will report back at the next session of the Parliament. **[Laughter]** Thank you for raising the point. Are there any ...

### 2.7.1 Mr. B. White:

Just back to the Minister. In relation to previous comments you have made against the national healthcare system you have said: “We need a stable economy.” So considering that Commonwealthland’s economy is in the top 35 above other nations, such as New Zealand, which have very prominent positive national health service can you support a nationalised healthcare service with that in mind?

Mr. A Stewart:

I am guessing. As I stated previously, at this time the Government can only consider a nationalised health plan if it is the will of the people and not until then will we move forward.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I can allow one more supplementary on this subject if someone wishes to ask it. If not, we will move on to question 8, which Ms. Bayad will ask of the Minister for Finance.

### 2.8 Ms. M. Bayad of the Minister for Finance regarding ...

My question goes to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Talha Haroon. What action has the Government taken to ensure greater transparency in public, private partnerships?

### Mr. T. Haroon (The Minister for Finance):

We believe in transparency in the Government. We believe in freedom. Therefore, we have strengthened the freedom of information laws. We make sure that all information that the Government can circulate among the public is put online so that people can go and look at it. We are also showing that we consult with citizens and stakeholders at every stage of our law and decision-making so that they are consulted and they know the proposals that we are going to discuss.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Are there any supplementary questions for the Minister for Finance on this subject? If not, we shall move on to question 9, by Megan Laflin to the Minister for Health.

### 2.9 Ms. M. Laflin of the Minister for Health regarding ...

My question is: what does the Government propose to do about the burden on emergency services caused by the lack of accessibility to appropriate care for community members? **[Approbation]**

### Mr. A. Stewart (The Minister for Health):

Thank you for the question. Currently the Government plan to employ better knowledge of disease spread prevention. Disease spread prevention for individuals in the community to know how to handle disease better and to avoid burdening the emergency systems by not waiting until it is an emergency.

### 2.9.1 Mr. A. Forgay:

Now, the Minister for Health just stated that we could unburden the healthcare system if people did not wait until it was an emergency to get help. However, maybe they are waiting for emergencies because of the fact that they cannot afford to go to their G.P. in the first place. So my question would be does the Minister for Health not think that providing healthcare at the primary level would, in fact, lead to less disease spread and less of a burden on our services? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. Stewart:

Thank you for your question. So I am guessing you are also missing the point that typically universal healthcare does add wait time for people seeking physicians. So you are unburdening one system to burden a new one. You have not created a solution to the problem and you have not found something that the people want. We have to figure out what the people want and not what you and the Opposition would like as a political place. **[Approbation]**

### 2.9.2 Ms. K. Weaver:

Could the Minister for Health please tell us then, in this Minister’s perspective, would seeing a G.P. once a year help detect a heart problem that could eventually become a problem or would be reading disease prevention help detect a heart problem that would then result in emergency services?

Mr. A. O’Neal:

Point of clarification. I am just clarifying whether the purpose of this question time is to ask for the opinions of the Ministers or to ask policy-based questions of this administration? **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I am sure the Minister will answer the policy position rather than any personal opinion. Or he can do both if he wishes, of course.

Mr. A. Stewart:

Can she repeat her question?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes. Would you repeat the question please, Ms. Weaver?

Ms. K. Weaver:

So the original question was about emergency services. So my question is, something that would warrant an emergency service being employed, such as a heart problem, is that more likely, from your Minister for Health's perspective and education, to be detected by a once a year visit to a G.P. or by reading disease prevention that you guys plan to employ?

Mr. A. Stewart:

Thank you for your question. Based on what you stated emergency situations, such as ... due to heart disease, can be missed during a G.P. visit. So either way you put it that could employ emergency services, correct? Typically it cannot be ... yes, this is ... So at this time I choose not to answer that question.

### 2.9.3 Mr. C. Phillips:

Can I ask the Minister for his views on the comments of the Ambulance Drivers’ Union, the Medical Council and the Paramedics Association; all these bodies are on record as being under enormous stress. What is his view on this? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. Stewart:

I am not sure if that was a question, but the Government stands by that we appreciate the services of all the hardworking men and women who contribute to make Commonwealthland the beautiful country it is and we appreciate everything that is done and we support them in the fullest. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

A final supplementary on this subject to Mr. John.

### 2.9.4 Mr. B. John:

With all due respect to the Minister for Health, the question was talking about accessibility. The outline in the Lieutenant Governor’s speech talked about accessibility. So what are you doing as Minister for Health to make healthcare more accessible? We know what the problems are. Mr. Forgay over here has got a newspaper article which he could display now if possible outlining the cancer cases could go up. We know the skin care situation is also deteriorating under your ministerial shift so what are you doing, practical proposals, not wishy-washy answers? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. Stewart:

Once again, not really a question but ... the article he is referring to is about cancer so I am not really sure how that falls under emergency services. At this time I have no answer for that.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Okay. We will now move on to the next question which ...

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order. Yes, Mr. O’Neill.

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Can I suggest that given that the majority of questions seem to focus on the upcoming health debate that we just move on to that to get more business?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I said we will have questions until about 2.00 p.m. then we shall move on to public business and I am going to stick to that. The tenth question is to be asked by Ms. Lowe, again to the Minister for Health.

### 2.10 Ms. L. Lowe of the Minister for Health regarding ...

This is to Adrian Stewart, Minister for Health. What are the Government doing to combat the documented increase in serious skin conditions in school children?

### Mr. A. Stewart (The Minister for Health):

Thank you for your question. Currently the Government are first and most importantly trying to identify the cause of this as well as educating not only the children, the staff of the schools and parents on how to prevent the spread of these diseases, as well we have released a statement recommending parents who notice that their children are currently displaying symptoms of this rash not send their children to school to prevent the spread. **[Approbation]**

### 2.10.1 Mr. A. Forgay:

Now, disease prevention is something that is often ... sorry, diseases are something that often presented by a simple trip to the doctor’s office, especially among children.

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order. Is there a question?

Mr. A. Forgay:

Yes, there is, Mr. Shaw.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Shaw. That will be my decision, Mr. Shaw.

Mr. A. Forgay:

Thank you very much, Mr. Presiding Officer, for that ruling. The Minister for Health just admitted that children are missing class time and missing school time because they are coming down with these diseases. Does he not think that is an issue and does he not think that we should change the health policy of the Government before children miss more time of their valuable education? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. Stewart:

His point has been noted. **[Laughter]**

### 2.10.2 Mr. M. Burke:

My question is for the Honourable Mr. Stewart. Before when asked around the cause of the skin contagions you said: “We are still working on understanding the cause for that.” My question to you is ... and I put it to you this: have you read the report that was released last year pertaining to the skin conditions where it was confirmed that it was due to the cost of seeing a doctor? **[Approbation]**

Mr. A. O’Neal:

On a point of privilege.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of privilege?

Mr. A. O’Neal:

Yes. It seems that this session ... a lot of Members are referring to some reports or newspaper articles, documents that we were not privy to. I do not know if it is factual or if he can make it a document of the House.

[14:00]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

If the Minister has not seen the document referred to he can state that, and if he has not seen it, it is very difficult for him to comment on it, but that is a matter for the Minister. Minister, did you want ...

Mr. A. Stewart:

Can he please repeat his question again?

Mr. M. Burke:

I am getting quite good at this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your comments, Mr. Stewart, before whether ... we are still trying to understand the cause of the skin condition and I put it to you that you have not read the report from 2017 provided to us in the facts that says the skin condition is being caused by the inability for children to go to the doctor.

Mr. J. Meissner:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order?

Mr. J. Meissner:

The Honourable Member did not rephrase his question as a question. It was a statement that he put to the Minister.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

No. I think it was recognised as a question. The question, I think, Minister, was: have you read the report referred to by Mr. Burke?

Mr. A. Stewart:

Thank you, Presiding Officer. The report does states that it is due to individuals not going to the doctor but that is not how diseases work. Diseases are spread either through viruses, bacteria or fungus. Our department is in charge of figuring out; is it by a virus? Is it by a bacteria? Not by “if it is because someone did not go to the doctor”. **[Approbation]**

Male Speaker:

Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. A. Stewart:

That is my ... I am speaking now.

Male Speaker:

Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. A. Stewart:

My point is that ...

Male Speaker:

Point of privilege.

Mr. A Stewart:

... I have not been stopped by the Presiding Officer.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Please let the Minister finish his answer.

Mr. A. Stewart:

Thank you very much. My point is that my ministry is in charge of knowing what is the cause; not the choices of individuals but how is this disease being spread and by what.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

It is now 2.00 p.m. so I declare question time duly completed. I would like to say we have done extremely well to get through just over half the questions. We have had 10 questions and, if I may, from the Chair, congratulate the Minister for Health on dealing with nearly all of them.

Mr. A. Sogomonian:

Point of order. Mr. Chair, I just want to point out a contravention to rule 11. It is very important for me to state the facts here because what has happened is quite unfortunate. I did not, at any time, during proceedings today make any accusations against the Minister for Health. Yesterday, by the deadline of 5.00 p.m., I lodged a question with the Greffier about the Government’s policy on cannabis. The question included on the Order Paper had absolutely nothing to do with the allegations that appeared in the newspaper this morning. I provided a document to the House. It clearly states that the article was written by Anna Rado. I provided information to the House ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

What is your point of order?

Mr. A. Sogomonian:

The point of order, Mr. Chair, relates to the comments that Mr. Shaw made. He stood up during question time and he stated that he had something. He made a direct allegation against me stating that I had murdered children. Those were his exact words, which is a contravention to rule 11 which states: “Expressions which are unparliamentary include those that involve an accusation of false motives, the suggestion of misrepresentation or falsehood and abusive or insulting language.” I therefore ask for a ruling that Mr. Shaw withdraw those remarks.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

You are absolutely correct. Will you withdraw those comment?

Mr. M. Shaw:

No, Mr. Presiding Officer, because there is no evidence that I wrote these allegations. I just wanted to circulate them as did the Honourable Member Mr. Sogomonian.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Will you withdraw any allegations that you may have made or may have been made regarding Mr. Sogomonian having murdered children?

Mr. M. Shaw:

Mr. Presiding Officer, I withdraw my comment. **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you very much. **[Approbation]** Right, we will now move ...

Mr. J. Reid:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order, Mr. Reid.

Mr. J. Reid:

It appears to me that it is the objective and mandate of some of the Members to upset the proceedings which are to assist us in better serving our constituents. **[Approbation]** May I ask that you rule more diligently and assert your authority in fullness, in absolute power to prevent this from happening much longer?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I do apologise if Members of this Assembly do not feel that I have been firm enough **[Laughter]** with them. I have done my best but of course it was a robust political debating chamber and therefore there will be some strong exchanges from time to time and, well, we have got to live with that as politicians, but thank you for your comment, Mr. Reid.

# PUBLIC BUSINESS

## 3. Health Proposition

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Can we now, perhaps, move on to Public Business and the ... if we have time at the end we will continue with the questions but the first item on the agenda is the health proposition in the name of the Opposition and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is of the opinion that, (a) primary healthcare should be provided free at the point of access to all children and to adults living in households with an annual income under £50,000 and at a 50 per cent discount to adults living in households with an annual income under £85,000; (b) the Minister for Health should bring forward the legislation necessary to provide free or discounted primary healthcare by July 2018 and the Treasury Minister should provide the necessary funding for the remainder of the current Medium Term Financial Plan from the contingency reserve; (c) Ministers are requested to develop proposals to bring primary care fully into the public sector and to publish those proposals for consultation no later than July 2018.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. de Garis, who will be speaking for the Opposition?

Mr. P. de Garis (Leader of Opposition):

I think it just must be said that the importance and relevance of this proposition is extensive and far-reaching and as such I think it is opportune for my Shadow Minister for Health to lead the proposition on this one.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That is Mr. White.

### 3.1 Mr. B. White (Shadow Minister for Health - rapporteur):

Well, what an afternoon. Look, I ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

You should be sitting here.

Mr. B White:

Yes. Who would have thought? I had some brief points that I wanted to talk about. I wanted to keep it short. I wanted to keep it sweet. But there are a few things I would like to address post-question time about some comments made by the Government, in particular the Minister for Health. There was a discussion of educating children around the importance of proactive health measures. I have been kind of baffling in my mind as to what this Government could provide with any integrity on their part in terms of educating young people and the only thing that I can get through is that your wealth status completely directly contributes to whether you are able to access healthcare or not. That is the only thing that you could hold with any integrity that you would be able to pass on to these young people. The second point is around the economy. We have had discussions over the last few days around how healthcare just is not accessible at the moment. We have discussed that. Yet the Government said: “Look, it is not an option at the moment. We need to think about our economy and get our economy to a place where it is viable to look at a national healthcare system. As briefly mentioned before, the Commonwealthland Government, when you look at G.D.P. (gross domestic product) per capita sits in the top 35 in the world. It sits around the likes of countries like Australia. It sits above the country of New Zealand by 2, a country that has a nationalised health service that is flourishing. It is supported bipartisanly in that country. So I guess my confusion is around: what is the Government waiting for in terms of the stance in their economy? Where does their economy need to sit? Where does it need to be in order for you to look at that as a viable option? Do we need to wait until we strike oil? Do we need to wait until we do that ... we are the lengths of Qatar. Is that what we need? Because for me and our party, following the voices and the reports that we have got, that we have all got, that we have all received, saying that healthcare is not accessible. People are not getting the services they need. I look at that and I see that as a priority. Not growing our economy to the point where there is this big world player ... I care more about looking at the needs of the people that live in Commonwealthland than having filthy rich people that live there. I want to be rich in life not dollars. Mr. Jevon Reid, that smile is very encouraging. **[Laughter]** A point I would like to bring up and I think that it is something that we need to discuss early on and that is, what is the role of a government? It is something that is quite subjective to a point. We can all look at, you know, what do we think the role of a government is? We have heard over the last few days it is about representing the people. It is something that has resonated with me and a lot of Members in my party quite well. So I guess when I look at that I thought, what is it? It is to provide for the people. It is to provide opportunities for them to develop, grow and flourish for this country and the people of it to flourish and grow together. It is to uphold the rights of the individuals that live in Commonwealthland, not just those with big pockets. I guess it brings me then to my conscious and moral obligations. I guess my moral compass is where I have gained those views on what the role of the government is. Very briefly, in terms of that I just want to say ... look, I have mentioned it briefly before. This is not a discussion of about being conservative or being progressive. It is quite simple. There is a right thing to do and there is a very wrong thing to do. **[Approbation]** A personal value I hold quite dearly, and I believe has gotten me relatively well, it has gotten me here, has been my emphasis on empathy and being empathetic to people of all levels of all races, religions, socioeconomic standing, their beliefs ...

Mr. A. O’Neal:

Point of order.

Mr. B White:

Very welcomed, Mr. Speaker.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Well, if it is a point of order; a point of order requires a ruling from the Chair. Mr. O’Neal, your point of order is?

### Mr. A. O’Neal:

The Member is in contravention of rule number 29. He is currently at 3 minutes and 36 seconds and counting and the minute should not be minutes and ...

Mr. B White:

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to sum up in 2 more sentences.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The ruling I think says “should” and I am prepared **[Approbation]** to be a little more considerate, particularly with a proposal rather than somebody speaking to a debate because, in many ways, that is the most important speech as indeed is the summing up. Will you please continue, Mr. White?

Mr. B White:

Again, it shows a priority of the Government. Do we want to talk about the people? Do you want to talk about the needs of the people? No, not at all. No, let us get stuck in the fine print. Do not worry about the people. We do not need the people. That is not why we are here. We are not here about the people. **[Approbation]** We have the economy. Let us grow the economy. No. Anyway, so my discussion on empathy, Mr. Speaker. I would ask everyone in this room attempt, possibly for the first time ever, to put yourself in the shoes on the someone else, someone that may not have the privileges that some of us in this room have had. There are some with very different experiences than what we have had. Put yourself in the shoes of those people, the people that need assistance, not the people that do not. The people that need it. Put yourself in their shoes. Vote accordingly. There is a right thing to do and a very wrong thing to do. Be on the right side of history. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Is the proposition seconded? **[Seconded]** Seconded by Mr. de Garis. Before we continue would someone like to propose the défaut be raised on Ms. Kowtuah?

Male Speaker:

Moved.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

As proposed. All those in favour please show.

## 3.2 Health Proposition (Amd 4)

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

There are a number of amendments and the first amendment to be dealt with is amendment number 4 in the name of the Voyageurs and I ask the Greffier to read the amendment.

The Greffier of the States:

(a) In paragraph (a), after the words “all children”, insert the words “, persons over the age of 65 years, ”. (b) After paragraph (b) insert the following new paragraph (c): "(c) a person is eligible to be covered by this proposition from 6 months after they become a resident of Commonwealthland."

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Who is speaking for Voyageurs?

### 3.2.1 Ms. S. Gwynn:

I am. So, the House, we lodged these amendments in good faith but however the Voyageurs are concerned about the recent developments that have occurred today. We are feeling that our confidence in our confidence and supply agreement is waning. The Government is not supplying any confidence to us. We are now going to push harder for these amendments for the voices of the minority. In regard to these amendments we want to be more inclusive for those who are vulnerable. The first amendment is that we will make sure that those vulnerable elderly who are over 65 will be able to access primary healthcare for free. This is a great benefit and great opportunity for the House to ensure that our elderly are looked after **[Approbation]** especially because the average age of Commonwealthland is over 45. A lot of people will be able to access primary healthcare for free. The second issue is that those who are recent migrants currently cannot access hospital treatment and prescriptions for free. We are now proposing in this amendment that primary healthcare will be able to be provided to those migrants who have lived here for 6 months. Currently it is 2 years and we are hoping that that can change to 6 months so that those who are vulnerable recent migrants can access primary healthcare. We hope that you can all support our amendments.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Is the amendment seconded? **[Seconded]** Thank you, Mr. White. Does anyone wish to speak on the amendments?

### 3.2.2 Mr. K. O’Neill:

I rise in support of amendment (a) put forward by the Voyageur grouping, which would ensure that our older people can live in dignity and with the security of free healthcare.

[14:15]

I think, once again, that shows that the Opposition are floundering and that they cannot even think to support our older people, people who have contributed to society all their life. The fact that they were not willing in their initial proposition to provide this provision and the Government are in full support of this. My friend from the Voyageur group just referenced their second amendment. In terms of ensuring that the provision of healthcare outlined in the proposition would apply to individuals who have been resident in Commonwealthland for 6 months is not economically feasible. In an ideal world this would be great. However, I reiterate the fact that it is not economically feasible and the Government will not be able to support the second amendment made out by the Voyageur group.

### 3.2.3 Mr. A. Forgay:

I am slightly confused by the Government Whip’s comments on how we are somehow not supporting this amendment or the implication that we do not support universal healthcare to people. We have a government that have explicitly stated that they are against the universal healthcare programme and that they do not think providing health to anyone is a good idea. So we are presenting our overall motion to provide healthcare to children as a beginning point but we are more than happy of the Government is willing to provide it to people over 65 as well and we are glad that they are finally coming around and happy to supply healthcare to people of Commonwealthland, which is what the whip just said. **[Approbation]**

### 3.2.4 Mr. M. Burke:

I would just like to refer to Mr. O’Neill’s comments before. I understand that you are seeking to look after those above the age of 65 and not new residents and not new members of our community. I would just like to know what the Government’s logic was there?

### 3.2.5 Mr. B. White:

Very briefly, I would just like to offer my support of the amendments. Believe it or not, when we talk about universal healthcare that does not stop at 65. I move the amendment of the Voyageurs; we have had discussions, and we are in absolute agreeance with the Voyageurs Party. It is great. We welcome the idea of looking after marginalised communities, hence why it was in our questions that were held back with some other ridiculous ones previously. But again, rising in support, all for the amendments, it is great, we care about the people of the Commonwealthland and we would like to see it pass. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Does anyone else wish to speak on the amendments? In that case I ask Ms. Gwynn to sum-up please.

### 3.2.6 Ms. S. Gwynn:

I would just like to thank the House for their support in the first amendment. In regards to the governance comments against the second amendment, these migrants are contributing to our economy; they are a part of our society. It seems ridiculous that we cannot provide them free healthcare, well not free healthcare, if they earn under a certain amount to have free healthcare **[Approbation]** so that they can be contributing to our society and keep the economy going. So I would just like to thank the House for the support on the first amendment and I strongly hope that the House can support the second amendment. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

There are 2 parts to your amendment. How would you like them both to be taken?

Ms. S. Gwynn:

Together.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Together, okay. So I ask the Greffier to open the voting. Have all Members had the opportunity to vote? I ask the Greffier to close the voting. I can announce that the amendment has been adopted: 44 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions. [INSERT VOTE TABLE] **[Approbation]**

## 3.3 Health Proposition (Amd 3)

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now move to amendment 3 in the name of the Opposition and I ask the Greffier to read the amendment.

The Greffier of the States:

(a) In paragraph (a), substitute the figure “£50,000” for “£45,000”; (b) delete existing paragraph (b) and substitute with the following “(b) the Minister for Health should bring forward the legislation necessary to provide free or discounted primary and mental health care by November 2018 with the acknowledgment of a formal policy evaluation and review to take place in November 2019”; (c) delete existing paragraph (c) and substitute with the following, “(c) the government should introduce a 20 per cent tax on the sugar content of soft drinks, levied on retailers, to partially subsidise the costs directly associated with this proposition”.

### 3.3.1 Mr. B. White (Shadow Minister for Health):

Look, there have been some late nights, some early mornings, over the last few days working with a really dedicated team on our side to try to develop the best possible system to put forward to the people of Commonwealthland. We wanted to be well-rounded about this. We wanted to look at where were the holes in the initial idea, where have they been elsewhere around the world, where can we get evidence-based support to get a universal healthcare system that is for the people. The first part of the amendment is to substitute the figure of £50,000 down to £45,000. Now, the ideology of this was our stance from the get-go is we want to supply this to people that need it. The average household income in Commonwealthland is £45,000 of thereabouts. So we want to provide this to people that do not meet that; that are sitting below the average. Not only is this backing our idea of supporting the people that need it, it is going to bring the initial costs associated with this down. We have run initial numbers, I do not want to mislead the house, but this will bring it down by up to £250,000 annually.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order?

Mr. A. O'Neal:

I was trying my best not to interrupt the Member again but the Member, I cannot say if is he wilfully misleading the House, I would not impugn his character like that, but the evidence suggests that he is not telling the truth about the average income of the Commonwealthlander. In the same statistics provided, it is £35,000 per person, so if he was misleading this House, I would not sure if he would mislead the House about any other statement.

Mr. B. White:

I am happy to address that, Mr. Speaker.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

You are suggesting, Mr. O’Neal that the Shadow Minister accidentally misled the Assembly.

Mr. B. White:

I am very happy to address that.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, please address it.

Mr. B. White:

Possibly you do not seem to listen to anyone from this side, so what I will do is I will get your very competent Minister for Finance to explain the difference to you between average household salary and G.D.P. **[Approbation]** I will not get into that. Very happy for you to understand the difference between G.D.P. per capita and average household salary. I do not think we should get into that now; we have enough to talk about, I think we have steered away from the point enough. Believe it or not, we are focused to get this done. Part (b) of our amendments is essentially rewording that holds a few elements to it, the first being we have added the addition of mental health into these proposals. We thought long and hard about the wording of this to ensure that we do justice to mental health and the mental health sector and the people that suffer with these issues every day. **[Approbation]** I am sure all of us at some point have known someone, or within ourselves, struggled with mental health issues and we know sometimes the barriers that exist between us and accessing the services that we need. Hence why the wording is, we do not want to have it as a separate amendment, we do not want to downgrade mental health in terms of primary health, it is primary and mental health. We need to stipulate it because we want you to know it is important, but as far as we are concerned that should be primary health services. That is important, so hence the addition of that. **[Approbation]** We have noted the date change as well, so we had originally in there July 2018. The people who were working on this proposal come with vast experience in working on projects, granted in other countries, of a large scale, implementing projects and understanding how long this can take to do it properly. We want to ensure that this is not just about putting something on paper; we want something that is sustainable; we want something that is going to last. We want future generations to look back and go: “We were able to access healthcare because they did it right; this Parliament did it right.” So we have looked at November, we think it is more than reasonable to have that on the table by the last sitting of the year, late-October we are happy to see that happen. We want to be realistic, we want to give time to do it properly. We have also put in there the addition of a formal policy evaluation and review to take place in November 2019. The key to anyone who has ever implemented projects on a large scale, a mid scale, even on a small scale, is understanding the process of realising an issue, determining a solution, reviewing and assessing and going around and around that cycle. Things change, we need to review, we need to make sure we get it right. I am very close to being a perfect person, Mr. Speaker, but I understand I am not quite there yet, nor do I believe this party or this proposal is, but this is where it starts, this is where it begins, a formal policy review will allow us to find where the holes are, plug them, do it for the people. Finally, we understand the financial aspect of this is important and, believe it or not, not spending money does not solve the problem either. But we also understand that sourcing the financial resources for this programme is important and it is going to be integral in the foundation and the implementation of it. We have removed the part that says we wish to pull directly from contingencies fund to fund between now and what was July 2018. We do not believe that is a proactive and an efficient way to implement this project. We are happy to say November is the date where it starts, we do not need a back-paying process. What we would like to see is us spend that time to find the money, which we have already partially funded through our amendments, and make sure that it is done properly and it is done sustainably. The final, and I want to argue one of my favourites, believe it or not tax is not the dirtiest word in the world, as would be suggested by the Government. So the third part is the Government should introduce a 20 per cent tax on the sugar content of soft drinks levied on to retailers to partially subsidise the costs directly associated with this proposition. I am not an idiot, Mr. Speaker, I understand ... **[Laughter]** Good laugh, I believe G.D.P., salary, anyway. So if we look at that, the mention of levied on retailers does not always work. It does not always work perfectly and I am not going to deny it and say: “Yes, yes, it is perfect, it is perfect.” No, no, no. But I also want to draw examples to other places around the world where this has worked. The purpose of this tax has worked and it has worked well. So there are places where we look at the U.K. (United Kingdom), granted there has been some pushback, so we thought we would look elsewhere. Hungary, Ireland, Norway, 3 more countries quite close by, in means of where I am from, where this has not only worked, this has not only brought in money, which has then been able to put into health promotion and a sufficient health system, it has also then in time reduced the amount of people that are consuming sugar-content drinks, consuming junk, so I guess the argument then coming forward is that funding now, which we have estimated to be, again based off all these principles around the world, including Colombia, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, one of those economies that we aspire to be once we strike oil, is that it does cut off ...

Mr. T. Haroon:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes.

Mr. T. Haroon:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our honourable colleague just mentioned that the countries are close by from where he came from. I always assumed that the Shadow Health Minister was from Commonwealth country and now that new information has come to the House that, just like the laws we have, just like Australia, the dual nationals are not allowed to ...

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That is an interesting intervention but I do not really think it is a point of order and I do not think ...

Mr. T. Haroon:

Sir, I genuinely believe that he does not qualify to be a part of this Assembly, therefore I am questioning ...

Mr. B. White:

I am happy for us to go through my history, Mr. Speaker. I denounced my Australia citizenship when I became a citizen of Commonwealthland. But I do appreciate the concern of the Minister for Finance. Unlike many other Australian politicians that have been caught out, thinking ahead is also part of what this Opposition does. **[Laughter]** If I can head back though. I appreciate it; thank you for your concern. So this will, based off the figures of these evidence-based countries’ approaches, this can raise up to £1 million a year for this country based off the population. Oh, the sniggers, I love the sniggers, it is great. This is a huge proportion of the funding already based off this. Now the argument is, as people start to consume less we have a bit of a curve happening here, we are going to start making less money off it. I think we look at the rising productivity, the rising in the wellbeing of people, their ability to continue to work. We look at the investments that will be put in, in terms of building our health industry, the money that will bring in. It is going to even out. Looking forward to the future, preplanning, it is something we value, you guys should try it, it is great. These amendments cover all the holes that we can see at this point in time. I think we need to, like I said before, look long and hard into what we want to achieve here. This is not about playing politics; this is about getting it done, this is about providing for people. Vote accordingly. **[Approbation]**

[14:30]

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Are the amendments seconded? **[Seconded]**

### 3.3.2 Mr. B. Sawyer:

I just want to make a quick statement, Mr. Speaker. What I have seen here this afternoon between the Government and the Opposition is quite frankly very confusing to me from Government and I would just like to say that I would like to wholeheartedly announce that I am moving to the Opposition because I believe they are making much more sense and I believe that **[Approbation]** they are not being held hostage by the Voyageur Party, like the Government currently is, and I think it is an embarrassment and I just wanted to make that point. **[Approbation]**

Mr. T. Haroon:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, Mr. Haroon.

Mr. T. Haroon:

Yes. As you very well know, the Constitution has a defection law, which means that if the Deputy Prime Minister defects to the other side he is immediately de-seated and there are new elections, which are held in his place. **[Approbation]** Therefore I move that there is a stranger in the House and he should be removed from the House immediately.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

The new election will be called at the completion of this sitting. Mr. Persaud.

### 3.3.3 Mr. M. Persaud:

I just would just like to say words are the means to meaning, and for those who listen, the enunciation of truth. The truth is the Opposition was supposed to be the Government of this Commonwealthland. We have the necessary brains to carry this thing forward.

Mr. M. Montegriffo:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker, was the Government not elected as the Government for Commonwealthland? **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Montegriffo, that is not a point of order. A point of order requires a ruling from the Chair. That is an observation. Will you please let Mr. Persaud continue? Thank you.

Mr. M. Persaud:

Yes, Sir, as I was saying, words offer the means to meaning. They Minister for Health said that the people’s wants are greater than the needs earlier on. I would beg to disagree. When a child wants candy for breakfast, dinner and lunch, do we give it to them as parents? No. We have to sit down and think critically what is better for the people of Commonwealthland. **[Approbation]** I would deem the Minister for Health incompetent ...

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order, Mr. Chairperson. The Honourable Member has just broken the rules as listed in Section ...

Mr. M. Persaud:

I will withdraw it.

Mr. M. Shaw:

... expressions which are unparliamentary and which involve an accusation.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I am sorry. Mr. Persaud, please continue.

Mr. M. Persaud:

Okay, Sir, I will change my words. He does not know the correct selection of words, which is very troubling to me. This Assembly needs someone who knows the right policies. Right now we have a basic health system and we, the Opposition, are trying to make it better. We have amendments and policies to make this thing better. So I encourage everyone in this House to support it. **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.4 Ms. C. Piper:

Good afternoon everyone. Being a reasonable person and someone who is of the Government, as we preach common grounds, I do believe that the amendments that the Opposition and the Voyageurs Party has made are reasonable and, being a person of reason, I do support you but I am still for my Government; I am not going to switch. But I do support your amendments; I think they are workable and they are fair and I do hope that the rest of my colleagues are in support of this because health is very important as well. Since we have other things to think about and take into consideration, but, as we have mentioned, this is a proposition that we can still work on together. **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.5 Ms. A.L. Fraioli:

With reference to part 3 of amendment 3, our Shadow Health Minister gave some fantastic examples of the income that can be generated from the taxes proposed. However there is an even better example of the money that will be saved. There is a conveniently similar Island to Commonwealthland just across the water in Jersey and in that Island they are proposing introducing this and they have discovered that they will save £42 million on treating obesity, so that will also add to the income that we are generating. **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.6 Mr. P. de Garis:

As Leader of the Opposition, I struggle to have a prouder moment in my political career, short as it has been, as the way my party is functioning in such a unified dignified manner in this House today. **[Approbation]** At first I want to say thank you to my party. But moving on from that I think these amendments to our proposition just demonstrate how, as one of my colleagues was saying last night in our Caucus meeting, how this Opposition Party and what it is proposing here is in fact a demonstrable shift away from the reactive nature of this current Government and we are striding forward to provide a proactive attitude towards preventative structures that are designed to impact every aspect of every community, every individual, from the northern-most part of our rural Island to the most densely-populated areas within our town centres. I think, as Leader of this Party, and as a human being, I think I can certainly say that these amendments, if passed, will lead, not only to the betterment of people, but to the betterment of the Island, and for that I am definitely behind these amendments. **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.7 Mr. A. Forgay:

What we are seeing in these amendments is a true example of what governance should be. We propose something to make our citizens’ lives better, we heard the concerns from the Government, we heard the concerns from the Voyageur Party, and we attempted to address them. We heard the concerns that perhaps this was too financially irresponsible at the time, so we lowered the income that was necessary to get it and increased the tax to help us pay for it. We listened to what they said and we changed our minds, we changed the motion, and we are truly trying to do something co-operative with the Government. What we are seeing from the Government instead is obstruction, constant points of order on minute issues, and just not a willingness to co-operate and discuss, which is why we have seen some of the individual Members of the Government support the Opposition here today. These amendments are smart, these amendments are strong, and they will bring Commonwealthland forward, so we are so proud of the Opposition, thank you. **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.8 Mr. M. Montegriffo:

The Honourable Member Ms. Piper made an excellent point on the Government’s ability to seek common ground and to be a party that co-operates with all sides of the House. It is in that spirit that I hope people perceive this Bill. Contrary to what the Honourable Mr. Forgay mentioned, we are looking to co-operate and if this means working on amendments as well that is perfectly fine. Look, remember, House, that the Government was elected as the Government to lead this House. I am under no mandate about the universal healthcare because we are the common ground party we are willing to listen, we are willing to express concerns of the community.

### 3.3.9 Ms. T. Randall:

I want to talk to you about something that is very close to my heart and that is mental health, which is a big part of our amendment. The Mental Health Foundation U.K. says that suicide remains the most common cause of death of men aged 20 to 49 in the U.K., not too dissimilar from Commonwealthland. But we also have a population, which is ageing rapidly, many of which cannot afford private insurance on their pensions. While we must celebrate people living longer, we must also realise that our older constituents are the most vulnerable to mental health problems. Mental health issues know no bounds, they can affect anyone regardless of age and lifestyle. It is our duty as elected representatives to ensure that we have the safeguards in place to ensure sound mental health and wellbeing. Are we going to settle for basic or do we want better for the people of Commonwealthland? **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.10 Ms. S. Chapeshamano:

I would just like to encourage everyone once again to vote for this amendment because the Minister for Health stated earlier that we want to do things for the people, not for the Opposition, and I think universal health should be something that everyone wants, so as a Government let us think of the people, health is very important, it should not be a privilege, let us think of what the people want. Health is not a luxury; it is a necessity **[Approbation]** and as the Government let us do things for the people. The people want access to free healthcare and no one should feel excluded. **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.11 Mr. K. O'Neill:

It has certainly been an interesting 5 minutes. The amendments brought forward by the Opposition to their own proposition I think, while positive, shows a lack of awareness. For example, the first proposition I completely agree with and I welcome the fact that the Opposition have worked constructively and have brought this amendment forward. It would be more ideal if they had just been involved in the original proposition but common sense and the Opposition are 2 things that never tend to go together. **[Approbation]** The only thing I would say in reference to paragraph (b) of the amendment to the proposition is that the Government have lodged an amendment that will be voted on separately, I believe that amendment is stronger. Government Members will be voting against the Opposition proposition number 2. I will just end on this point, healthcare is something that affects everyone in this room, rich or poor, and everything else that we use to divide ourselves with. But one thing to remember is that Commonwealthland has an ageing population, more and more people are going to rely on healthcare services and the Government do not want people being sick, we do not want people to die, but what we do not want is an unsustainable method of nationalisation that means that we cannot pay for the services that people require. I am willing to have a discussion with an Opposition whip shortly after my contribution to discuss how best we can get this the best proposition, by listening to all people in this Chamber, that delivers. But we have to remember one thing, there is no point having a nationalised healthcare system if we cannot pay for it. Now one last aspect I will touch on the Opposition’s proposition is paragraph 3, which introduces a 20 per cent tax on sugar content in soft drinks levied on retailers. Now, first of all, as an advocate for Iron Brew, I do have issues with this. **[Laughter]** But I would also note, and I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Finance Minister have ever heard of an economic theory called the Laffer curve that when you raise taxes you reduce revenue. I am not saying that is universal but I think with a frankly idiotic tax on sugar drinks, which I admit are a health problem, but there are other things like tobacco tax, things that have a genuine impact on cancer rates and other things, once again the Opposition have not thought this through. All I would say is how do the Opposition intend on paying for a nationalised healthcare system if they are going to damage public finances? **[Approbation]**

### 3.3.12 Ms. S. Tiraa:

I speak on behalf of the Voyageurs and we are supporting amendment (a), also (b). I would just like to clarify whether this 20 per cent tax also includes the natural sugars in the juice content. Am I able to ask that question?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

When Mr. White sums-up he will tell us. Could I ask Members to bear in mind we have a number of amendments to debate plus the main proposition plus a further proposition in the name of Mr. Shaw. If you have nothing new to say please do not feel you have to say it. If you have something new to say, if you could keep it as short as possible please. Mr. Gillum.

### 3.3.13 Mr. J. Gillum:

So I am glad to support the Opposition amendment (a) to part 3. However, on part 3, the sugar tax, it has been tried and the impact is still questionable. A sugar tax tends to lead to 60,000 job losses in the industry and sugar plays a part of any normal diet, so why are we criticising something that is important. What is kind of interesting with this is that you find out that these sugar taxes hit the poorest of our people the hardest, the poorest 10 per cent pays 20 per cent of their income in tax and duties. Then also kind of forwarding further points, it also hits the Treasury because of inflation. It harms the pub trade. Then our retailers are businesses, they are not here to be some sort of social engineering project. Then I finally wish to make a remark on the Opposition Party. As we saw this morning in their media press conference, the Opposition has no clear understanding of what their party stands for. The 3 Ministers gave 3 different positions and they just have no idea what their intention is.

[14:45]

### 3.3.14 Ms. D. Noralez:

Good afternoon. Thank you for the privilege to speak. I would like to remind the House that our Minister for Health will have attended, in 2016, the Commonwealth Health Ministers meeting where there was a concerted commitment to work toward health security and access to universal health coverage; the theme of this meeting. For him to come back and speak against committing to something like this is disheartening. A feature of this meeting was climate change in relation to health development, a conversation I know our ethnic and rural communities can appreciate, given how sacred the natural resources are to their livelihood. We must reconsider our approach we have to dumping of nuclear waste or fertiliser run-off from our agricultural sector, the burning of garbage and the car emission footprint from our diesel cars, which are undoubtedly contributing to adverse effects of climate change, especially in relation to our water resources that are so important to our Island nation. As the human development report from U.N.D.P. (United Nations Development Programme) mentions, nothing that diminishes the rights of people and communities or jeopardises the environmental sustainability of the planet can be regarded as progress. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I do not wish to stifle debate and this is a good debate but, nevertheless, as I said before, we have got quite a bit of work still to do. Unless you feel very strongly, I intend to call one more speaker and then ask Mr. White to sum up. I will call Ms. Khatun.

### 3.3.15 Ms. K. Khatun:

Can I just reiterate everything my colleagues in the Opposition party have said? I would like to express my support for the Voyageurs and their amendments. As the closing comments for this particular debate, I would just like to reiterate that Commonwealthland, being wealthy, we can afford to introduce a healthcare system that is accessible to the non-wealthy. Pardon me. We have £8 million set aside each year for contingencies, why will the Government not use this to implement a fair and ethically just healthcare system? **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I call upon the Shadow Minister to respond.

### 3.3.16 Mr. B. White:

Again, I will keep it very brief. We heard that there was not a need for this and we proved them wrong. **[Approbation]** We were told that we could not find costs for it, in a day and a half we have covered nearly 50 per cent of it. I am more than happy to sit down and talk about how we are going to fund the remainder of it, more than happy to. To be honest with you, I think it is quite concerning that Mr. Gillum was more concerned about the pub trade than he was about the health of the people of this country. **[Approbation]** At the end of the day I would not be throwing stones at our Government and our position, considering your Members are running 2 hours in the middle of a session. Again, like I said before, this is going to happen. This is going to happen. People care about healthcare. People care about the people that live here. This has arrived, it is going to happen. Do not be on the wrong side of history, vote accordingly. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. White, there are 3 parts to your amendment, how do you wish to have them voted upon?

Mr. B. White:

We will take them all as one.

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Thank you. I ask the Greffier to open the voting. If all Members have had the opportunity of voting, I ask the Greffier to close the voting. Yes, that is interesting, I thought that was the case. It is interesting we have more votes than we have Members but that is … **[Laughter]** It is not going to make any difference to the result. I can announce that the amendment has been adopted: 29 votes in favour, 16 against and 5 abstentions. **[Approbation]** [INSERT VOTE TABLE] That means that the original amendment …

Mr. T. Haroon:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I question the transparency of the process where the vote is wrong.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, this clearly is a matter of some concern. The vote makes no difference to the result of the vote but we know that the rogue vote was an abstention, so it makes even less difference.

Mr. T. Haroon:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, the machines are not working, we do not know who pressed who, therefore …

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

No, I would disagree with you completely, Mr. Haroon. The machines are working far too well. **[Laughter]**

## 3.4 Health Proposition (Amd 2)

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

The result of that amendment means that the original amendment in the name of the Government have pulled away. A printing error on the agenda means that we now move to amendment 5 in the name of … sorry, amendment 2. I beg your pardon, okay, we move to amendment 2, I beg your pardon, in the name of Mr. Shaw and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

**The Greffier of the States:**

In paragraph (a), after the words “under £85,000”, insert the words “… where those consultations directly lead to a referral or a prescription.”

### 3.4.1 Mr. M. Shaw:

Very quickly, I would like to remind honourable Members of the Government that we were elected a Conservative Government and maybe in a world where I was from Australia and not from Commonwealthland, I would be a step left of Karl Marx but in this Chamber, as I am from Commonwealthland, I am a Member of the Government and I am a Conservative Member and I would like to remind all the other Members of the Government that you too are Conservative Members. **[Approbation]** Moving on to my amendment, in aligning with our Government’s commitment to increasing the social security net in an economically feasible way, I am pleased to present this amendment to the floor, which I believe kills both birds with one stone. Very quickly, firstly, I would like to explain because I know there is a bit of confusion about what the amendment means. What this amendment means is that any child, any person earning now under £45,000 a year or for 50 per cent under £85,000 a year who visits a G.P. (general practitioner), which would usually be their first point of contact in the primary healthcare sector, when they visit a G.P., if that consultation leads to a referral to another specialist or a prescription, the Government will be happy to cover the cost of this consultation. We know that contagious skin diseases are up 27 per cent in our schools. Under this model a parent could take their child to a general practitioner who would then recognise that this child has a rash, would prescribe the necessary antibiotic cream or refer them to a dermatologist, who could then investigate further. That is covered; 27 per cent of contagious skin diseases will drop under this model. What this Government will not cover is consultations that do not lead to referrals or prescriptions and there are factual reasons why that is. We know that in the U.K. (United Kingdom) under the N.H.S. (National Health Service) around 40 per cent of G.P. consultations do not lead to a referral nor a prescription. We know that there are 13.5 million wasted G.P. appointments each year. We know that this is costing the Government in the U.K. - got to get my maths right - £421 million every year. These are consultations that are unnecessary. They do not aid the patient because the doctor does not do anything in the end and all they result in is the doctor wasting their time on these consultations, when they could be spending that time with people with rashes or other serious health concerns. By not covering the cost of these pointless consultations in Commonwealthland, this will discourage people from going to their G.P., unless they have genuine health concerns. There are a couple of scenarios that, I know, one of which was brought to me by an honourable Member from the Opposition last night about a gentleman who might have a really bad cough and he is not going to go to and see the G.P. because he does not know if he has lung cancer or if it is just a bad cough. What we would recommend under this model is that this gentleman or gentlewoman with a cough could go to a pharmacy at no cost, have a chat to their local pharmacist, who is a highly-trained medical professional and could explain that they have a bad cough and that pharmacist could request an over-the-counter cough medicine. If that cough medicine works, which it does 9 out of 10 times, that person never goes to see a G.P., that person never takes up doctors’ time, that person never costs the Government more money. If it does not work though, that person can go see a G.P. and get a prescribed medication or be referred to a specialist, who can then investigate further and we would cover that. The upshot of this and the reason we are proposing it, once again, is because we are a Conservative Government and we care about limiting the tax and the spending of the Government and we can cut the cost of this proposition, intention the Government supports. We do want to increase our social security services for our vulnerable people but we need to do so in an economically, reliable, responsible manner. This can cut the cost by up to 40 per cent. I think we are at a really key point at this current time because we have an opportunity in the House, we have an amendment that speaks to all Members. The progressives to get behind it because it is a step towards a nationalised healthcare system. It is ensuring that the most vulnerable Members of our society are cared for. The Conservatives can get behind it because we are limiting the Government’s spending and we are ensuring that we are not recklessly spending. When Members of this Chamber not 2 days ago stood up and passionately expressed their willingness to work in a consensus-based approach, to work in co-operation with their honourable Members, I hope that there was substance to the sentiment and I believe that this amendment, that they put to the floor now, is the best way to encourage that and demonstrate that co-operative philosophy. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Is the amendment seconded? **[Seconded]** Thank you. So, to debate, Mr. Forgay.

### 3.4.2 Mr. A. Forgay:

Now, £40, £50 and ever rising is the cost of visiting a G.P. right now and for some of the most disadvantaged people in our community; that can make the difference between providing a meal for your children that week or going to the doctor. If you do not know for sure that that cost is going to be covered, you are going to stay home and use that money for something else because you do not want to risk losing a valuable part of your income. **[Approbation]** When presented with this scenario, the Honourable Member Shaw says: “Well, why not just wait a while, see if it goes away? Talk to your pharmacist, I am sure they will be happy to help you.” Quite frankly, that is not good enough. Although the Government has not done any research on health whatsoever and is quite negligent in that, the Jersey Stats Department has done some research and found that in their Island …

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker, we are not in Jersey, we are in Commonwealthland.

Mr. A. Forgay:

If you would let me finish, Mr. Shaw. They found that on their Island, which has a very, very similar demographic makeup to the island on which we are on, cancer rates are rising rapidly. In response to Mr. Shaw’s point of order I would be happy to use statistics from this island but his own Government has not researched health enough for me to have them, so we have to go with what the *Jersey Evening Post* reported on earlier today. Cancer is a disease like many others that is harder and harder to treat the longer and longer it is diagnosed.

Ms. C. Martinez:

Point of clarification.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Are you willing to give way, Mr. Forgay?

Mr. A. Forgay:

Sure.

Ms. C. Martinez:

Before, I think it was Mr. Sawyer who said that the increase of cancer in Commonwealthland stated in the news article but then now you are saying this in Jersey, so …

Mr. A. Forgay:

To be clear, I cannot speak for Mr. Sawyer but I think earlier he was talking about general trends the world over, not purporting them specifics, including those are obvious. Getting back to my point …

Mr. B. Sawyer:

I am sorry, point of order. I do not think I actually …

Mr. A. Forgay:

It was a rash, it was a rash. It is …

Mr. B. Sawyer:

Yes, I do not think I spoke on cancer. No, I do not think I have spoken as of … yes, thank you.

Mr. A. Forgay:

Regardless, back to my point about cancer. Cancer is a disease, like many others, that becomes harder and harder to treat the longer to wait to go see a doctor. If it is diagnosed in the later stage the chances of fatalities, the chances of serious health complications are much, much larger. Under my honourable friend Shaw’s proposed amendment, people will wait as long as possible to go see a doctor. They will wait, not when there is a 20 per cent certainty they will get a referral, maybe not when there is a 40 per cent certainty they will get a referral, maybe not when there is a 60 per cent chance that they get a referral; people who are on bare bones when it comes to finances are going to wait until they are 100 per cent sure and at that point it may be too late for many people in Commonwealthland. **[Approbation]** Mr. Shaw discussed working together and we are more than happy to work with the Government but we are not willing to put people’s lives at risk to do so. That is what this amendment does and for those reasons we firmly oppose it. **[Approbation]**

### 3.4.3 Mr. B. White:

I am sure you are all probably sick of the sound of my voice. I just want to clarify a couple of things, Mr. Shaw did say that the progressives could get behind his amendment. I could also step behind here and shave the Chief Minister’s head. Unfortunately, for everyone here I will not be doing either of those things. I think we are forgetting one quite important detail, just because you go to the doctor does not mean you are seeking a referral or a prescription. Let us talk skin disease very briefly, if I take my hypothetical son to the doctor, he has a rash all over him. He is irritated, he cannot sleep, it is itchy, it is hot, he cannot focus, he cannot go to school. I take him to the doctor, the doctor says: “You need an antifungal over-the-counter cream.

[15:00]

I have diagnosed this, it is a fungal infection. Happy for you to go and get that cream, no prescription required.” That person would leave and would not meet the requirements of Mr. Shaw’s amendment to be reimbursed for the fact that he has gone to the doctor. This would not have been thought and I am sure that me, as a hypothetical parent, I cannot pick what is a fungal skin disease and what is not. I think what you are doing here is you are setting limits to what people can get from a doctor. You are saying that people should go and get diagnosed with lung cancer from their pharmacist. I am not really going to get into that; I think that kind of speaks for itself. Again, this is about limiting people’s access to healthcare. People do not just get prescriptions and referrals, they get advice, they get diagnosed, they get supported. It is very funny, it is very funny to everyone in the House, is it not, Mr. Shaw? It is hilarious. Have you ever been in the position of not having the money to pay for healthcare for someone that you care about? I am sure you would not think it was so humorous. **[Approbation]**

### 3.4.4 Ms. A. McArthur:

I find this amendment a little bit bizarre. If this goes ahead this will mean that people are encouraged to pre-diagnose themselves before they go to see their G.P. The public are not medical professionals and I think it is, frankly, irresponsible to encourage people to do that. What happens if somebody tries to … probably cannot afford to go to the G.P. if they do not get a referral, do they look up the internet, their symptom and they decide they are probably okay? Later on down the line it turns out they did have something serious and they die of a terrible disease. How is the Government going to answer to that? **[Approbation]**

### 3.4.5 Mr. M. Burke:

It is hard to take lessons on moral authority or fiscal responsibility from the Member who proposes a Bill for the funding of his alcohol obsession. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

If no other Member wishes to speak, I will ask … Mr. Persaud.

### 3.4.6 Mr. M. Persaud:

As a Member of the Opposition, I am very concerned about this. For example, on a matter of accountability, this is a scheme that could easily be rigged. You are getting a prescription and go in and get free things. Any doctor can provide this. Suppose now they are getting drawbacks from it. This is very dangerous. Also, if you look at the bigger picture, we are spending more money on this model. This is not a feasible method. **[Approbation]**

### 3.4.7 Mr. J. Gillum:

I rise in support of this amendment, which probably does not surprise many Members. But I think Mr. Shaw makes a very fair point because pharmacists receive a high level of training. **[Approbation]** They have some medical expertise. But if we look at systems in the U.K., G.P.s are massively overstretched. **[Approbation]** There are issues with recruitment. This leads to a much further issue, I think it is not a comment that requires an answer but how would you even start to make being a G.P. in Commonwealthland the thing that G.P.s want to do and come and move here to come have a job where they are expected to work 7 days a week, 20 hours a day, let us say, just to be able to cover everything single patient that comes, when Mr. Shaw’s amendment proposes quite a sensible and middle-ground position?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I call on Mr. Shaw to reply. Sorry, Mr. Shaw, I …

### 3.4.8 Mr. M. Shaw:

There are just a few things I have noted down before I forget them all that I wanted to address, first of all, we were told that cancer is the only … this is just everything that is consuming this debate but I would remind the honourable Member that a person does not walk into a G.P.’s office, the G.P. stops, looks at him and goes: “Yes, bro, you have got cancer.” No, a person will express, they will say: “Excuse me, doctor, I have had a bad cough these last few days, I think there might be an issue.” The G.P. considers it and they go: “All right, my good sir or madam, I will refer you to a radiologist who will conduct a scan and can check for cancer.” In that exact scenario that would be covered by the Government. We have also been told that for skin rashes over-the-counter creams can be recommended … sorry, that only a G.P. can tell you this. But I would also remind the honourable Member who says that pharmacists get degrees in pharmacy, which is technically correct, cannot argue with that logic. Oxford University says of their pharmacy degree: “Graduates of pharmacy degrees work right at the heart of human healthcare taking on roles relating to the design and to the development of new treatment, prescription and care management and advising on the range of medical options available.” I know we are a very clever House and I think that a pharmacist, who graduates with this degree, would have the ability to recommend a cream for a rash. Moving on from that I would like to further echo the sentiment of my Honourable Member Mr. Gillum, about the facts that I brought to this Chamber. We have a lot of principle but the facts that I brought to this Chamber that G.P.s are being over-booked. They are dealing with appointments that are unnecessary and it is an issue that we need to address. It is an issue that is not being addressed by the Opposition. The Opposition said in their very own report that the proposition they put forward does raise a concern about the number of people who are going to be rushing to see G.P.s because it is free and that is going to even further overload the G.P.s. That was in their very own report that accompanied this proposition and yet they put forward nothing to address how this would be solved. This amendment does. This amendment strikes a centrist chord in this House, which I believe we seriously need.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now move to the vote and I ask the Greffier to open the voting. If all Members have had the opportunity to vote, I ask the Greffier to close the voting. The amendment has been lost: 17 votes in favour, 31 against. **[Approbation]** [INSERT VOTE TABLE]

## 3.5 Health Proposition (Amd 5)

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We move to the final amendment to this proposition in the name of Mr. Sogomonian and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

After paragraph (a), insert the following new paragraph (b): “(b) Primary healthcare should be provided free at the point of access to the Presiding Officer of the Commonwealthland Assembly” and re-number the following paragraphs accordingly.

### 3.5.1 Mr. A. Sogomonian:

Mr. Chair, I must say I have been quite tickled today because I have had more success with you today than I had the previous day, so I am quite pleased with that and I think that this is just a show of appreciation, if you will. I will be very brief. I think this is very simple. It is evident from proceedings this week that you have a tough and perhaps at times a testing job. The wellbeing of our Presiding Officer should be of paramount concern to all of us. Supporting this amendment will ensure that the incumbent and any future Presiding Officers will have access to a physician at no cost whenever needed. This will help ensure your physical and mental health, given that you must spend your days dealing with people like me. I will leave it at the simple fact that if Members have a shred of respect for you and the office of Presiding Officer that they will support this amendment. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Can I assure you, Mr. Sogomonian, dealing with people like you and, I think, especially you, I find extremely stimulating? **[Laughter]** Is the amendment seconded? **[Seconded]** Seconded by Ms. Harry. The amendment is open for debate. Does anyone wish to speak? Mr. T. Haroon.

### 3.5.2 Mr. T. Haroon:

I would just like to add that maybe we could reconsider and add the Members of Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet in it. **[Laughter]**

### 3.5.3 Ms. S. Gwynn:

I just thought I would raise my support in regards to this amendment. I think that being a Presiding Officer is kind of a health and safety issue. **[Laughter]** There is the strain of listening to Members, which leads to headaches and migraines and there may also be the issue of getting a hoarse voice from assuring that this House is in order. I support this amendment.

### 3.5.4 Mr. M. Montegriffo:

I was under the impression that the Progressive Party and the Opposition Party like to call themselves the party of the people and not the most wealthiest. I am unaware of the Presiding Officer’s wage, I will say that much, but am sure you are not the lowest and this strikes of hypocrisy from the Opposition bench.

### 3.5.5 Mr. A. Jeffers:

I think that we should also make an amendment or find it is necessary to not include the healthcare for the Members of Parliament but also mental care because I just think that we all have issues to work out. **[Laughter]**

### 3.5.6 Mr. A. O’Neal:

I just have one query with this proposition, I am just querying where will the money come from? To provide healthcare for someone that really can afford to provide healthcare for themselves earlier today or throughout this week. Did not even mention about providing social services for those most vulnerable and not necessarily those that can afford such services. It is kind of hypocritical of this House to then support a proposition, such as the one brought by the good gentleman, of this magnitude.

### 3.5.7 Mr. M. Persaud:

I beg to disagree. The word “vulnerable” was used and listening to some Government officials can make you vulnerable to a lot of health things. I think we should cover it. I think we should support this thing. **[Laughter]**

### 3.5.8 Mr. J. Reid:

While it is the case, may I suggest that you acquire the use of a hard hat because all this … **[Laughter]** It is ridiculous.

### 3.5.9 Mr. B. Sawyer:

I think the only thing that this amendment proves with the Government currently debating on it is they still have no idea where they stand on this amendment. They still have no idea where they stand on health and the only thing they think about is themselves and not the common ground and poverty. **[Approbation]**

### 3.5.10 Mr. K. O’Neill:

If I can appeal to the sanity of the Chamber, if it is still here. Given the parliamentary arithmetic and that the Opposition proposition, if amended, would provide reasonable healthcare to all citizens, of which you are one, that we allow this amendment to fall and that we can settle the final amended proposition as soon as possible. **[Approbation]**

### 3.5.11 Mr. J. Meissner:

I would just like to make a quick comment or observation and how much progress we have made throughout parliamentary history from our Presiding Officers and speakers, first fearing for their lives from angry monarchs to now being, potentially, given the privilege of free healthcare. I just find it quite astounding and wonder where are our Presiding Officers are going next?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I think it would be helpful if we could now ask for the debate to be responded to.

### 3.5.12 Mr. A. Sogomonian:

Mr. Chair, I just wanted to address that an access to information request did reveal that you do your work pro bono, so that is why I wanted to make sure that you were well taken care of. I also wanted to reiterate what I said earlier, that if Members have a shred of respect for you in the office of Presiding Officer they will support this motion. Lastly, I just wanted to very, very quickly … because I do not know if you will be here tomorrow during closing proceedings, I do not get an opportunity to speak anyway, I just wanted to leave you with a gift of a photograph that I believe we took earlier this week, that I hope finds a prominent place in your home, that I believe captures the wonderful friendship that we have developed over the past few days **[Laughter]** that I will be happy to leave it to you, as I exit the Chamber today. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, I know exactly where it will go. **[Laughter]** Can I ask the Greffier to open the voting, please? Have all Members had the opportunity to vote?

Ms. K. Hoyte:

He is trying to change my vote. I am sure that is against regulations. **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

I ask the Greffier to close the voting. It is definitely against regulations. I can announce that the vote is tied: 20 in favour, 20 against and 8 abstentions. On that basis, the proposition fails. On that proposition the amendment fails because it does not have … **[Approbation]**

## 3.6 Health Proposition - as amended

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now move quickly, I hope, to the main proposition, as amended. Does anyone wish to speak? Mr. O’Neill.

[15:15]

### 3.6.1 Mr. K. O’Neill:

I can totally understand if Members are absolutely sick of the sound of my voice. But obviously the Government has not had a great day. It has been a learning experience, to say the least; we have lost Members, we have gained a few Members. But what I would say is that, as the Chief Minister has highlighted every point of the way, this is a Government that listens, this is a minority Government in a Parliament that was elected by the people to influence their wishes. As a result, the Government will be supporting the amended proposition when it comes to a vote. Mr. Presiding Officer, you are going to indulge me, this is the last opportunity I have to contribute to the debate, so I would like to thank you, that diligently in which you have chaired the proceedings. **[Approbation]** To the Greffier and the States Greffe, who have provided group support and humour to the Whips and as well to our other staff and mentors who have all kept us on the straight and narrow. Of course, it would be absolutely remiss of me not to thank every single Member of the Assembly who has brought their experiences, their different cultures, their different opportunities and provided a very good debate. **[Approbation]** We have all been challenged, we have been tired and we are certainly all left a lot … and if my time in this Assembly can be remembered for one thing, other than my accent, I would like to share the words of man who was the first ever First Minister of a country not too separate to ours, called Scotland. I think the phrase applies quite well to this meeting. The words are: “We are fallible. We will make mistakes. But we will never lose sight of what brought us here: the striving to do right by the people; to better their lot; and (in the spirits of good old Scottish cheeriness) to contribute to the Commonwealth.” Thank you ... **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Thank you for your kind words, Mr. O’Neill, but we do still have one more item of public business to deal with, I hope. Does anyone else wish to speak on the proposition as amended? If not, I ask Mr. White if he wishes to sum up.

### 3.6.2 Mr. B. White:

As I said previously, this is going to happen. It has been on the right side of history. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now move to the vote and I ask the Greffier to open the voting. We are voting on the Health Proposition, as amended by the previous debates on the amendments. If all Members have had the opportunity to vote, I ask the Greffier to close the voting. The proposition as amended has been adopted: 39 votes in favour, 7 against and 3 abstentions. **[Approbation]** [INSERT VOTE TABLE]

## 4. Free Alcohol for C.Y.P. Members

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We move to the final item of public business in the name of Mr. Shaw and I ask the Greffier to read the proposition.

The Greffier of the States:

The Assembly is of the opinion to request that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, without restriction or limitation, agree to meet the costs of all alcoholic beverages purchased by Members of the C.Y.P. (Commonwealth Youth Parliament) for the remainder of the 9th C.Y.P.

Mr. J. Reid:

Point of clarification, Sir?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

A point of clarification already?

Mr. J. Reid:

Yes.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, Mr. Reid.

Mr. J. Reid:

If the honourable Members are concerned about the magnitude of things that you have to deal with? Is this necessary public business to be concerned about how Members consume alcohol? **[Approbation]** This is not a pub or a bar. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Reid, constitutionally, of course, any Member is entitled to bring a proposition before this Assembly. If there is time for a Private Members Bill to be debated, we have the democratic principles so to do. We only have about 10 minutes. I think if we allow Mr. Shaw to make his proposition, a few contributions and then they can give appropriate way.

Mr. M. Shaw:

Thank you.

Mr. J. Reid:

Pardon me, Sir, if I may? This is indeed a reflection of why the Government is in the position it is in.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Reid, we can allow Mr. Shaw to make his proposition. Mr. Shaw.

### 4.1 Mr. M. Shaw:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. I would very quickly like to point out the hypocrisy of an Opposition that legislates that: “Oh, yes, all the citizens who are the most needy will get health care” and then one Member who is not in a position will too get healthcare and then has the audacity for apparently putting my interests above the others. I would argue, Mr. Presiding Officer, I am representing the issues that matter to my constituents. Okay? **[Laughter]** Australia, the place I was, obviously, not born, but I have a spiritual connection to Australia. Our most successful Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, had the world record for sculling 2 and half pints of beer in 12 and a half seconds. **[Laughter]** Our love of beer runs in our blood. I do hope to pass this through very quickly, but there are a couple of things I wanted to speak out. Obviously, this House is here to debate the most serious issues: health care, housing, education, beer. **[Laughter]** We know that beverage prices in Commonwealthland are astronomical and on our meagre salary of £46,000 we cannot afford that. We also know that often alcohol can often be the only successful antidote to a day in this Chamber. We also know that the C.P.A. has the means to afford this, as per the 2016/2017 End of Year Financial Report. They have £1,183,109 in reserve. Now, admittedly £1 million of this is in contingency and I do not intend we use that. But, £183,109, *Jersey Evening Post*, a really, really serious organisation, did some ground-breaking into beer prices in Commonwealthland and found that the average pint is £3.64. Now, with £183,109, that is 50,304 pints. Now, among us, I know that is not even enough to get us through one of the Opposition leader’s tirelessly interminable speeches, **[Laughter]** let alone the end of the week, but I believe it is a good start, Mr. Presiding Officer. This is a serious issue. I would like to acknowledge the hospitality of the C.P.A. that we have experienced up until this point **[Approbation]** and I would like to acknowledge that this is not unheard of, the C.P.A. does provide some alcohol, just not all of it. I would like to once again propose this proposition that we unite as an excellent way to finish of 2 to 3 days of serious hard-hitting issues and finish with this issue, so we can all go to the bar tonight and we can all drink at their expense. **[Laughter]** I would also like to request, honourable Members, if we are going to say things, can we speak relatively quickly so we can move this through because the sooner we get this through the sooner we can hit those glasses of wine. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Just as a point of clarification, it is the Deputy Bailiff who is hosting the event this evening, so be gentle with him. Is the proposition seconded? **[Seconded] [Laughter]** Order, please. Order, please. We have about 8 minutes for this debate. At 3.30 p.m. I will ask Mr. Shaw to sum up in respect of the number of speakers we have.

### 4.1.1 Mr. A. Forgay:

I will be very, very brief. It is alarming to me, the audacity of this Government to propose such a hypocritical motion. **[Approbation]** When they vote against providing care to our children …

Mr. A. O’Neal:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order, Mr. O’Neal?

Mr. A. O’Neal:

Obviously, Government does not bring this proposition. It was brought in the name of Matthew Shaw.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes. You are absolutely right …

Mr. A. Forgay:

I shall rephrase. The audacity of a Minister for Health who is not willing to provide for our children, but is willing to second this motion is alarming ... **[Approbation]** Perhaps …

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Sorry, was that a point of order, Mr. O’Neill?

Mr. K. O’Neill:

The Government just voted for the amended proposition. I do not know why the Members feel that the Government is not willing to do this.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That is not a point of order Mr. O’Neill. A point of order requires a ruling from the Chair. You have just expressed an opinion. It is a very good opinion, I am sure, but that is not a point of order. **[Laughter]** Carry on, Mr. Forgay, please.

Mr. A. Forgay:

The bottom line is: what we are here to do, as Mr. Shaw, himself said, is represent our constituents. As much as Mr. Shaw wishes we were not for these cases, we are not each other’s constituents, we are the leaders of the people. That is what we should do: we should lead for them, not for us. **[Approbation]** Thank you very much.

### 4.1.2 Ms. T. Le Monnier:

I would just like to comment that I will be voting against this motion. I think it is disrespectful to the hospitality of both the C.P.A. and of Jersey for hosting. **[Approbation]**

### 4.1.3 Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

I also stand against this motion and the party does as well. We find that we have come so far from around the world to leave our hospitality of our own behind, as such a Member has done. We thank those who have organised this fantastic event and have taken the opportunity to …

Male Speaker:

Point of clarification?

Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

No, thank you. **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Do you wish to give way?

Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

No, I do not wish to give way.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Please continue.

Mr. J. Tualamali’i:

I wish that the Member would give way and withdraw his motion. **[Approbation]**

### 4.1.4 Ms. K. Khatun:

I think I speak on behalf of the majority of the room when I say it is rather quite frankly offensive to those who suffer addiction, religious, moral or personal choices to abstain from alcohol and remain tea-total. The C.P.A. money should not be spent on entertaining Commonwealth Youth Parliamentarians by providing free alcohol. Not only does this pose a threat to those who suffer issues of alcohol addiction, but I think it is a waste of money and resources of Commonwealthland. Our already stretched hospitals and public services do not need C.P.A. to potentially contribute to drunken, disorderly behaviour. Thank you very much. **[Approbation]**

Mr. K. O’Neill:

Point of order, Sir.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Point of order?

Mr. K. O’Neill:

I wonder if you could clarify what the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is. This is the Parliament of Commonwealthland.

Mr. B. Sawyer:

I believe we pay our dues to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Yes, as Members of the Assembly of Commonwealthland, we are Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Mr. Sawyer?

### 4.1.5 Mr. B. Sawyer:

Again, showing the confusion and complete lack of focus of the Government …

Mr. T. Haroon:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker? This is not by Government, this is by an individual Member.

Mr. B. Sawyer:

No, no, sorry, a Member of Government. Again, I think, as the Member said, he wants to put his interests above others and indeed the country. I think this undermines the incredible debate that we have been having over the past couple of days. Again, echoing my fellow Member, it is insulting to the Parliamentary Association and to Jersey, which has kindly given us this hospitality, and as we mentioned, has given us alcohol. Alcohol is not important. Alcohol does not equal a good time. I think again this is insulting and I will not be voting for this. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

### 4.1.6 Mr. A. O’Neal:

I cannot with good conscience support this Bill brought before us, nor can I ask myself to vote against the Bill. I believe that it should be left at the discretion of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a vote against this Bill would signal that we do not really want their hospitality and a vote for this Bill would signal that we are demanding of them to provide something that they really do not need to. I would implore all Members …

Mr. M. Shaw:

Point of order.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

If it is a point of order, Mr. Shaw.

Mr. M. Shaw:

It is a point of order. The honourable Member misled the house. The proposition states that we request that the C.P.A., not demand. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That is not a point of order. Mr. O’Neal is interpreting your proposition in a way he feels appropriate.

Mr. A. O’Neal:

I would implore all Members here to abstain on this particular vote and leave this decision at the discretion of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. **[Approbation]**

### 4.1.7 Mr. T. Haroon:

I wish to move that we should not vote for this. I am against this in the name of constitutional crisis, because what happens is, when I get drunk **[Laughter]** … so, when I am drunk I want to be the Chief Minister of this House. **[Laughter]** I like Mark. He is a wonderful guy, but I only like him when I am sober. **[Laughter]** As you have very well seen, the things that we do sober, imagine it will be much worse if we are all drunk. Therefore, I move that in the name of national security **[Laughter]** …

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Mr. Haroon, it will be of no consolation to you, but when I am drunk, I want you to be Chief Minister as well. **[Laughter]**

### 4.1.8 Mr. A. Sogomonian:

It is so lovely to see Mr. Shaw’s true colours coming out and him showing that he is indeed entitled to his entitlements. **[Laughter]**

[15:30]

At the closing of the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, the Premier, the Chief Minister at the time, read a Māori proverb: *He aha te mea nui o te ao, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata*. It means: “What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people. It is the people. It is the people.” We are the House of the people. We should not even be debating this. I will be voting against the proposition. I would quite frankly like to see the Member put his money where his mouth is. He said that we make a very healthy salary. I would like to see him buy us all drinks this evening. **[Approbation]**

### 4.1.9 Mr. P. de Garis:

I think I can speak for us all here. I think we can come to some sort of consensus here. If we all just turn our lights off so we can get this done and get a vote in. Cheers.

### 4.1.10 Mr. A. Jeffers:

I just want to say that I unfortunately cannot support this Bill and also: “Hi, Mum.” **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

As no other Member wishes to speak, I shall ask Mr. Shaw to sum up.

### 4.1.11 Mr. M. Shaw:

I guess there are a couple of things I just wanted to mention. The C.P.A. and the States of Jersey do already in some circumstances provide alcohol, so it could be argued that they are already encouraging alcoholism and drinking and this Bill is just an extension of their hospitality. It is a request of their hospitality, not a demand. Mr. Presiding Officer, I note that in this House, we have brought together 50 brilliant minds from all around the world.

Speaker:

Well, 49. **[Laughter]**

Mr. M. Shaw:

These minds are intelligent. They are respectful. They have excellent oratorical skills. But, the one thing I note Mr. Presiding Officer is that they all seem to lack a good old sense of humour. The responsibility of the parliamentarians is to represent their constituents and I am doing just that. At close, I expect I will be the only one voting for this proposition and I will be proud to vote for this proposition. I would remind you all that all the hard work that we have done over the last 3 days has been an educational experience, it has been an amazing experience. The friendships I will cherish for the rest of my life. But, it has been an entirely frivolous experience. None of these propositions will carry into legislation and neither will mine. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer and thank you, honourable Members. I will see you all at the bar tonight. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

We now vote on the proposition. I ask the Greffier to open the voting. Order. Have all Members had the opportunity to vote? I ask the Greffier to close the voting. I can announce that the proposition has been lost: 5 votes in favour, 35 against and 8 abstentions. [INSERT VOTE TABLE]

The Greffier of the States:

The 5 in favour: Mr. Shaw, Mr. Kasiba, Mr. Keiran O’Neill, Ms. Fraioli, Mr. Youde.

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

That brings public business to an end. Before we rise a couple of housekeeping matters. We are, as you are probably already aware, expecting heavy snow tonight. Well, heavy for Jersey anyway. So, we have reluctantly decided to cancel the trip to the castle tomorrow. We will aim to get you to the airport in good time for your flights, but I think, looking at the forecast, if it is correct, you can expect some disruption. A revised list of pick-up times will be on tables tonight, as we extend the time allowed to get you to the airport, because unless your flights are cancelled in advance it is important that you are there to check in on time. Those for the 7.05 a.m. flights tomorrow morning, will be collected, this is terrible, at 5.45 a.m. So, perhaps you should not drink too much tonight. This afternoon at 5.00 p.m. we have opened the Jersey museum for a private viewing for you, so I hope you will take advantage of that. Please meet in the lobby of the Pomme d’Or Hotel at 4.50 p.m. The museum is next door to the Royal Yacht Hotel. They are very close. For the closing dinner tonight the buses will leave the Pomme d’Or Hotel at 7.00 p.m. sharp. Anna was asking if you could fill out an evaluation form, which will be distributed to you now. We would be grateful if you would do that.

Speaker:

What is the dress code for this evening?

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Dress code, smart casual really. Finally, one more bit of ceremony. We have on the table the mace for this Parliament, the paddle. I would ask the Jersey representatives if they would come forward and pass the baton, in the form of the paddle, on to the Indian representative of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr. Michra, because India will be hosting this event next year. Mr. Michra, would you please accept the paddle from the Jersey representatives. **[Approbation]** Do you wish to say something? Mr. Michra will make a comment.

### Mr. S.R. Michra

Thank you for organising this event in short notice. I hope Jersey is able to do such events always. I have attended already all 3 events here. So, I have experience that Jersey is very much capable of doing this event on short notice. I am thankful to the colleagues of C.P.A. secretariat who have organised this event in this year. We are fortunate to have young participants from all over the Commonwealth participating for the last 3 days and participating passionately on the foreign issues and surprisingly they are still friendly. This is an encouraging sign of democracy, always the C.P.A. stands for. I hope all the participants will be participating in the 10th C.Y.P. to spread the message of friendliness. We encourage all the participants who fill the Indian democracy to briefly speak about our Parliament. We have 250 Members in the Upper House. In the Lower House we have 36 political parties. The largest one has about 280 Members. The smallest one is one single Member. This is the variety we have in our Parliament. Our men working in Parliament we are taught that when you are looking at a Member, do not go by hair or dress, just feel that 1 million people have voted for him. So, that you can work for him very much with interest. My speaker, the present speaker, Madam Sumitra Mahajan, always speak about her experience. Inside Parliament, as a Member, you hope to debate and make policies on issues, on sustainable government rule, women’s issues, banking issues, financial matters, electronic devices, everything, you have to make the policy. When you are going to your constituency you are an illiterate person. You have to attend the people’s demand, which are solving the water crisis, solving the sewer’s problem, all these things, even maternity issue, and the marital disputes. You have to attend the marriages also. As a Member of Parliament, you have such a large/broad scope of work. So, friends, I am inviting you to the 10th C.Y.P. to feel our democracy and enjoy there our hospitality. Thank you very much. **[Approbation]**

The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Members of the 9th Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly, our business for today is concluded and I look forward to seeing you this evening. **[Approbation]**

[15:42]