PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE: VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 18A(2)

Lodged au Greffe on 28th April 1998 by Deputy A. Breckon of St. Saviour



STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

in pursuance of Standing Order No. 47, to suspend paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 18A, and to agree not to consider the proposition (P.74/98) expressing no confidence in the Public Services Committee until such time as the President of that Committee is well enough to attend meetings of the States without endangering his health.

DEPUTY A. BRECKON OF ST. SAVIOUR

Report

The States, as a whole elected Senator V.A. Tomes as President of the Public Services Committee in December 1996 in a contested election.

Senator Tomes addressed the House on that occasion and after a ballot was duly elected on the basis of his policy objectives stated at that time. With such a serious proposition before the House I believe Senator Tomes should be afforded the same opportunity - that is to speak in person in his defence.

Should Senator Tomes be unable to attend due to health problems I do not believe the House should debate this serious matter.

Whether Senator Tomes retains the Presidency of Public Services is not the issue, whether he is given the opportunity to speak in person is.

Paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 18A (Propositions of no confidence) provides as follows -

"(2) Subject to Article 24 of the Law, the States shall debate a proposition of no confidence at the next meeting following that on which it was presented."

I am asking the States to suspend this Standing Order should Senator Tomes not be fit enough to attend the States meeting on 12th May 1998. If he is able to attend I will withdraw the proposition.