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Issue 2**



**Saturday
12th September, 1959**

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

**DEWAN RA'AYAT
(HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)**

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

**SPEECH OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
[Col. 28]**

**DRAFT STANDING ORDERS, DEWAN RA'AYAT:
Motion agreed to [Col. 35]**

**COMMITTEE OF SELECTION:
Motion agreed to [Col. 42]**

**CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:
Motion agreed to [Col. 46]**

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FEDERATION OF MALAYA

DEWAN RA'AYAT

(HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

Official Report

First Session of the First Dewan Ra'ayat

Saturday, 12th September, 1959

The House met at 11.20 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:

The Honourable Mr. Speaker, DATO' HAJI MOHAMED NOAH BIN OMAR,
D.P.M.J., P.I.S., J.P. (Johore Bahru Timor).

.. the Prime Minister, Y.T.M. TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA
AL-HAJ, K.O.M. (Kuala Kedah).

.. the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence,
TUN ABDUL RAZAK BIN DATO' HUSSAIN, S.M.N. (Pekan).

.. the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Commerce
and Industry, DATO' DR. ISMAIL BIN DATO' ABDUL
RAHMAN, P.M.N. (Johore Timor).

.. the Minister of Health, DATO' V. T. SAMBANTHAN, P.M.N.
(Sungei Siput).

.. the Minister of the Interior, DATO' SULEIMAN BIN DATO'
ABDUL RAHMAN, P.M.N. (Muar Selatan).

.. the Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications,
ENCHE' SARDON BIN HAJI JUBIR (Pontian Utara).

.. the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, DATO' ONG
YOKE LIN, P.M.N. (Ulu Selangor).

.. the Minister of Finance, MR. TAN SIEW SIN, J.P. (Malacca
Tengah).

.. the Minister of Natural Resources, ENCHE' BAHAMAN BIN
SAMSUDIN (Kuala Pilah).

.. the Minister of Transport, ENCHE' ABDUL RAHMAN BIN
HAJI TALIB (Kuantan).

.. ENCHE' ABDUL GHANI BIN ISHAK (Malacca Utara).

.. ENCHE' ABDUL HAMID KHAN BIN HAJI SAKHAWAT ALI
KHAN, J.M.N., J.P. (Batang Padang).

.. TUAN HAJI ABDUL KHALID BIN AWANG OSMAN (Kota Star
Utara).

.. ENCHE' ABDUL RAUF BIN A. RAHMAN (Krian Laut).

.. ENCHE' ABDUL SAMAD BIN OSMAN (Sungei Patani).

.. TUAN HAJI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI ABDUL RAOF (Kuala
Kangsar).

The Honourable TUAN HAJI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI MOHD. SALLEH (Segamat Utara).

- .. TUAN HAJI AHMAD BIN ABDULLAH (Kota Bharu Hilir).
- .. ENCHE' AHMAD BIN ARSHAD (Muar Utara).
- .. ENCHE' AHMAD BOESTAMAM (Setapak).
- .. ENCHE' AHMAD BIN MOHAMED SHAH (Johore Bahru Barat).
- .. TUAN HAJI AHMAD BIN SAAID (Seberang Utara).
- .. ENCHE' AHMAD BIN HAJI YUSOF (Krian Darat).
- .. TUAN HAJI AZAHARI BIN HAJI IBRAHIM (Kubang Pasu Barat).
- .. ENCHE' AZIZ BIN ISHAK (Muar Dalam).
- .. DR. BURHANUDDIN BIN MOHD. NOOR (Besut).
- .. MR. CHAN CHONG WEN (Kluang Selatan).
- .. MR. CHAN SIANG SUN (Bentong).
- .. MR. CHIN SEE YIN (Seremban Timor).
- .. MR. V. DAVID (Bungsar).
- .. DATIN FATIMAH BINTI HAJI HASHIM, P.M.N. (Jitra-Padang Terap).
- .. MR. GEH CHONG KEAT (Penang Utara).
- .. ENCHE' HAMZAH BIN ALANG (Kapar).
- .. ENCHE' HANAFI BIN MOHD. YUNUS (Kulim Utara).
- .. ENCHE' HARUN BIN ABDULLAH (Baling).
- .. ENCHE' HARUN BIN PILUS (Trengganu Tengah).
- .. TUAN HAJI HASAN ADLI BIN HAJI ARSHAD (Kuala Trengganu Utara).
- .. TUAN HAJI HASSAN BIN HAJI AHMAD (Tumpat).
- .. ENCHE' HASSAN BIN MANSOR (Malacca Selatan).
- .. ENCHE' HUSSEIN BIN TOH MUDA HASSAN (Raub).
- .. ENCHE' HUSSEIN BIN MOHD. NOORDIN (Parit).
- .. ENCHE' IBRAHIM BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (Seberang Tengah).
- .. ENCHE' ISMAIL BIN IDRIS (Penang Selatan).
- .. MR. KANG KOK SENG (Batu Pahat).
- .. MR. K. KARAM SINGH (Damansara).
- .. CHE' KHADIJAH BINTI MOHD. SIDIK (Dungun).
- .. MR. LEE SAN CHOON (Kluang Utara).
- .. MR. LEE SECK FUN (Tanjong Malim).
- .. MR. LEE SIOK YEW (Sepang).
- .. MR. LEONG KEE NYEAN (Kampar).
- .. MR. LIM JOO KONG (Alor Star).
- .. MR. LIM KEAN SIEW (Dato Kramat).
- .. DR. LIM SWEE AUN, J.P. (Larut Selatan).

The Honourable MR. LIU YOONG PENG (Rawang).

- .. MR. T. MAHIMA SINGH (Port Dickson).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED BIN UJANG (Jelebu-Jempol).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED ABBAS BIN AHMAD (Hilir Perak).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED ASRI BIN HAJI MUDA (Pasir Puteh).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED DAHARI BIN HAJI MOHD. ALI (Kuala Selangor).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED NOR BIN MOHD. DAHAN (Ulu Perak).
- .. DATO' MOHAMED HANIFAH BIN HAJI ABDUL GHANI (Pasir Mas Hulu).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED SULONG BIN MOHD. ALI, J.M.N. (Lipis).
- .. ENCHE' MOHAMED YUSOF BIN MAHMUD, A.M.N. (Temerloh).
- .. TUAN HAJI MOKHTAR BIN HAJI ISMAIL (Perlis Selatan).
- .. NIK MAN BIN NIK MOHAMED (Pasir Mas Hilir).
- .. MR. NG ANN TECK (Batu).
- .. DATO' ONN BIN JAAFAR, D.K., D.P.M.J. (Kuala Trengganu Selatan).
- .. ENCHE' OTHMAN BIN ABDULLAH (Perlis Utara).
- .. MR. QUEK KAI DONG (Seremban Barat).
- .. TUAN HAJI REDZA BIN HAJI MOHD. SAID (Rembau-Tampin).
- .. MR. SEAH TENG NGIAB (Muar Pantai).
- .. TUAN SYED ESA BIN ALWEE, S.M.J., P.I.S. (Batu Pahat Dalam).
- .. TUAN SYED HASHIM BIN SYED AJAM (Sabak Bernam).
- .. TUAN SYED JA'AFAR BIN HASAN ALBAR, J.M.N. (Johore Tenggara).
- .. ENCHE' TAJUDIN BIN ALI (Larut Utara).
- .. MR. TAN CHENG BEE, J.P. (Bagan).
- .. MR. TAN PHOCK KIN (Tanjong).
- .. MR. TAN TYE CHEK (Kulim-Bandar Bahru).
- .. TENGKU INDRA PETRA BIN SULTAN IBRAHIM (Ulu Kelantan).
- .. DATO' TEOH CHZE CHONG, D.P.M.J., J.P. (Segamat Selatan).
- .. MR. V. VEERAPPEN (Seberang Selatan).
- .. WAN MUSTAPHA BIN HAJI ALI (Kelantan Hilir).
- .. WAN SULAIMAN BIN WAN TAM (Kota Star Selatan).
- .. WAN YAHYA BIN HAJI WAN MOHAMED (Kemaman).
- .. MR. WOO SAIK HONG (Telok Anson).
- .. ENCHE' YAHYA BIN HAJI AHMAD (Bagan Datoh).
- .. MR. YEOH TAT BENG (Bruas).
- .. MR. YONG WOO MING (Sitiawan).

The Honourable HAJAH ZAIN BINTI SULAIMAN (Pontian Selatan).

.. TUAN HAJI ZAKARIA BIN HAJI MOHD. TAIB (Langat).

.. ENCHE' ZULKIFLEE BIN MUHAMMAD (Bachok).

ABSENT:

The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Education,
ENCHE' ABDUL AZIZ BIN ISHAK (Kuala Langat).

.. MR. CHAN SWEE HO (Ulu Kinta).

.. MR. CHEAH THEAM SWEE (Bukit Bintang).

.. TUAN HAJI HUSSIN RAHIMI BIN HAJI SAMAN (Kota Bharu Hulu).

.. MR. KHONG KOK YAT (Batu Gajah).

.. MR. V. MANICKAVASAGAM, J.M.N., P.J.K. (Klang).

.. ENCHE' MOHAMED ISMAIL BIN MOHD. YUSOF (Jerai).

.. ENCHE' OTHMAN BIN ABDULLAH (Tanah Merah).

.. MR. D. R. SEENIVASAGAM (Ipoh).

.. MR. S. P. SEENIVASAGAM (Menglembu).

.. MR. TAN KEE GAK (Bandar Malacca).

PRAYERS

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Speaker (*Translated from Malay*): Honourable Members, before we proceed to the business in the Order Paper, I would like to inform the House that after my election as Speaker yesterday morning, I was received in audience by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the afternoon.

SPEECH OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

Mr. Speaker (*Translated from Malay*): Honourable Members, I would like to inform the House that His Majesty has this day been pleased to address Parliament. For greater accuracy I have obtained a copy of His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, which I now direct formally to be laid on the Table of this House. I further direct that the Speech be printed and included in the Parliamentary Debates.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament,

Less than two weeks ago We spoke to the nation on the occasion of the second anniversary of our Merdeka, the day of freedom for the Federation of Malaya. We told Our people then that shortly it would be Our duty to take part in an historic occasion for our country—the opening of our new Parliament, the very crown and climax of our Constitution.

Yesterday all of you were sworn in as members of one house—either the Dewan Negara or the Dewan Ra'ayat—and subsequently you elected, in separate meetings, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Now the time has come for Us as the Sovereign Ruler of this nation to attend in this place, and with all the ceremonial dignity of Our high office formally to establish for all time and for all men the Parliament of the Federation of Malaya, which We, by Proclamation under our Sign-manual and the Seal of the Federation, have summoned.

It is not Our intention here to-day to make what has traditionally become known as the Speech from the Throne, the formal statement of the future policies and objectives of Our Government, made by us as Head of State in the presence of all members of the Legislative Authority. We will make that speech at the opening of the Budget session of Parliament in November.

It is Our intention here to-day to focus the attention and the interest of Our people on the lasting national importance of this event in which we are now all taking part.

Before We do this We wish to say that this particular place of assembly of the elected representatives of Our people has a personal significance for Us, and by natural implication a special significance for all Malaysians.

For it was in this building, in another form and in another place, and at a time of great national rejoicing that We were enthroned and took the Oath of Office as the first Sovereign of our new State, declaring that We would justly and faithfully perform Our duties as Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the just Government of the Federation of Malaya in accordance with its laws and Constitution.

And it was in this place, too, that on another momentous occasion We exercised Our royal prerogative under our Constitution to grant honours and awards to many men and women who had distinguished themselves in the service of our country.

It seems that this noble hall, the setting not only for royal occasions but for events of international importance, both grave and gay, this is a place of destiny in the story of our nation.

Is it not most fitting, therefore, and is it not a good omen for our future that in this place of destiny We, the Head of State, should preside in the name of all Our people at this ceremony which is without question a moment of destiny for all Malaysians?

A few moments ago We referred to Our public comment that the establishment of this Parliament was the crown and climax of our Constitution: in fact, it is the very essence.

It is the crown because under our Constitution the Legislative Authority of the Federation is vested in Parliament, which consists of Ourselves as Yang di-Pertuan Agong and two Houses representing the people.

It is the climax because with the establishment of Parliament the Constitution of our country is given full effect for the first time.

To state this as a fact is simplicity itself, but behind this fact we in Malaya to-day can look back on years of effort, years of resolve, years of patience. The Constitution of the Federation of Malaya is in itself a democratic achievement of the highest order.

It is the product of many minds working with a common aim, to evolve a basic charter for this new Malayan nation of ours—a charter drawn from our past experience and suited to the conditions of our 'surroundings and way of life—a charter of our firm faith in the concepts and traditions of parliamentary democracy—and finally, and most important of all, a charter of our common belief that certain fundamental liberties are essential to the dignity and self-respect of man.

These fundamental liberties are written into our Constitution. They include the liberty and equality of persons under the law, the basic freedom of speech and freedom of worship. The Constitution proclaims Islam as the official religion of the Federation and makes Malay the official language.

The Constitution assures the right to our subjects to worship in their own religions and to preserve their own languages and culture. It also confers citizenship on a wide category of persons who are prepared to make the Federation their home and the object of their loyalty.

This Constitution, unique in many ways, is a comprehensive declaration of duties and responsibilities, authority and prerogatives, affecting all organs of the State and all citizens of the land. In more symbolic terms it is the compass which will guide us through the unknown future.

In general, this Constitution vests Our office of Yang di-Pertuan Agong with executive authority on the advice of our Government; establishes Parliament as the maker of our laws; preserves the status and dignity of Our Brother-Rulers; defines the powers of the Federation Government and of the various States of our united nation; provides for amendment of the Constitution should this be found necessary; and asserts the electoral rights of citizens in our democracy. In this way it ensures that the voice of the people is the will of the people.

In particular, this Constitution is the guardian of the rule of law. It protects the integrity, the freedom from influence, and the independence of our Courts and our Judges and our Law Officers and the Members of our various Commissions of the Public Service, responsible for appointments and discipline. In this way it ensures the security, integrity and impartiality of the Civil Service.

The Constitution belongs to all of us—it belongs to Us as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, it belongs to you as the Members of Parliament, it belongs to the people as the fount of power.

The Prime Minister, the members of his Cabinet, the Senators and the Members of the House of Representatives have all sworn that they bear true faith and allegiance to the Federation of Malaya and that they will preserve, protect and defend its Constitution.

Therefore, We wish all Our subjects on this historic day to know and understand that the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya, our charter of rights and liberties, is now, finally and completely, in operation and with the establishment of this Parliament under the Constitution, a new era begins for our nation.

It is Our earnest hope that as many as possible of Our subjects will take early opportunity to make themselves familiar with our Constitution, and with the powers and procedure of our Parliament.

We mentioned earlier that we in Malaya had dedicated ourselves to the principles of parliamentary democracy. The establishment of this Parliament is the newest link in the chain of developments of the parliamentary ideal.

Centuries of thought and experience have contributed to the evolution of the parliamentary system. These may be reduced to three main characteristics. The first is that laws must be made by a legislature of persons elected by citizens at regular intervals by means of secret ballot. The second is that the executive authority must answer to the elected legislature. The third is that there must exist in the State what is commonly known as the "rule of law". All these characteristics apply in the Federation of Malaya to-day.

We would like to recall at this point the declaration made by the first Prime Minister of the Federation, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, when he moved the second reading of the Federal Constitution Bill as Chief Minister in the days immediately before our Independence.

Speaking in the Federal Legislative Council, only sixteen days before Merdeka, he said:—"It must be remembered that the freedom to which we aspire is the freedom to govern ourselves under a system in which parliamentary institutions shall be exclusively representative of the people's will".

That declaration is now a reality. Two years ago we in Malaya had fought and won by peaceful and constitutional means the struggle to attain our independence. We have every right to be proud of the way in which this was done.

Now, two years later, moving again in the ways of peace, climbing steadily step by step along the path of a Constitution of our own devising, we in Malaya have now reached a new summit of national achievement by deciding the type of independence in which we choose to live. We have every right to be proud of the way this has been done.

From this summit we can look two ways. We can look back across many centuries which disappear in the darkness of time and legend. We know that all those countless years of the past, all those unnumbered millions of people who lived before us in this land, are part of the Malayan story, and have helped to make us what we are to-day at this turning-point in our history.

From this summit, too, we can look forward with greater hope and confidence, surer faith and understanding, to the immediate prospect before us, which in itself disappears into the brightness of a future as yet unrecorded.

The events which are being commemorated here to-day with all the honours of the Malayan state are not designed for ourselves alone in our own times. The reason why we are all assembled here is to do honour to an historic occasion of tremendous significance for our future.

We are pulling a switch which starts two dynamos of democracy—our Constitution and our Parliament—to serve the political needs of this new nation now and of generations of Malaysians not yet born.

It is Our hope that historians of the future who look back on these events will record that what we have done in Malaya to-day we have done well.

Therefore, We urge all of you, the members of this new Parliament of ours, always to approach your deliberations as law-makers in the highest spirit of dedicated service to our nation.

We urge that your bearing should be related to the importance of your tasks and consonant with the dignity of the House.

We urge you always to remember that you are the representatives of all the people without exception, and that what you do here shall be done for the benefit of all the people.

We urge you to conduct your affairs in such a way that the Parliament of the Federation of Malaya will be a shining beacon of democracy at its brightest and best.

From this day onwards, this Parliament of ours will be the centre of national attention for all Malaysians wherever they may be. The progress of this Parliament will be watched not by Malaysians alone.

We are sure that throughout the free world where parliamentary institutions are the guardians of democracy the future of this Parliament will be followed with keen interest and goodwill.

We have no doubts at all that you will bring a healthy Malayan outlook to our affairs at home and abroad, and in doing so demonstrate to all men that, even though ours is a small nation, our Parliament can play both a distinctive and a distinguished role.

May your decisions be wise and just, your ideas constructive, and your achievements noble. May your Parliament win and keep the respect and regard of all Malaysians. May you assure peace, prosperity and justice for all our subjects.

May your debates in this House be carried out in the true traditions of Parliament. It is Our earnest hope and desire that however hard your feelings may be on any particular subject or matter which is brought up in this House for discussion that you will adhere strictly to the Standing Orders and to the principles of parliamentary democracy.

May you show respect for one another and for each other's opinions, even though your views may be diametrically opposed. It is Our expectation that Honourable Members will fight their battles in this House on the best of terms and in a spirit of goodwill for one another.

As you enter upon your duties in this first Parliament, confident of fulfilling the high hopes in the hearts of Our people, may the blessings of God guide and keep you.

In particular, We ask the blessing and the guidance of God for Our Prime Minister and the members of his Cabinet, upon whom devolve the responsibility for direction and decision, for leadership and administration of the policies of Our Government.

It is now Our great privilege as the Head of State in this third year of Our reign formally to declare, so that all men everywhere may know, the establishment, now and forever, of the Parliament of the Federation of Malaya.

DRAFT STANDING ORDERS, DEWAN RA'AYAT

The Deputy Prime Minister (Tun Abdul Razak): In proposing the motion standing in my name I wish to apologise to Honourable Members for the fact that copies of the draft Standing Orders now before them have been circulated only at the eleventh hour. This has been, I am afraid, inevitable owing to pressure of work and events. The principle which we have adopted in this particular matter is that it is essential that there should be some rules regulating procedure available to us in this Chamber as soon as possible. Whether these rules are all fully acceptable to this House is a matter we can attend to at our leisure.

Now the Standing Rules and Orders of the Federal Legislative Council adopted, as amended from time to time, continued to operate until the dissolution of the Legislative Council itself, earlier this year; but with the establishment of Parliament, and the creation of two Majlis, or Houses, it clearly became necessary to review the position.

Such a review can, of course, only properly be made by a Committee of this House: for by Article 62 of the Constitution this House is empowered, subject to the Constitution and federal law, to regulate its own procedure.

Rules there must be, if the business of this House is to be conducted with efficiency, courtesy and despatch: and it is for this reason that these draft Orders are now laid before Honourable Members.

I think, Sir, that it is essential for me to emphasise that in the preparation of the draft Standing Orders now before the House the Standing Rules and Orders of the former Legislative Council have been used as a model. These Standing Rules and Orders were in fact reviewed, before Merdeka, by Mr. D. W. S. Lidderdale, the Fourth Clerk to the United Kingdom House of Commons, and in fact a number of proposals put forward by him, and arising out of practice in the former Legislative Council, have been embodied in the draft Orders.

These Orders were not, however, appropriate to the circumstances of a

Parliament with two Houses, and in consequence they have been adapted to conform to the provisions of Chapter 4 of Part IV of the Constitution, which, of course, only came into force upon the dissolution of the last Legislative Council. Similar Standing Orders, complementary to those before Honourable Members, are being introduced now, I hope, into the Dewan Negara, so that the proceedings of our two Houses will, for the time being, be in harmony—at least, Sir, in the matter of procedure.

Now there will no doubt be a number of points arising out of the draft Orders before the House, and I do not propose to deal with them in detail at this stage. Honourable Members will observe from the draft Standing Order 78, that the draft Orders propose that a Standing Orders Committee be established, consisting of yourself, Sir, as Chairman, and six other members to be appointed by the Committee of Selection established under Standing Order 76. If, as I trust, the draft Orders are adopted, then they will be referred to that Standing Orders Committee: and if any Honourable Members have any comments on the draft Orders, then I would suggest that they should be referred to that Committee, where they can be considered at leisure and in detail; their origins can be studied, and there they can be compared with the best models of other Parliaments available to us.

It may however be useful, Sir, both for members of that Committee and for Honourable Members of the House in general, if I mention several matters arising out of the draft Orders which appear to me to be of particular interest.

The first matter is one of a quorum of this House. Now, our Constitution is, Sir, silent on the matter of a quorum, and in consequence it is up to this House to provide one. The quorum of the old Legislative Council was one quarter of the total number of members, and it is proposed, by draft Standing Order 13, that the quorum of this House should also be one-quarter, that is to say, twenty-six members, excluding the Chair.

Secondly, on the matter of Bills, the draft Standing Orders follow Parliamentary practice elsewhere, by providing that Bills shall be introduced on notice, read formally the first time, and then printed by order of the House: no debate on the second reading occurring until a Bill has been duly circulated to Honourable Members.

Another important innovation lies in the composition of Committees of the House. By virtue of draft Standing Order 82 it is proposed that every Select Committee of the House “shall be so constituted as to ensure that so far as is practicable the balance between the parties within the House is reflected in the Committee”. In this way it is hoped that Committees of the House will be in conformity with the political balance of the House, and so assist the House in the more expeditious transaction of its business.

One further matter of nomenclature. The draft Standing Orders will prohibit reference to any Honourable Member by name: a practice following that elsewhere. I trust that Honourable Members will agree with me that reference to any Honourable Member by name is to be avoided wherever possible; reference to an Honourable Member's constituency does of course sometimes require a considerable mental effort; and it is my hope, Sir, that such an effort will cause us all to be less emotional and more logical in the debates that lie ahead of us.

One final point, Sir, the last draft Order adopts the usages of the United Kingdom House of Commons, whenever no specific Order or practice exists here. This enables us to take advantage—as did the former Legislative Council—of the various precedents evolved in parliamentary government in the United Kingdom from the 15th Century onwards, and set out in such works as Sir Thomas Erskine May's famous treatise on “The Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament.” It is, I suggest, a matter of convenience for us that we should choose to adopt the practice of the House of Commons in resolving diffi-

cult points of procedure not covered by our own Orders or practice.

But of course, it is inevitable and indeed desirable that our own practice will develop along purely Malayan lines, and that as we continue to enlarge our own history and precedents we shall witness the evolution of procedure with a purely Malayan idiom, and peculiarly adapted to the needs of our nation. In the interim we may be content, however, to profit by the experience of those who have faced similar problems of procedure in the past.

Yet, Sir, what matters is not really the Orders themselves as the spirit in which they are applied. On you, Sir, as Mr. Speaker, falls the heaviest responsibility of all, and it is, I submit, up to each one of us to render your difficult position as less onerous as we possibly can. To accomplish that we need to observe the principles behind our Standing Orders which may be summarised. I think, as rules of conduct: first, that we speak only with moderation and a sense of responsibility, and second, that we should always show courtesy and a sense of fair play each to another. I hope, Sir, that all our proceedings here will be conducted with a sense of the high responsibility and trust placed in us by the people.

I shall not weary Honourable Members with further comment. If the draft Orders are adopted, then they will be referred to the Standing Orders Committee. So the adoption I propose is, as the motion indicates, a purely temporary expedient, pending the promulgation of Standing Orders recommended by the Standing Orders Committee and adopted by this House. In the interim I have, however, as Honourable Members will have observed, arranged for the printing of the draft Orders, and their submission to the House in what is, I hope, a convenient form. I should add, however, that the printing was effected only for convenience, and does not imply that the draft form has any finality.

I therefore move, Sir, "That the Draft Standing Orders of the Dewan Ra'ayat, copies of which have been

circulated to members by the Clerk to the House, be adopted as the Standing Orders of the House *ad interim*." I should like to add two small points: if adopted, the draft Orders should be regarded as taking effect from the end of to-day's business; further they should be studied in detail by the Standing Orders Committee, as soon as possible.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr. Kang Kock Seng (Batu Pahat) (*Translated from Malay*): Sir, I beg to second the motion of the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister.

Enche' Zulkiflee Muhammad (Bachok) (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, Sir, I wish to make some observations on the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister's motion. We are glad to note that the Standing Orders before us will be reviewed and studied by a Committee in due course. But, Sir, I refer to the speech of the Deputy Prime Minister in which he stated that fundamentally the Standing Orders now before us will apply and on matters in which the provision of the Standing Orders is not clear the practice of the English Parliament would be followed although our intention—and also the probability—is that our Standing Orders should in course of time, acquire a Federation outlook with Malayan characteristics. This is indeed plausible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the House that while we adopt the procedure of the English Parliament—although this is good in itself as the English have had a long experience with a Parliamentary system of Government—we must not forget, and I hope the Committee to be appointed will agree, that in so doing we should not overlook the fact that in certain respects this country has not progressed as rapidly as other countries which have not adopted this system.

Well, Sir, I rise here to express the hope that those entrusted with the responsibility to review the Standing Orders of the House will proceed with their task as speedily as possible. That is all that I have to say.

Enche' Tajudin Ali (Larut Utara) (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification, Sir, the Honourable Mr. V. Manickavasagam, who is on the Committee to consider the Standing Orders has, I learn, left for America, and since the Standing Orders are required early, may I be enlightened, Sir, if the Honourable Member will be back to Malaya as early as possible? Thank you.

The Minister of Transport (Enche' Abdul Rahman Talib) (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify that the Committee proposed to be set up is a Committee of Selection whose function will be to appoint Committees of this House from time to time. The Committee of Selection will appoint a Committee to consider the Draft Standing Orders.

Dato' Onn (Kuala Trengganu Selatan): Mr. Speaker, while I support the motion of the Deputy Prime Minister that the Draft Standing Orders of the Dewan Ra'ayat be adopted as the Standing Orders of the House *ad interim*, there is one point on which I am not clear. The Deputy Prime Minister said that he would move at a later stage for the appointment of a Committee of Selection. May I be informed if it is the intention of the Government, when that Committee of Selection has finished its work and its Report is laid on the Table of this House, that the opportunity will be given to debate the Standing Orders as recommended by the Committee of Selection?

Tun Abdul Razak: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the point made by the Honourable Member for Kuala Trengganu, I would like to assure the House that in accordance with the procedure laid down in these Draft Standing Orders, these Orders themselves would be considered by a Standing Orders Committee to be nominated by the Committee of Selection which the House will be asked to appoint under the next motion standing in my name. When the Standing Orders Committee has completed its task, the Report of that Committee, together with its recommended draft Standing Orders, will be laid before this House for

adoption, and at that stage the House will have a full opportunity to debate, discuss and amend the Draft Standing Orders, if necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved,

That the Draft Standing Orders of the Dewan Ra'ayat, copies of which have been circulated to members by the Clerk to the House, be adopted as the Standing Orders of the House *ad interim*.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Tun Abdul Razak (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move,

That, in pursuance of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 76, the following members, namely,

The Deputy Prime Minister

The Minister of Interior

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare

Mr. V. Manickavasagam

Dr. Burhanuddin bin Mohamed Noor

Enche' Ahmad Boestaman

be elected as members of the Committee of Selection, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Speaker

Sir, under Draft Standing Order No. 76, the House shall appoint a Committee of Selection to carry out the duties assigned to it by these Draft Standing Orders. As soon as the appointment has been approved by the House, the Committee will be able to carry out its functions, the most important of which will be to appoint the Standing Orders Committee to review the Draft Standing Orders which were tabled this morning.

Sir, I beg to move.

Tuan Syed Jaafar Albar (Johore Tenggara) (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Dato' Onn (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, in the Draft Standing Orders it is not clear that the Committee of Selection is vested with the power to co-opt any other Member. As I received the Draft Orders only about a quarter of an hour ago, I hope the provision in the Standing Orders that this Committee has the power to co-opt another Member could be indicated.

Tun Abdul Razak (*Translated from Malay*): Mr. Speaker, I myself have not been able to study the Draft Standing Orders in detail, but as far as I know, there is no power for a Committee of Selection to nominate or co-opt another member to be a member of the Committee.

Dato' Onn: Mr. Speaker, on a point of procedure, if there is no such power given to the Committee of Selection, would it not be better to appoint another member in place of the Honourable Mr. Manickavasagam who, I understand, will be away from the country?

Mr. V. David (Bungsar): On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, at least you can tell us when the Honourable Member is supposed to have left the country and when will he be expected to return from the United Nations meeting.

Tun Abdul Razak: Mr. Speaker, this Committee will have as many as six members as shown here in the Orders of the Day. The particular Honourable Member will only be away for three months and will be back. The absence of one member will not hamper the work of the Committee at all, as we have got the other five members who can carry on the work. This Committee will go on for some time, Sir, and I see no harm in letting him remain in this Committee as the other members of the Committee can carry on the work in his absence.

Mr. Chin See Yin (Seremban Timor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I understand it, he is away and he has not taken his oath. I do not consider he is yet a member of this House.

Mr. Speaker: He has taken his oath.

Mr. Chin See Yin: Then I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. Tan Phock Kin (Tanjong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in support of changing a member of this Committee. From what I hear, I think that it is the feeling of this House that the Standing Orders should be completed as quickly as possible. I believe that an Honourable Member just now suggested that we should finish the Standing Orders as quickly as possible,

and if a member of the Committee is going away for a few months, that is not satisfactory. If we substitute another member in his place, that member may have a lot of constructive suggestions to put forward. So I therefore support the move that another member be substituted in his place.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member propose to move an amendment?

Mr. Tan Phock Kin: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then you must submit your draft amendment to me.

The Deputy Prime Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the Honourable Member moves an amendment, I think the Honourable Member is slightly under a misapprehension over this. This Committee of Selection will not do the work of reviewing the draft Standing Orders; it is a Committee which will nominate members to the Standing Orders Committee and it is the Standing Orders Committee which will review these draft Standing Orders. It is a separate Committee altogether which will be nominated by this Committee of Selection. That is why, in our view, the work of the Committee will not be hampered. It will be an entirely different Committee which will be given the task of reviewing these draft Standing Orders. I hope that is clear.

Mr. V. David (Bungsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the statement I find that the Honourable Mr. Manickavasagam is indispensable. As we know, Sir, we have 104 Members and I think anyone of them could substitute for the Honourable Member whose name is stated in the motion.

Again, Sir, as far as the draft Standing Orders are concerned, it is not satisfactory because we have not had the time to study them. We appreciate what the Deputy Prime Minister stated that due to pressure of work he is unable to circulate these copies earlier. However, accepting his statement, we have given full support to these Standing Orders, but we feel that a meeting of the Committee be convened immediately to appoint a Standing Orders Committee and various other Committees. What we

consider as an immediate step is to substitute a new member in place of the Honourable Mr. Manickavasagam so that a meeting of the Committee could be convened as early as possible to take action on the appointments of various Committees, as the importance of the Standing Orders Committee is very, very necessary for this Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: I must warn the Honourable Member that no Member can speak twice on any motion. If a motion is put before the House he can only speak once. If he wants to speak again, he must ask my permission as the Speaker of the House.

Mr. V. David: Mr. Speaker, earlier I only spoke on a point of information.

Mr. Speaker: You did not say so.

The Prime Minister: Sir, may I have your permission to clarify some of the points raised by Honourable Members. There seems to be some misunderstanding on the purpose of this Committee of Selection. There seems to be abroad an idea that the object of the Selection Committee is to draft Standing Orders; that is not so. The purpose of this Committee is to select, under your leadership, the various Committees required by the Standing Orders. Therefore, whether he is absent or not, it does not make any difference to these draft Standing Orders and, as has been mentioned earlier by the Deputy Prime Minister, the fact that he is not here does not in any way obstruct the work of the Committee in drafting these Standing Orders.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved,

That, in pursuance of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 76, the following members, namely,

The Deputy Prime Minister

The Minister of Interior

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare

Mr. V. Manickavasagam

Dr. Burhanuddin bin Mohamed Noor

Enche' Ahmad Boestaman

be elected as members of the Committee of Selection, under the chairmanship of Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Tan Siew Sin): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members will be aware that in the past there has been a Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature whose duty has been to examine and report on the accounts of the Federation. Under the provisions of the Standing Orders which the House has just adopted, there is provision for the appointment of a new Public Accounts Committee and it is my intention to propose the appointment of the chairman of this Committee.

Before moving the motion standing in my name, I think I should explain to the House why the terms of my motion provide only for the election of the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Standing Order 77 of the Standing Orders of the Dewan Ra'ayat provides for the setting up of a Public Accounts Committee to carry out the functions detailed in paragraph (1) of that Order. Paragraph (2) lays down that the composition of the Committee should be determined by the Committee of Selection which has just been constituted on the motion of my Honourable friend the Deputy Prime Minister. The same paragraph, however, provides that the chairman should be elected by the whole House and that is why this motion has been put down on the Order Paper this morning. The Public Accounts Committee has a really important role to play in the affairs of our country. It is in fact the watchdog of the Federation's accounting processes and the methods by which those processes have been carried out. The powers of the Committee have probably been made very wide and it can and should report on any matter within its jurisdiction which it considers should be brought to the notice of this House.

Sir, I move,

That, in pursuance of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77, the Honourable Enche' Abdul Hamid Khan bin Haji Sakhawat Ali Khan be appointed as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Tuan Haji Abdul Khalid (Kota Star Utara) (*Translated from Malay*): Mr.

Speaker, I second the motion. It is an appropriate motion. I hope and pray that with the guidance of the Chairman, the Honourable Captain Abdul Hamid Khan, this Committee would be able to control the financial affairs of our country in a more satisfactory manner.

Mr. K. Karam Singh (Damansara): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on this motion. The Honourable Minister of Finance has mentioned that the appointment of a chairman of the Public Accounts Committee is a very important role to look after the accounting of the nation. He has mentioned that this Committee would be the watchdog of the accounting processes in this country. I would like to bring to the attention of this Honourable House that not only must this Committee be a watchdog of accounting but also be a watchdog of the money of our people, money which has not been accounted for because we know that before this House met twenty-four million dollars were unaccounted for. We do not know what has happened to that money, where it has gone. So, Mr. Speaker, this important role, as the Honourable Minister of Finance has said, should not only be played in being a watchdog of accounting but also be played into looking for any misappropriation or loss of our people's money. Thank you.

Mr. David: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can I speak? Just now my colleague referred to the \$24,000,000 which was not accounted for. This is what we read from the report of the Auditor-General, Mr. Watson, who said that Heads of Departments

Mr. Tan Siew Sin: Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a point of order? I think the Honourable Member has been speaking on the motion and I suggest that we keep to the terms of this motion. The motion before the House is simply the appointment of the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee

and Honourable Members should not move beyond that.

Mr. David: I just made a reference when talking about accounts.

Mr. Speaker: That is not before the House. If you will confine yourself to the motion only I can allow that.

Mr. David: As far as this motion concerns the appointment of the Chairman of the Committee who is going to safeguard public funds and wherever reference has to be made, Sir, I would like to make reference so that it will be clear to Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I have already ruled that out.

Mr. David: Thank you. Speaking about this motion I feel that the man to be appointed for this post should be a most responsible man and he is going to check up frequently the Heads of Departments whether they submit accounts for audit. From experience we have found that Heads of Departments have failed to submit accounts in proper time for the Auditor-General to present his Annual Report. I believe that this state of affairs will not continue in the future and that the person who is going to be appointed to-day will be answerable to the House at a later date.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved,

That, in pursuance of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77, the Honourable Enche' Abdul Hamid Khan bin Haji Sakhawat Ali Khan be appointed as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*The Prime Minister*).

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, the date of the next meeting will be notified to Honourable Members in due course by the Clerk.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes past noon.