



ESTABLISHING YOUR YOUTH PARLIAMENT

A PLANNING GUIDE

Foreword

I am delighted to contribute a foreword to this Youth Parliament Planning Kit.

The Millennium Youth Parliament was part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) programme of informing the Commonwealth about the Commonwealth and the CPA. This goal is explicitly expressed in the Association's Strategic Plan under Objective 8:

“To increase the outreach of the Association, its Members and its Branches to non-members and to those outside the Commonwealth. In particular, to sponsor outreach programmes to young people, to make them aware of the value of parliamentary democracy and to encourage them in its promotion.”

The CPA Youth Parliament was also, of course, a recognition of the importance of young people to the Commonwealth and its future and we hope that this work will be further strengthened by the production of this Youth Parliament Operational Kit. We trust that publicising such projects, as widely as possible, both within and outside the Association, will ensure that Parliamentarians and the wider Commonwealth are informed of their value.

The kit is therefore designed to assist Branches or other interested organisations and individuals to organise and run their own youth parliaments. It draws heavily on the CPA's experience in organising two international youth parliaments in 1997 and 2000 and I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Arthur Donahoe, QC, and the CPA Executive Committee for having the foresight to initiate such programmes at the international level.

Two of our younger officials who assisted with the Millennium Youth Parliament have contributed a great deal to the preparation of this kit and I would like to thank them for their work. They are Shona McGlashan of the U.K. House of Commons who acted as the Clerk of the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament and Anthony Staddon of the CPA Secretariat who has also been responsible for the compilation and editing of this material.

The growth of youth activities across the Association over the last five years is a sign of the increasing importance the CPA attaches to reaching out to young people to inform them about the Commonwealth, the CPA and the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. I would particularly like to acknowledge those Branches which have sent information to the Secretariat about their youth parliaments. We have tried to include as many examples across the CPA as possible.

I firmly believe that a youth parliament is more than play-acting, even more than what is technically called 'role play'. There is a real opportunity to make one's own opinions felt and to learn for oneself the benefits of operating in a democratic framework, whatever the defects of such a system. As a former Parliamentarian, I am sure that young people attending such events will enjoy the experience of debating issues of concern to them. They may also perhaps experience both the power and the burden of office as well as the frustrations of the backbencher who feels he or she could do much better than the leadership.



Hon. Denis Marshall, QSO
CPA Secretary-General

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Abbreviations

CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
DFID	Department for International Development
DDP	Direct Democracy Party
EYP	European Youth Parliament
HE	His (or Her) Excellency
MBE	Member of the Order of the British Empire
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NMP	New Millennium Party
NSW	New South Wales
OBE	Officer of the Order of the British Empire
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RCS	Royal Commonwealth Society
UK	United Kingdom
UKYP	United Kingdom Youth Parliament
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YP	Youth Party

Introduction: Management a Project

The experience of preparing for and running your Youth Parliament is a good opportunity to practice your project management skills or to learn something of project management. Certainly the organisation of a Youth Parliament is a fairly complex project for it involves bringing together a number of diverse people who will see things in different ways giving them the chance to learn about parliamentary democracy and its workings in a short space of time. They will also learn about themselves and their colleagues.

It is therefore well worthwhile considering some of the situations which an organiser must be ready to confront and a good way to approach this is to examine some of the various aspects of running a project.

First consider the creation of the project. You are already halfway there because you have decided what you want to do and one assumes that the need for the project has been established and accepted. But do think about why you are doing it because a Youth Parliament may be run for different reasons by different people. So do ask yourself what your objectives are. If you do not, you will not be clear about what you are doing at any given time and why you are doing it. It will help you to run your Youth Parliament project efficiently and, after the event is over, you will be able to better evaluate what it achieved and how you might do better next time.

When you ask yourself these questions you may also find yourself wanting to change some of the conceptions you originally had. This is fine and it is part of the process of learning both about project management and about your Youth Parliament Project.

You can now go to the exciting phase of developing your project. At this stage you think about the design of your project, the detailed planning necessary for it and the resources you will need. Various other chapters in this kit deal with the different aspects you will consider in designing your Youth Parliament, for instance, budgets, the make up of the political parties in your parliament and so on.

It will be helpful if you devise a checklist to make sure that you do not lose sight of the various ingredients you require.

Remember that the most important aspect is the resources that you will be bringing together. Funds are one part of this but the most critically important are the human resources which will be assembling for the Youth Parliament when it is in session. You can prepare a basic requirements list so that those coming for it will know what is expected of them but do not be too strict in outlining your needs: once young people get interested in a project of this sort, they often demonstrate that they have skills which may

surprise you (and perhaps surprise themselves too!), so be ready to encourage them to think in this way.

You can now consider the issues involved in implementing your project. It is often useful to prepare a schedule showing when and how your various resources will come together so that you can be confident they are available when required. Schedules can be as detailed as you need them to be but you will probably find that for your purposes, especially if you are not previously experienced in handling projects, a simple chart showing what has to be done on a particular date (or by a particular date) will be a very good guide.

When you actually implement the project, this chart will serve as an excellent control device because it will highlight for you the fact that something is going wrong and you will be able to decide what corrective action needs to be taken. It will also tell you how urgent the need is for that corrective action.

You have to plan your implementation in great detail. Back-up arrangements are essential especially where you are relying on some critical factor. For instance, if one of those coming to the Youth Parliament has promised to photocopy some of the materials to be used, be aware that if that person is prevented from attending by some personal reason, you must be able to obtain the materials in some other way.

You will probably have a team of people helping you with the implementation of the project. Each of them will have a list of responsibilities and they will therefore be able to help when such difficult situations arise. Do make the best use of such teamwork in running your project and do not be afraid of delegating duties to suitable people according to their interests and abilities.

When your project has been run – happily we hope – you should take stock of how everything went. Such an evaluation is the final aspect of project management and, even if you are not intending to run another Youth Parliament, you should carry out an evaluation to learn how the project was received. Did those who came enjoy it and what did they learn from it? Did they learn what was expected or were they disappointed? Did they learn something different and were they pleased that the reality differed from their expectations? Most importantly from your point of view, what did they achieve? And did you learn something different or unexpected?

You can make evaluations of varying detail but however you approach it, you should try to ascertain whether the objectives set out were achieved. Whether the answer is ‘yes’ or ‘no’, you will have learned not only how to run a Youth Parliament but also how to set about creating and running a project, a skill which will stand you in good stead whatever you intend doing in the future.

Why a Youth Parliament?

“I would like to see the Commonwealth positively supported by all of its citizens, especially the young, without whom there is no future for the organisation. Almost 60 per cent of all Commonwealth citizens are under 35 years old. This means that most of them were born after their countries became independent. It also means their understanding and perception of the Commonwealth, both in terms of what it is and what it can be, are radically different. All Commonwealth organisations need to tap into this new orientation if they want to survive; this is the most pressing challenge facing us at this point in history.”

Rt Hon Donald McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, The House Magazine, September 20, 2000 p.5

‘the concept of the Norfolk Island Youth Assembly has created an incredible opportunity for our young people to make decisions that affect their future and the future of Norfolk Island.’

Hon George Smith MLA, Chief Minister, Norfolk Island, Australia (1999)

How do we deepen our understanding of parliamentary democracy, and so uphold and advance its practice in the Commonwealth?

The CPA has found there is a way for young people to “learn by doing,” and that is by taking part in youth parliaments. Some practice on the benches of a mock Parliament can be useful in deciding how to become a more active citizen, either inside or outside formal politics.

There were two main reasons why the CPA organised two Youth Parliaments in 1997 and 2000. The first relates to the concern that too few young people know enough about the Commonwealth and the three core principles that bind our Commonwealth nations together:

- **Global Consensus Building**
- **Support for Sustainable Development**
- **Support for Democracy and Growth and Sustenance of Democratic Institutions**

As the association of Commonwealth Parliaments, with strong institutional ties, and as the main professional body for Parliamentarians, the CPA’s role in the field of good governance and deepening democracy was recognised by Heads of Government in the Singapore and Harare Declarations, and later reaffirmed following the Edinburgh, Durban and Australia CHOGMs (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings). The CPA is keenly aware of its responsibility to reach out to the younger generation and to teach them about the work and values of the Commonwealth and the CPA, especially in regard to the need to support democracy and the growth and sustenance of democratic institutions.

It is often said that widespread apathy exists among the younger generation towards political participation and parliamentary democracy. Whether this fear is exaggerated or not, without doubt young people need to understand the principles which underpin democracy and civil society, develop the skills to use that knowledge effectively and be able to participate in the appropriate fora. One method of assisting young people to understand these principles is through a Youth Parliament and our second reason for devising a Commonwealth Youth Parliament programme was to provide participants with practical experience of the parliamentary system.

It should also be noted that Youth Parliaments provide participants with an opportunity to acquire or improve upon many skills such as public speaking, debate, presentation, research and organisational skills, aiding their personal development.

Establishing a Youth Parliament will involve a considerable amount of preparation and hard work. However, experiences across the CPA suggest that Youth Parliaments can be a rewarding, memorable, enjoyable and educative experience for organisers and participants alike.

We hope this kit will assist other interested parties to establish their own Youth Parliaments. The material is largely drawn from the CPA Secretariat's experience in organising two Youth Parliaments, but reference will be made to events arranged across the Association and beyond.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the 2000 CPA Millennium Youth Parliament were to educate participants about the Commonwealth and to demonstrate how Parliaments are able:

- to make legislation;
- to debate matters of national and international concern;
- to demand accountability from those in government;
- to discuss legislation in committee;
- to change government without recourse to civil disorder; and
- to make and enforce their own rules of conduct.

We decided to produce a video showing edited highlights of the Youth Parliament with the aim of achieving a multiplier effect and broadening the outreach of the project. The principal goal of the video was to educate other young people about the institution of Parliament, the Commonwealth and CPA, and to encourage similar youth projects regionally and within CPA Branches. Many CPA Branches, such as Edo State and Nevis, have recorded the proceedings of their own Youth Parliaments to ensure that other young people benefit from the experience of observing the event.

Case Study 1: Report of the Youth Parliament in Nevis, March 2001

The Nevis Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held its 2nd Annual Youth Parliament on 12th March, Commonwealth Day 2001.

The topic discussed: ***“Resolution of the Nevis Island Assembly signifying the importance of cruise tourism to the island of Nevis.”***

Whereas the island and people of Nevis have derived great benefits from tourism and whereas it is appropriate to increase the benefits of tourism to the island of Nevis.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Nevis Island Administration do actively encourage the visit of large cruise ships to the Island of Nevis, to increase the social and economic benefits of tourism to the people of Nevis in the 21st century.

Format

The Youth Parliament comprised 16 youths representing the two secondary schools on the island. A concerted effort was made in ensuring a gender balance and the Premier and Opposition Leader were female.

The participants were responsible for choosing a topic for debate. Assistance was sought and gained from the Legal Department. In choosing the two sides in Parliament, the decision was made to ensure that the Opposition had the better speakers. This was discussed at length to show the young people how parliaments function in the wider world and to demonstrate that the Government does not always have all the answers to the problems even if they have a majority of seats in the chamber.

The Resolution was thoroughly debated and present at the gathering were:

Deputy Governor General Mr Eustace John, CMG, the Hon. Marjorie L Morton, President of the Nevis Island Assembly, Hon. Livingston Herbert, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Laughton Brandy, Minister of Youths, Hon. Joseph Parry, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Hensley Daniel, Member of the Opposition, Bank Managers, Senior Civil Servants, Parents of the Children, Students and Teachers from the Secondary and Primary Schools.

From all accounts, the occasion was a tremendous success. At the conclusion of the sitting of parliament, the young people were given an opportunity to discuss the procedures and suggest improvements.

A Youth Parliament can be an international, national, state or small community-based event and the exact objectives will depend on the circumstances surrounding its creation. The European Youth Parliament (EYP), for example, is designed partly to encourage participants to learn about the history and politics of Europe and resolutions passed by the EYP are referred directly to the European Parliament.

The Objectives of the YMCA Tasmanian Youth Parliament¹ are as follows:

1. To provide the youth of Tasmania with a forum for expressing their ideas, concerns and expectations with regard to the governing of the State.
2. To develop an interest in, and educate young people about, their parliamentary system in an enjoyable and innovative manner.
3. To provide the State Government with a document expressing the considered view of young people on a range of issues which they feel are important to the Youth of the State.
4. To develop confidence in the individual participants and to encourage teamwork.
5. To promote a broader awareness amongst young people of community issues and the process of government through which those issues can be addressed.

The aims of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) are to give the young people of the United Kingdom (UK), between the ages of 11 and 18 (inclusive) a voice, which will be heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people².

The objectives of the Alberta Youth Parliament³ are to provide an experience of the parliamentary process which will develop among young people an understanding of

1. How their parliamentary system facilitates decision-making on current provincial issues
2. The role and responsibilities of the MLA both as a legislator and constituency representative
3. The diversity of points of view on provincial issues
4. The principle of public accountability in their parliamentary system
5. The rights and responsibilities of Albertans to govern themselves

¹ <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ymca/yp.htm>.

² The Youth Manifesto Executive Summary 2001 p3.

³ Information received from CPA Alberta Branch.

A Youth Parliament must be goal oriented with a realistic plan and strategy. Your aims and resources will determine whether it can be an ad-hoc or continuous event and this decision will naturally affect the selection of participants and choice of venue. One option is to establish a trial or pilot project, perhaps at a school or youth centre, with a view to creating a larger or permanent Youth Parliament at a later date. Another approach is to carry out a feasibility study, a preliminary study of the chances of success before any financial commitments are undertaken.

The CPA Sierra Leone Branch organised a Youth Parliament with the assistance of the CPA Secretariat and the British Council in March 2002. The event was limited to students in Freetown, but it is hoped that the success of the venture will lead to a nationwide event in the future. The Victorian YMCA Youth Parliament led to a national YMCA Youth Parliament and most other State Parliaments in Australia now run similar programmes.

Remember: all projects involve an element of risk, but it is important to anticipate the risks, perhaps by assessing whether they are high or low, to identify what steps are needed to alleviate these dangers.

Case Study 2: A Report on the Commonwealth Day Celebrations by CPA Zambia Branch

The Executive Committee of the CPA Zambia Branch decided to arrange a Youth Parliament to coincide with Commonwealth Day 2000. It adopted this suggestion for the following reasons:

It was one of the projects which had been earmarked by the National Assembly of Zambia of teaching Zambian youths more about the activities of Parliament;

It coincided with the Schools Programme of the Zambia Civil Education Association whose goal is to improve the young people's scope of understanding the work of Parliament;

The Zambia Civic Education Association has since July 1994 been carrying out civic education in Secondary Schools around Lusaka through civic education clubs. The main objective of the programme is to teach young people their rights and duties as citizens.

It was hoped that the Youth Parliament would not only develop leadership skills but also enhance the students' knowledge on the practical implementation of the Constitution of Zambia, the laws of Zambia and the operations of a democratic Parliament.

An introductory workshop and Caucus Meetings were held to introduce the pupils to the following concepts:

- Representative democracy and the structures and procedures required to ensure its implementation;
- Procedures and Operations of a National Assembly;
- Obligations and Rights of a Member of Parliament

Pupils were divided into three political parties – The Capitalist Party, the Socialist Party and the Combination Party and the following information was provided:

- Manifestos of the Capitalist, Socialist and Combination Parties;
- Statistics on the situation of Education, Crime, and Gender in Zambia;
- Copies of the Bill and Motion they were to debate on;
- Convention of the Rights of the Child;
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The pupils then grouped into their political parties and began to brainstorm their arguments. Each party agreed to meet at least three times before the next workshop where they presented their arguments. The pupils set their own meeting dates and used their own transport.

The Youth Parliament attracted interest from all corners of Zambia. It took place in the National Assembly Chamber and was attended by many Members of Parliament led by the Hon. Speaker. The general feeling was that such activities should be spread countrywide to enable young persons from outside Lusaka to benefit from the experience of participating in a Youth Parliament.

Case Study 3: Report of the First Youth Parliament in Cayman Islands (Monday 12th March 2001, Commonwealth Day)

Monday 12th March, 2001 was a historical day for the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association when it presented to the public its first Youth Parliament.

Thirty-three students, aged between 14-17 years, from the eight High Schools within the Islands participated. The Youth Parliament mirrored the existing Legislative Assembly, but in order to accommodate the response and desires of students to participate, the composition of the Youth Parliament exceeded the 18 seat Parliament by adding two elected members on the Backbenches and one Minister on the Government Bench. Administrative staff included a Clerk, Deputy Clerk and a Serjeant-at-Arms. The remaining nine students acted as Permanent Secretaries in support of the Members and Ministers of the Government Bench.

Great efforts were made to advertise the event within the Civil Service, in the news media, on television and radio and this drew the interest of other students, parents, the media and members of the public. The proceedings were aired on Radio Cayman and video taped. Copies of the video were later presented to each school for their libraries and for future reference.

The Youth Parliament debated two Motions: one Government Motion entitled “the Cayman Islands (Constitution Order) 1973” and one Private Member’s Motion entitled, “Teenage Pregnancy”.

It was clear from the student’s presentations that great efforts had been made in their research and preparation to speak on the motions and that they had received good guidance from their teachers.

Four hours were set aside for debate but somewhat apprehensive of their first introduction to the world of politics, students did not take full advantage of the five minutes allowed per person. Nonetheless, the Ministers on the Government Bench, at the end of debates, offered to and impressively responded to impromptu questions from backbenchers on issues relating to the two Motions previously debated.

The evening ended with the 33 students and six teachers being invited as guests at the Branch’s Annual Dinner held at the Grand Pavillion Conference Centre. In attendance were His Excellency the Governor Mr. Peter J Smith, CBE and Mrs Smith and Associate Members of the local CPA Branch. The students were presented with plaques recognising each student for his/her participation.

Selection of Participants

CPA Millennium Youth Parliament

In March 1999 the CPA Headquarters Secretariat contacted Branch Secretaries to gauge how many Branches were interested in sending a youth participant to the Millennium Youth Parliament, whether it was likely they would be able secure funding to pay for their nominee's travel expenses, and finally, whether (should additional places become available) Branches would be interested in sending a second participant, on the same terms. We would recommend a similar approach for your own Youth Parliament – perhaps by contacting schools or other youth groups in advance of your project to gauge interest and giving them time to budget funds to facilitate their participation.

In the event, fifty Branches indicated that they were interested in sending a participant to the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament, with over half of them (26) requesting an extra place. Eleven of the 50 Branches said they were unable to provide funds for travel and asked for the Secretariat's help in procuring sponsorship to enable them to send participants to the United Kingdom. Only two Branches wrote back to inform us that they were not interested in nominating a participant to the Youth Parliament.

This information was requested for gauging interest and the possible extent of Branch support for participants: it was not regarded as constituting a firm commitment. In March 2000, encouraged by the generally positive response, the Secretariat sent invitations to all Branches (whether they had expressed an interest or not) to nominate up to two young people, ideally one male, one female, to attend the CPA Youth Parliament in Manchester scheduled for later that year.

Criteria

Branches were informed that in the event of there being too many nominees than we were able to accommodate, the final participants would be selected by taking account of regional and gender balance and whether the Branch was able to secure funding to pay for their nominee's travel expenses. We asked Branches, therefore, to list their nominees in order of priority and include reference to their ability to provide funds for travel. Branches were also informed that while they could nominate participants who were already resident in the UK, priority would be given to those Branches which have selected participants from their own resident youth population.

We asked that nominees should be within the age range of 18-29, have shown an interest in Commonwealth and parliamentary affairs and displayed potential leadership qualities. They should be ready to take an active role in the debates and proceedings of the Youth Parliament and understand that their fellow participants, whilst sharing a common Commonwealth heritage and similar age, did not know each other prior to the event, and would come from very different societal backgrounds.

Participants for the International Youth Parliament⁴ (an Oxfam Community Aid Abroad Initiative) in 2000 were chosen from over 2000 applications and were selected by regional selection panels based on criteria including:

- Commitment to the community
- Their ability to effect change on their return
- Support from their organisation
- Indigenous Community Members
- Gender and Ethnicity
- Previous activist involvement
- Communication skills

In New Zealand, some 120 Youth MPs are selected by sitting MPs, through a democratic selection process that occurs throughout the country over two months leading up to the Youth Parliament.

Final Participants

Over 100 young people, aged between 16 and 29 and travelling from all regions of the Commonwealth, attended the Youth Parliament. Sixty-two of the 142 CPA Branches which then made up the Association⁵ nominated participants to take part in the project. Forty-four Commonwealth countries in total were represented, including 15 in the Caribbean, 12 in Africa (including Sierra Leone), three in Asia, two in the Pacific (New Zealand and Niue), and two in the Mediterranean, and Australia, Canada, Malaysia and Singapore. As well as young people attending from the United Kingdom, representatives also came from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Britain's South Atlantic overseas territory, St Helena.

Over fifty per cent of the participants were women, reflecting the CPA's constitutional commitment to gender equality.

⁴ Taken from "How to Organise Your Own Parliament", Oxford Community Aid Abroad (www.caa.org.au/parliament/about/howto/index.html)

⁵ Since the Youth Parliament the Association has grown to 171 Branches and over 16,000 members.

Case Study 4: Edo State House of Assembly Youth Parliament

The Edo State House of Assembly was re-admitted to the Association in April 2000; its membership remained in abeyance during the period of military rule (November 1993 to 29 May 1999). On Monday 11 March 2002, the House of Assembly joined other Branches of the CPA to commemorate Commonwealth Day.

In Edo State the day was celebrated by a Youth Parliament. Participants were senior secondary school pupils drawn from the eighteen Local Government Council Areas of the State. Together with their teachers, they were transported to Benin City for a rehearsal on Friday 8 March, followed by the event proper on 11 March (Commonwealth Day).

Youth Parliament Programme

10.30am Young Parliamentarians & Observers seated

11.00am Formal Entry of “Mr Speaker”
Prayers
Roll Call of “Members”
Approval of Votes & Proceedings of Last Sitting

Her Majesty the Queen’s Commonwealth Day Message – read by the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Matthew Egbadon, MLA

ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTION CALLING ON EVERY CHILD OF EDO STATE TO LEARN AND SPEAK AT LEAST ONE OTHER LANGUAGE BESIDES HIS MOTHER-TONGUE.

WHEREAS there is strength in unity;

WHEREAS the Commonwealth as an international organisation is made up of countries with different cultures and religions;

WHEREAS the organisation remains united and strong;

WHEREAS Edo State of Nigeria can be more developed if the people are united;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That every child in Edo State should be made to learn and speak at least one other language besides their mother tongue, in order to ensure unity among the people of the state.

Adjournment of Plenary Session

1.00pm Talk on “Celebrating Diversity” by Hon. Friday Itulah
What Nigeria and Edo State should learn from the (heterogeneous) Commonwealth.

2.00pm Lunch

3.00pm Evaluation

Lessons When Identifying Participants⁶

1. How many people do you want to attend and what age groups should we consider?
2. Which areas do you want your participants to come from? They may be only through your local groups. Networks may already be known to you – utilise them. If you are to organise a forum for regional, national or international participants, the World Wide Web is an excellent source. Search for your designated areas and spread the word.
3. What sort of organisations do you want your participants to come from – government or non-government, bureaucracy and/or social activists, universities or schools? You may decide to invite individuals who are not affiliated to any organisation.

The number of participants will obviously depend upon your budget and the size of the venue. The identification of an age range will depend upon a number of factors. Legal considerations are most important. If you are expecting a participant to travel a long distance without an accompanying adult, a lower limit of 18 is advisable.

Under the Working Constitution of the UK Youth Parliament, any young person who is a resident of the UK, and is aged between 11-18 years old is eligible to stand for election. The Operational Guidelines of the UK Youth Parliament are included as Appendix A.⁷

The CPA Jersey Branch has organised a Youth Assembly for a number of years. The young people come from about 6 local schools and colleges and takes place in the States Chamber itself. It is therefore limited to a maximum of 60 participants⁸.

Case Study 5: European Youth Parliament

The European Youth Parliament holds three international sessions each year. Each session comprises three stages:

Team Building

Delegates are placed in committees with 12-16 other young people from throughout Europe. Team building exercises over two days take place in advance of the Youth Parliament.

Committee Work

Over three days committees must establish the precise nature of their topic, discuss their different ideas, come to a consensus and produce a resolution.

General Assembly

This culminates the work for the week. The committees present and defend their resolutions. A representative from the committee is invited to read the resolution to the chamber and two speakers are then allocated three minutes each, one to defend the resolution and the other to attack it. Approximately 40 minutes of open debate then follows.

See <http://www.jhnsn.demon.co.uk/overview>

⁶ This section is based on information from www.caa.org.au/parliament/about/howto/index.html

⁷ For more details on the UKYP, please contact Kate Parish, National Development Co-ordinator, UKYP, 61 Sandy Lane, Hartley, Wintney, Hampshire RG27 8DT.

⁸ Information received from CPA Jersey Branch.

Selection of Venue

“The replica House of Commons at the Granada Studios in Manchester was superb and indeed, it did give us the exposure of really being Members of Parliament.”

Rehema Kabiru, Kenya.

“The Parliament was not designed to be the parliament of any existing Commonwealth nation, although by using the House of a Commons replica studio at Granada Studios Tour, it took on the atmosphere of Westminster parliaments such as the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.”

James North, UK

As it is important to recreate the atmosphere and procedures of Parliament, it is obviously preferable to try and hold the proceedings in a legislative chamber whether at a national, state or local level (e.g. town hall or equivalent).

Naturally, the number of participants attending the Youth Parliament will be limited by the venue’s capacity. The first Victorian YMCA (Young Mens Christian Association of Victoria) Youth Parliament was held in the Legislative Council Chamber in 1987 where some 40 young people participated, but the event has now grown to include in the vicinity of 120 persons (male and female). The Legislative Assembly Chamber, which holds almost 90 Members, is now used as the venue⁹.

For the Millennium Youth Parliament, the House of Commons set at the Granada TV Studios in Manchester was selected as the venue for the following reasons:

- The House of Commons set enabled the Youth Parliament to proceed with greater authenticity
- Good road and rail communications with the rest of the country (including proximity to an international airport)
- Existence of a plethora of hotels to choose from
- The fact that the city of Manchester was to host the 2002 Commonwealth Games, and was working to identify itself as a Commonwealth City. In the event the Youth Parliament was the first event of the Manchester Spirit of Friendship Festival, a series of cultural, educational and sporting events and festivals which culminated with the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in July 2002.

⁹ Information received by CPA Victoria Branch.

Case Study 6: The Educational Mission of the National Assembly of Quebec

In order to help people of all ages become familiar with the parliamentary system of Quebec, the National Assembly organizes and conducts parliamentary simulations and a tournament on democracy. In 2000-2001, close to 5000 young people demonstrated their interest in the practice of democracy.

Parliamentary simulations are televised, in whole or in part, on the channel that broadcasts the debates of the National Assembly.

Pupils' Parliament

A one-day simulation for students in grade 6, the Pupils' Parliament begins with work in the classroom, during which each participating class drafts a legislative text, and elects a representative. Then, 125 pupil-parliamentarians come to experience the different stages of the legislative process; they debate, amend and vote on the three legislative bills that are selected.

Student Forum

A five-day simulation for college students, the Student Forum is a veritable school of parliamentary democracy. The young people receive prior instruction from their teachers, and build their knowledge of parliamentary procedure, the legislative process and the functioning of a democratic State through contact with specialists of the National Assembly.

Youth Parliament

A simulation lasting five days, in which university and college students reinvent the British-type parliamentary system, the Youth Parliament sits without being bound by party discipline, and emphasizes the Member's role as a legislator.

Student Parliament

A simulation lasting five days, for college and university level students, the Student Parliament is a re-creation of Quebec's Parliament. In order to provide a complete learning experience, the two parliamentary groups alternately occupy the seats of the Government and those of the Official Opposition.

Teachers' Parliament

A one-day simulation for teachers at the primary, secondary and college level, the Teacher's Parliament hones their knowledge in the areas of politics and parliamentary democracy, and thus enables them to transmit this knowledge to their students.

Education for Democracy, Educational Programs Directorate of the National Assembly

The Budget

The most important aspect is the resources that you will be bringing together.

Key questions to ask include:

What do you need funded, who will provide it (government, private, delegates) and who will secure it?

You will need a budget considering some of the following expenses:

- Travel for delegates
- Salaries for staff and facilitators
- Hire of Equipment
- Venue and Catering
- Accommodation
- Advertising and Public Relations
- Legal fees and insurance
- Photocopying, postage, telephone and fax, couriers
- Local Transport
- Miscellaneous expenses

It is crucial to relate your budget to the objectives of the Youth Parliament, whilst not allowing it to dictate your strategy. You should also allow room for flexibility and unexpected developments.

A Budget of £35,000 was allocated for the Millennium Youth Parliament, but total expenditure was £45,330.48 (excluding air travel for participants). The actual cost to the CPA's budget, however, was just over £30,000 because of the amount of sponsorship the project attracted. This is explained in greater detail in the following pages.

CPA Millennium Youth Parliament Expenditure

Hotel Accommodation

Rooms	£13, 824.90
Breakfast (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)	£1, 815
Dinner (Wednesday and Thursday)	£3, 000
Packed Lunches (Saturday)	£428.45
Hotel Expenses in total	£19, 068.35

Granada Studios

House of Commons Hire	£5757.00
Buffet Lunches (two days)	£4613
Coffee/Tea/Mineral Water	£499.95
Group Photograph (150 copies of 18 x 12 print)	£350
Total Fee for Granada Studios	£11, 219.95

Transport

Coach Transport (London and Manchester)	£1890
Hired Car for Dignitaries	£81.40
Fee for Transport	£1971.40

Opening Reception

£2100

Videotape production/editing and reproduction

£8,500

Miscellaneous

Hire of Conference Room at Crowne Plaza (Wednesday and Thursday)	£400
Conference Briefcases	£983.48
Freight	£50.40
Insurance	£52.50
Various	£172.00

Total: £1658.38

Expenses for Resource People £812.40

TOTAL £45, 330.48

The figures above provide a breakdown of the costs involved in the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament project. The costs will obviously vary according to the size and scope of your own project.

Sponsorship

Unless you are in the fortunate (and very unusual) position where you have adequate funds to meet the costs of running a Youth Parliament, you will have to take steps to obtain sponsorship. The best way to plan your fundraising is through your draft budget. This will show the amount of money you plan to spend, and it should also indicate the amount of money that has already been raised or needs to be collected.

There are many demands on organisations for support, but finite resources may well cause you problems when seeking support from other sources. It is likely that you will need to amend your budget during the planning stage, cutting costs where necessary.

Possible Fundraising Sources

Foundations/Grant-making trusts
Individuals
Government Grants
Business Sponsorship
International Aid and Development Funding

There are many books and directories that provide useful information on devising fundraising strategies and writing fundraising proposals. An effective way of tracking down these sources is to conduct a literature search through the Internet or by using the facilities of your local library.

An eight-point recipe for fundraising success

1. Be very clear about what you want and why
2. Do your research to find out those sources most likely to give.
3. Find out application procedures and deadlines
4. Refine your project accordingly to present the case from their point of view
5. Lobby and use publicity to try and influence the decision
6. Remember that you have the right to ask
7. Remember that they have the right to say no
8. Make it easy to respond
9. Follow up
10. Remember to say thank you if you are successful and acknowledge their help.

Remember: fundraising is never easy and will always take longer than you think. The more you plan ahead, the more successful you will be in getting the resources when you need them.

[adapted from The WorldWide Fundraiser's Handbook (International Fund Raising Group and Directory of Social Change, 1996 and "Developing a Fundraising Strategy", Professional Fundraising, September 2000 p 32]

CPA Millennium Youth Parliament

Funds were obtained from the following sources:

CPA UK Branch Contribution	£9,911
Salford Council	£3,000
British Council	£500
The Emerson Group	£500
Liquid Plastics	£500
Bombardier Aerospace	£500
Total:	£14,911
Net expenditure for the project was:	
£45, 330.48 (total expenditure) – £14, 911 (funds raised) =	£30,419.48

For the CPA Youth Parliament Branches were asked to secure funding to cover the transport costs of their participant[s] from their home jurisdiction to the United Kingdom and back again. Many Branches of the CPA, however, did not have the funds to cover the costs of flying a representative to the UK. We wrote therefore to the **Department For International Development (DFID)**, United Kingdom, and asked for financial assistance to enable these Branches to send one young representative to take part in the Youth Parliament.

Eleven CPA Branches informed the CPA Secretariat that they were unable to provide funds for travel to the United Kingdom and a grant of £10,000 from DFID enabled eight CPA Branches (Grenada, Kenya, Jamaica, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Niue, St. Kitts and Nevis and Belize) to send one representative each to the Youth Parliament.

The British Council allocated £500 to the Youth Parliament by sponsoring a lunch at which they invited Commonwealth scholars studying in and around Manchester. The Emerson Group, Liquid Plastics and Bombardier Aerospace gave grants of £500 each to the Youth Parliament.

Not only are there different sources of funding, but there are also diverse methods of support available to you such as technical assistance, giving time as a volunteer or making a gift in kind (this can be literally anything – from free tickets to office space).

At the Millennium Youth Parliament, **British Airways** gave us four free tickets (estimated value £3000) which were used to transport participants from Malawi, St Lucia, Norfolk Island and Eastern Cape (South Africa) to London. **SriLankan Airlines** also provided complimentary air tickets for two young Sri Lankans.

Manchester 2002 gave valuable support and provided useful publicity throughout the Youth Parliament and their links to local government, the media and with business organisations in Manchester enabled us to close the Youth Parliament with a reception and civic dinner in the beautiful setting of Manchester Town Hall hosted by the Lord Mayor.

It is very useful to obtain the support of prominent local or national persons such as Parliamentarians who may be willing to write a letter in support of your project. Sir Edward Heath, KG, MBE, Prime Minister of the UK (1970-74) and former Father of the House of Commons, gave the event his personal support and contacted Richard Branson, Head of Virgin, to ask for his help. In the event **Virgin Trains** provided 150 free return train tickets from London to Manchester.

Case Study 7: Jersey Youth Parliament¹⁰

The Jersey Youth Parliament, organised under the auspices of the local CPA Branch, lasts for one afternoon, but the students also attend a short ‘rehearsal’ a few days before. It mirrors a meeting of the States of Jersey although it is presided over by Senator Pierre Horsfall OBE, Chairman of the Executive Committee for Jersey Branch. After the formal introductions the Assembly starts with Statements, such as from those young people who have attended other CPA events. Questions are then directed to the actual members of the States who have a responsibility for the particular matters being questioned. This gives the young people the chance to put local politicians on the spot and supplementary questions are also allowed.

After questions each school puts forward a proposition for debate and a vote is then taken in the usual way. The young people are encouraged to follow normal rules of parliamentary debate and are given guidance about this in advance.

¹⁰ Information received by CPA Jersey Branch.

Press and Publicity

There is nothing that will attract the eyes and ears of a potential supporter of your project than the prospect of favourable publicity. But it is in your wider interests too to publicise the Youth Parliament as widely as possible – both before, during and after the event. Publicity will spread knowledge of your organisation and the aims of the Youth Parliament to other interested groups, multiplying the outreach of the project and the chances of obtaining additional financial support in the future for other projects.

Distributing a Press or News Release is one way to publicise your event in the media. Another method is to invite radio and television companies to come and observe or even record the proceedings. Do take care however that cameras or recording equipment are placed as inconspicuously as possible. This will reduce the likelihood of nervousness among participants or, at the other extreme, the temptation to play up to the cameras!

A further way of attracting Press to your Youth Parliament is to invite a prominent person or dignitary to attend and maybe formally open the proceedings. At the CPA Youth Parliament, we invited High Commissioners, Parliamentarians and representatives from sponsoring organisations. His Excellency Rt. Hon Donald McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, agreed to officially open the proceedings by delivering the equivalent of the Throne Speech.

Later in the Youth Parliament three young participants from New South Wales, Zimbabwe, and British Columbia appeared on local radio to answer questions about their participation in the Youth Parliament and how the experience had changed their attitude to the Commonwealth and to politics in general. They were also asked for their views on the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The following news release was issued in advance of the Youth Parliament. Other examples of press releases used to publicise the Youth Parliament are included as Appendix B.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE

MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT IN MANCHESTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 100 young people from all regions of the Commonwealth will meet on 23 and 24 November in a Youth Parliament at the Granada Studios in Manchester to debate the future of the Commonwealth and discuss matters of concern to the coming generation.

Organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament will enable some 110 young men and women aged between 16 and 29 to face the pressure of adversarial politics on the parliamentary benches in the replica House of Commons Chamber at Granada Studios. Included in their debates will be electoral reform proposals to reserve some parliamentary seats for minority groups, introduce compulsory voting and lower the voting age to 14. The "Youth MPs" have been nominated by many of the 164 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures that are united through the CPA in pursuit of the ideals of parliamentary democracy.

CPA Secretary-General Arthur Donahoe, QC, said that the young Parliamentarians would follow formal parliamentary practice adapted from several countries as they navigate their way through a sampling of Parliament's most important procedures. "The participants will have a chance to experience life in the parliamentary spotlight and at the same time show the Commonwealth's current Parliamentarians how the next generation will conduct parliamentary politics," he said.

The Parliament will be run under the watchful eyes of its Speaker, Baroness Fookes of Plymouth, formerly Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, and its Deputy Speaker, His Excellency James Aggrey-Orleans, High Commissioner for Ghana. Shona McGlashan, senior Clerk at the House of Commons, will serve as the Clerk of the Youth Parliament.

Commonwealth Secretary-General H.E. Don McKinnon, who will open the Youth Parliament with a speech on the Commonwealth on Thursday 23 November at 9.15a.m., has given the project his full support. "I am delighted to reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to empowering young people," he said. "The young citizens of the Commonwealth are our future and our present. We need to ensure our young people have faith in parliamentary democracy and that the wider Commonwealth community actively seeks their involvement in society and its democratic underpinning. It is appropriate that the CPA is holding its Millennium Youth Parliament in Manchester, as we look forward to the 2002 Commonwealth Games."

.../2

The Participants

The participants are all Commonwealth nationals, most of whom are travelling to the U.K. under the auspices of their local Parliament. The 44 countries represented by these "Youth MPs" include: 15 in the Caribbean, 14 in Africa (including Sierra Leone), three in Asia, three in the Pacific (including the Solomon Islands and Niue), and two in the Mediterranean, and Australia, Canada, Malaysia and Singapore. As well as young people attending from the United Kingdom, representatives will also come from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Britain's South Atlantic overseas territory, St Helena.

There will be a welcoming reception at the Royal Commonwealth Society at 12 noon on Wednesday 22 November.

The Programme

After the Commonwealth Secretary-General has formally opened the proceedings with the equivalent of the "Throne Speech", there will be a major debate on the future of the Commonwealth and an Adjournment Debate on "Programmes for Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability". As well as debates and votes on government and opposition motions, there will also be an Electoral Reform Bill discussed in Committee of the Whole House. On Friday afternoon "Youth MPs" will stage a Question Time, based on the Canadian parliamentary practice of asking oral questions without notice.

The Venue

The Commonwealth Youth Parliament will sit from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, 23 November, and Friday, 24 November, in the House of Commons Chamber, Granada Studios, Water Street, Manchester. The International Media Centre at Salford University will record the event on video for wider distribution and training purposes.

National Spirit of Friendship

The Commonwealth Youth Parliament is supported by the city of Manchester and will mark the first event of the National Spirit of Friendship Festival.

Frances Done, Chief Executive of Manchester 2002 said: "We are delighted to be involved in the Commonwealth Youth Parliament. It is a flag event to our National Spirit of Friendship Festival, a countrywide arts, cultural, educational and sporting festival which will culminate in the Commonwealth Games' Opening Ceremony in Manchester in July 2002. With more than a quarter of the Commonwealth population under 25, the Commonwealth Games is a very important manifestation of the links that we can build on throughout the Commonwealth."

The Youth Parliament will end with a civic dinner on the evening of Friday 24 November at Manchester Town Hall in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Hugh Barrett.

The Youth Parliament and Civic Dinner will be open to the media.

Further details about the Youth Parliament can be obtained from:

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Headquarters Secretariat Suite 700
7 Millbank SW1P 3JA London United Kingdom
Telephone: 020 7799 1460 Fax: 020 7222 6073**

“Commonwealthland”

As noted earlier, typically none of the Youth Parliament participants knew each other before attending the event. Also, they came from totally different backgrounds, from all eight regions of the CPA (Africa, Asia, Australia, British Islands and Mediterranean, Canada, Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic, Pacific and South-East Asia) from jurisdictions as diverse as Jersey, Niue, Zambia, India, Malaysia, Scotland, Canada, Sierra Leone and Australia.

Other Youth Parliaments typically draw participants from a single school or college, or from a series of schools and colleges in the same jurisdiction. This means that debates can be initiated and legislation proposed using the knowledge of the jurisdiction already common to all participants. Further, political party membership for the purposes of these Youth Parliaments can either reflect existing political parties, or be based on individual schools, towns or university departments. This was not an option for the CPA Youth Parliament.

We therefore had to devise a means whereby political parties could be formed, policies devised and legislation proposed which could be opposed or defended from a position of shared knowledge. We therefore “created” the Commonwealth’s 55th member state, “Commonwealthland” and founded three Political Parties which participants were invited to join.

Whilst we had originally devised the programme to afford participants ample opportunity to speak both as individuals and as members of the three political parties devised by us, not least because of concerns that participants might find the concept of “Commonwealthland” hard to take seriously, in the event the young people wholeheartedly threw themselves into their role as elected representatives of “Commonwealthland”, to the extent that political party identities emerged ahead of schedule during the train journey to Manchester!

“Commonwealthland” was characterised by the following:

- is a country which is the 55th member of the Commonwealth, but also belongs to several other regional trade groupings
- is a large country bordered on all sides by other countries, some of which are Commonwealth members
- is a country with an off-shore island, populated by 15, 000 persons, which currently does not have its own Legislature, but which has recently been talking in terms of devolution
- is a country which is characterised by a very large population, the majority of whom are aged under 35 years of age
- is a country of many different cultures, languages and religions
- is a country which is currently spending a significant proportion of its national income on defence.

- is a country which is receiving large numbers of refugees from a neighbouring country which is currently experiencing civil war
- is a country where the capital city is very congested, and where most transport is by road, despite the existence of navigable rivers and railways.
- is a country which aims to make increasing use of new technology
- is a country with many industries (mineral mining; automobile manufacture, breweries; large banking and insurance sectors; textile manufacture; crop production, and a growing tourism industry).
- is a country with significant unemployment amongst people aged under twenty-five
- is a country in which the voting age is 18, drugs are illegal, although many are actually produced within the country's own borders
- is a developing country in debt to the west
- is a country where the electoral system is first-past-the-post, and where most elections are characterised by under fifty per cent voter turnout
- is a country in which the three main political parties dominate Parliament, but where membership of political parties is declining rapidly, and increasing numbers of people are expending political energy in pressure groups (e.g. save the forest, ban the building of a proposed new motorway)
- is a country in which there have recently been arrests of five politically active, potentially subversive but definitely non-violent persons from the off-shore island, who have, at the time of the Youth Parliament, been held in custody without charge for 48 hours
- is a country in which large numbers of the population are HIV positive or have AIDS
- is a country where most urban households have a car
- is a country where one of the highest killers is cancer
- is a country where children (aged over 7 and under 16) regularly work to earn money essential to their families' welfare, often in dangerous industries (e.g. glass-making), or for long hours, and so miss school
- is a country where education for under 16s is free but not compulsory
- is a country where the state does not pay for health care
- is a country with traditional rulers whose voice is not currently accommodated in Parliament
- is a country with a single parliamentary Chamber
- is a country which has had 30 years of peace, and regular changes of government through the polls
- is a country with a written constitution (1969), which can only be changed following an amendment in Parliament which receives two-thirds support
- is a country where all constituencies are single seat constituencies
- is a country which does not have capital punishment
- is a country which regularly participates in the Commonwealth Games

MEMBERSHIP OF “COMMONWEALTHLAND” POLITICAL PARTIES

The three political parties invented for the purposes of the CPA Youth Parliament were as follows:

Direct Democracy Party:

Manifesto included a commitment to direct democracy; the abolition of Parliament, political parties and MPs; stress on the use of new technology. In the interim, until Parliament is abolished, the manifesto included the abolition of income tax; an increase in defence expenditure; privatisation and liberalisation programmes in all sectors of the economy; support for devolution and referenda (including a referendum on changing the election system to a form of Proportional Representation).

New Millennium Party:

Manifesto included a commitment to phase out the use of the private car; extension of public transport network; tax rises; redistribution of wealth; punitive legislation to punish industry and utilities which pollute the atmosphere; nationalisation of key industries; assistance to refugees; cuts in defence expenditure; a rise in the state pension; and free access to health and education services.

Youth Party:

Manifesto included lowering the voting age to 14 years; mixed economy; compulsory voting; alteration of curriculum in schools to include civic and sex education; legalisation (or decriminalising) of soft drugs; promotion of partnerships between private industry and schools/youth clubs; support for public-private partnerships in education and healthcare; quotas to ensure seats for women and minority groups in society.

Participants were invited to “join” a Political Party in order of preference (see Appendix C). The CPA Secretariat then allocated all participants to a Political Party on the basis of their first or second preference.

Opportunity was given for participants to amend or alter the manifestos of the parties of which they are members for the purposes of CPA Youth Parliament during the evening briefing sessions and party caucusing prior to the opening session.

We tried to accommodate as many first preferences as possible, but for reasons of balance some participants were allocated to a party according to his/her second preference. We did this because we wanted to ensure there was no dominant party in the chamber therefore making the passage of legislation difficult and also forcing participants to think carefully about tactics and possible areas of negotiation and compromise.

In the event the Youth Party emerged as the minority government of Commonwealthland, although the balance of power was under the aegis of the Direct Democracy Party. The New Millennium Party was the Official Opposition Party. The parliamentary arithmetic was as follows:

Youth Party:	51 Members
New Millennium Party	37 Members
Direct Democracy Party	18 Members
Independents	2 Members
Total:	108 Members

Parliamentary Officials and Office Holders

We decided that because all participants were new to each other and the Youth Parliament parliamentary procedure, the roles of Speaker, Clerk of the House and “Head of State” should not be taken by participants. The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, HE The Rt Hon. Donald McKinnon, delivered the equivalent of the “Throne Speech”, an incisive description of the existing Commonwealth, its goals and activities, which stimulated considerable debate, to which participants contributed as themselves, rather than as members of their political parties. Baroness Fookes of Plymouth, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Westminster, UK and Ms Shona McGlashan, senior Clerk at the House of Commons, acted as Madame Speaker and Clerk of the House respectively, ensuring that procedure was followed and momentum maintained. His Excellency James Aggrey-Orleans, then High Commissioner for Ghana and former Clerk in the Parliament of Ghana, acted as Deputy Speaker.

Had experienced personnel not held these key roles, the Youth Parliament, like any other Parliament without proper supervision, would have threatened to degenerate into a shambles on certain occasions!

<u>HEAD OF STATE:</u>	HIS EXCELLENCY THE RT HON DONALD MCKINNON
<u>SPEAKER:</u>	BARONESS FOOKES OF PLYMOUTH
<u>DEPUTY SPEAKER:</u>	HIS EXCELLENCY MR JAMES E. K. AGGREY-ORLEANS
<u>CLERK OF THE HOUSE:</u>	MS SHONA McGLASHAN

SERJEANT AT ARMS

We allowed one exception to the rule that experienced officials should hold official positions. Participants were invited to indicate interest in the position of Serjeant at Arms. They were informed that when not serving in the impartial capacity of Serjeant at Arms, each participant would act as a member of one of the three political parties in Commonwealthland.

The Serjeant at Arms attends the Speaker in a ceremonial capacity and is in charge of security. He/She is the custodian of the mace, the symbol of Parliament's authority, which is carried by the Serjeant in the Speaker's procession. If ordered by the Speaker, the Serjeant can take disciplinary action against badly behaved Members.

The role of Serjeant at Arms was further explained in the briefing session on Wednesday 22nd November. Four participants took turns to act in this capacity.

Rules of Procedure

The CPA Commonwealth Youth Parliament Rules of Procedure were specially drafted in 1997 by Mr John Sweetman, retired Clerk Assistant of the U.K. House of Commons, and amended in 2000 by Shona McGlashan, Senior Clerk at the House of Commons. They were drafted following extensive discussions between the Clerk, the CPA Secretariat and the Speaker of the Youth Parliament on the format of the proposed programme, drawing upon their extensive knowledge of the Standing Orders of the United Kingdom House of Commons. The fact that Shona McGlashan had agreed to act as Clerk, and Baroness Fookes as Madame Speaker, meant that, on the few occasions on the actual day where the Rules were silent, they fully knew their intent and were able to extemporise accordingly.

The Rules Governing the Conduct of Business are reproduced on pages 34 to 37. Appendix D explains the procedure used at the Victoria YMCA Youth Parliament in October 2001.

RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Meeting of Parliament

1. The Parliament shall meet on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 November.

Speaker

2. The Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Parliament shall preside over all debates and proceedings of the Parliament. Their ruling on procedural matters shall be final and no motion to censure or remove the Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall be in order.
3. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall be accorded proper respect by all Members of the Youth Parliament. Members shall stand when they enter or leaves the chamber and, in the case of an adjournment of the Parliament, shall remain in their places until the Speaker has left the Chamber. As a gesture of respect Members shall bow to the Speaker's chair when entering or leaving the chamber. Members shall refer to the Speaker as "Madam Speaker" and the Deputy Speaker as "Mr Deputy Speaker" at all times.
4. The Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair when requested to do so by the Speaker. He shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker in relation to all proceedings until the Speaker resumes the Chair.

Discipline

5. Members must be of good behaviour at all times and must obey the directions of the Speaker. A Member who has been called to order by the Speaker must apologise to the Chamber immediately; failure to do so, or refusal to obey an order of the Speaker, may result in expulsion from the Chamber for a period of time as specified by the Speaker.
6. The Speaker may 'Name' any Member who acts in a grossly disorderly fashion. Such a Member shall be required to leave the Chamber immediately. Such a Member may return to the House only after he has apologised to the House. The Speaker has sole discretion over the interruption of proceedings to allow Members to make such an apology.

Agenda

7. The Parliament will consider business set down on the agenda in the order in which it is set down.

Bills: Introduction

8. No Bill may be introduced to the Chamber until a copy of the Bill has been lodged with the Clerk of the Chamber at the Table.
9. No Bill may be debated by the Parliament until it has been introduced unless notice of such introduction stands on the agenda. Members introduce a Bill by standing in their place, when so called by the Speaker, and reading the title of their Bill and the names of five of their supporters. No Bill may be introduced into the Chamber without the support of at least five Members.
10. Once a Bill has been introduced, it will be deemed to have been read the first time.

Bills: Second Reading

11. At the start of debate on a Bill the Clerk of the Chamber will read the title of the Bill. The Speaker will then call the Member in charge of the Bill to move the motion "That the Bill be read a second time". Other Members will then be called to speak in the debate by the Speaker.
12. No amendments to the Bill will be proposed in the second reading debate; the debate shall be on the principle of the Bill. At the end of the debate, the Speaker will put the question "That the Bill be read a second time". If the Parliament agrees to the question it shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill. If the Parliament disagrees to the question there shall be no further proceedings on the Bill.

Bills: Committee of the Whole House

13. When the Parliament resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole House, the Deputy Speaker shall preside from the Table of the House. The Mace shall be placed below the Table.
14. No amendment to a Bill may be raised in Committee unless a written copy of the amendment has been lodged with the Clerk of the Chamber on Thursday evening.
15. Amendments shall be grouped by the Deputy Speaker for ease of debate. Selection of amendments for debate and decision shall be at the Deputy Speaker's discretion. The Committee will go through the Bill clause by clause and when it encounters the first amendment from any group, the proposer of the amendment will speak to it. Debate will continue on all the amendments in that group. When the debate on the group is concluded, the Deputy Speaker will put the question on the first amendment. The questions on further amendments in the group will be put, without debate, when the amendments are reached in the Bill.
16. At the end of debate on each Clause of the Bill, the Deputy Speaker will put the Question "That the Clause [as amended] stand part of the Bill".

17. When the Chamber has concluded its proceedings in Committee on the Bill, the Deputy Speaker will put the question "That the Bill be read the third time and passed". Once the Deputy Speaker has put the question on a Bill there may be no further debate and the House will proceed immediately to a vote. If the Parliament agrees to the question the Deputy Speaker will announce that the Bill has become law. If the Parliament disagrees to the question there shall be no further proceedings on the Bill.

Motions for Resolutions

18. Any Member of the Parliament may propose a motion for resolution by lodging a written version with the Clerk of the Chamber. The selection of motions for debate is at the sole discretion of the Speaker.
19. When a motion for resolution has, in the opinion of the Speaker, been fully debated by the Chamber, she will put the question "That this Parliament does agree with the motion". The Chamber will immediately proceed to a vote.

Voting

20. Once the Speaker has put a question upon which there is to be a vote she will call for all those in favour to call 'yes' and then for all those against to call 'no'. If the will of the Chamber is clear, the Speaker will declare that either the yeses or the noes have it, as appropriate. If the will of the Chamber is not clear, the Speaker will ask all those in favour to stand in their places and be counted and then all those against to stand in their places and be counted. The Clerk of the Chamber will count the Members voting in both directions and the Speaker will declare the result.

Motions of No Confidence in the Government

21. Should the Government of the day lose any vote in the Parliament, any Member may propose the motion "That this Chamber has no confidence in the Government". The Speaker is obliged to accept the motion and will immediately call upon the mover of the motion to speak to this motion and then on the Prime Minister to speak against it. Further debate may take place at the discretion of the Speaker. The Chamber will then vote on the question.
22. Should such a motion of no confidence be agreed to by the chamber, the Government of the day will immediately vacate office and the largest opposition party will take over.

Questions

23. Any Member may lodge a question to any Minister of the Government on any issue with the Clerk of the Chamber. Questions must be lodged with the Clerk on Thursday evening. The selection of questions to be put to Ministers is at the sole discretion of the Speaker. If a Member is not in the chamber when he is called to ask his question he will be deemed to have withdrawn his question.

Points of Order

24. Members may, at any time, call upon the Speaker clarify or give a ruling on a point of procedure by rising in their place and calling "On a point of order, Madam Speaker". Once the Speaker has recognised the Member, he may make his point and the Speaker will respond. The Speaker's rulings on such matters are final and may not be the subject of debate.

Rules of Debate

25. Members wishing to take part in a debate should hand their name and country in to the Clerk at the Table with an indication of which debate they wish to speak in.
26. No Member may speak in a debate unless called on by the Speaker to do so. The Speaker has sole discretion over whom to call to speak and may call on persons who have not submitted their name to the Clerk.
27. Members speaking in debate must do so standing in their places. All debate should be addressed through the Speaker.
28. Members wishing to intervene in the speech of another Member should rise in their place. The Member speaking at the time may then decide whether to accept the intervention or not. Such interventions must be brief and the Speaker may require Members attempting to make a speech in this fashion to resume their seats.
29. Members speaking in debate must at all times use language that is moderate and polite. No Member shall make a personal attack on any other Member of the Parliament, nor make any statement which would harm the dignity of the Parliament. No language discourteous to the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Clerk, or the Parliament is in order. Members transgressing these rules will be called to order by the Speaker.
30. The Speaker may call upon any Member to resume his seat if, in the opinion of the Speaker, he is tedious, repetitious, vulgar, irrelevant or speaking at undue length.
31. The Speaker may, where in her opinion a large number of Members wish to take part in a debate, limit the amount of time Members may speak for.

Administrative Arrangements and Staff Support

Case Study 7: Ontario Youth Parliament

The Queen's Model Parliament 1997-98, organised by Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, uses the House of Commons Chamber for their simulation of how the Canadian parliamentary system works. Leading up to the event in Ottawa, participants are involved in drafting of bills which are related to what they view to be the current issues in Canadian politics. It was organised by an Executive Committee of 8 Members dealing with the following areas:

1. Chairperson (general direction of the committee, chief spokesperson and diplomat)
2. Caucus Liaison (coordination of procedure at the House and at caucus meetings)
3. Events Co-ordinator
4. Finance (including sponsorship)
5. Logistics Co-ordinator
6. Speakers Co-ordinator (liaising with guest speakers and officials)
7. Communications (including press releases)
8. Database Management

In order to keep track of all participants at the Millennium Youth Parliament, each person was given an individual reference number. A series of tables (using Microsoft Access) was then created, detailing data about participants' gender, the nominating CPA Branch, CPA Region, next of kin, address and telephone numbers, dietary requirements, age, salient biographical facts (a short biographies booklet was prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to all participants), transport arrangements (the majority arrived in London and travelled from London to Manchester by train, but several flew direct to Manchester), Commonwealthland political party membership, etc, etc.

These tables meant it was relatively simply to be able to know, at any one time, what the administrative story for a particular individual was. Printouts of all these tables were taken to Manchester.

We selected a small team of people to organise and support the Youth Parliament project. In overall control was the CPA Secretary-General, but he delegated day-to-day planning to the Development and Planning Division of the CPA Secretariat. Regular planning visits to Manchester took place in the run-up to the Youth Parliament and a small task-orientated team was established.

Many Youth Parliaments create a Steering Group of people devoted to planning, running and building support for the project. This is a good idea if the group has the relevant expertise and contacts in the various areas of the project such as fund-raising, publicity and social events. They must also work as a team and be able to make decisions quickly both collectively and individually. This is often difficult and delegating work and understanding responsibility and accountability is crucial. One way of doing this is listing the various tasks and decisions required in the run-up to the Youth Parliament and then matching a member of the Steering Group or team to the task.

Case Study 9: Tasmanian Youth Parliament¹¹

The Tasmania Youth Parliament is organised by a Task Force comprised of past participants and organisers, interested in youth matters and others with a specialised knowledge. The Youth Parliament consists of groups from various youth organisations and schools around the State. Each group has their own Team Co-ordinator, who is responsible for co-ordinating research and liaising with the Task Force as well as a Team Mentor who advises the group.

What the Task Force Does

- Commences organisation of Youth Parliament in December.
- Seeks teams from schools and community organisations.
- The task force visits local groups to stimulate interest and further develop teams.
- Training programs are organised to assist Team Co-ordinators and Youth Parliamentarians to understand and practise Parliamentary procedures.
- Produces a Training Kit to assist teams in preparing their Bills.
- Review Bill topics to ensure they are within our jurisdiction (i.e. State issues) and there are no Bills with similar topics.
- Send a regular newsletter out to teams.
- Organises the camp and recreation program.
- Liaise with Government and Parliament House representatives to organise catering, the use of Parliament House and its staff.
- Gain Media coverage for the overall Parliament.
- Gain sponsorship for the Youth Parliament.

Role of the Team Co-ordinator

1. Distributes information to their team. This includes a regular newsletter and training information.
2. Attends the training day and local Youth Parliament meetings.
3. Facilitates young people's contact with potential resources.
4. Provides advice in Bill design, format and research.
5. Communicates the progress of the team to the Task Force.
6. Assists the team in local media promotion of the team's work and the Youth Parliament as a whole.

¹¹ www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ymca/yp.htm. For further information about the Tasmanian Youth Parliament contact **Hobart YMCA**, 8a Constance Avenue, Glenorchy, Tasmania, Australia 7009 Ph 61 3 6272 8077 Fax 61 3 6273 9207.

Orientation and Briefing

Ordinarily, participants join Youth Parliament as a member of a team representing their school or a community group. Teams are made up of 3 to 4 people, all of whom attend a seven day urban camp with three days in The House of Assembly at Parliament House, in Hobart, Tasmania. Leading up to the camp, teams are given training to assist them in writing a Bill on any issue which is of concern to them. They then present this Bill to the Youth Parliament, expounding the reasons why it should be passed.

Tasmania Youth Parliament (www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ymca/yp.htm)

We were always aware at the Millennium Youth Parliament that we were working to a very tight schedule with a group about whom, as personalities, we knew very little. Despite extensive participation beforehand in terms of drafting papers and the Rules Governing the Conduct of Business, repeated contact with participants, and close liaison with the Youth Parliament Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Clerk, the success of the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament was largely brought about because of the briefing sessions held before the opening day of the Youth Parliament.

Appendix E reproduces the letters, forms and information sheets that were sent to participants before the Youth Parliament. It is obviously important for your participants to be given as much information as possible before arriving; at the same time you should avoid information “overload” which may make some individuals nervous. Flexibility should also be exercised throughout the proceedings to allow the young people to choose their own leaders, Ministers and to draft questions and motions.

In the event a number of briefings took place during the course of the Millennium Youth Parliament. During the opening reception at the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) in London, Arthur Donahoe, then Secretary-General of the CPA, welcomed participants to the United Kingdom and reiterated some brief salient facts about the Commonwealth and CPA. Mr Raja Gomez, Director of Development and Planning, then gave some brief administrative information such as reminding participants to collect the Conference briefcases on departure from the RCS, luggage and transportation matters to Manchester and hotel arrangements (accommodation in Manchester was based on two people sharing a twin room). He also informed participants of briefing/caucusing times that evening. During the journey to Manchester, the Secretariat team wandered round the train answering any questions and generally putting participants at ease.

The most important briefing session came that evening. As there was such a large group, we arranged the briefing sessions as follows:

	YP	NMP	DDP
7.00 p.m.	Dinner	Briefing	Dinner
7.45 p.m.		Caucusing	
8.45 p.m.	Briefing	Dinner	Briefing
9.15 p.m.	Caucusing		Caucusing
Key: YP = Youth Party; NMP = New Millennium Party; DDP = Direct Democracy Party (including Independents)			

Each briefing session was led by Raja Gomez and Anthony Staddon of the CPA Secretariat and covered general matters such as breakfast, billing arrangements and other administrative matters which could affect the smooth operation of the event by timely reminders of the requisite arrangements. We then reiterated the objectives of the Youth Parliament and ran through the proceedings for the opening day, whilst Shona McGlashan explained the Rules of Procedure.

Thereafter, the participants split into their party groupings, each party being assisted in its deliberations by a CPA Secretariat facilitator. In their party groupings, participants were encouraged to get to know each other, to make modifications to their party platforms, and to identify Cabinet and shadow Cabinets. In addition each Party had to decide a number of items related to the programme – for example the New Millennium Party had to agree a motion for the debate scheduled for the opening afternoon. This enabled the other parties to choose speakers and plot strategy in good time.

The party deliberations stretched on long into the night, affording participants a great opportunity to bond with each other and prepare for the opening session.

On the opening morning of the Youth Parliament, before the Speaker’s Procession, the Secretary-General of the CPA gave a brief welcome at the replica House of Chamber which was designed to calm nerves and invite everyone to participate fully. He told participants to try and ignore the cameras and promised that the record would not be allowed to reflect badly on anyone. Front-Benchers were then invited to introduce themselves.

A second briefing session took place on the evening before the final day’s sitting. A similar framework was adopted i.e. a general briefing followed by explanation of the procedures being used for Question Time and the Committee of the Whole House. The Bill, which had been drafted in advance of the Youth Parliament for the Youth Party, was also explained in greater detail.

Appendix F reproduces the notes that were used for the briefing sessions on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Although these notes are in draft form only, we hope they are useful to you when devising your own briefing sessions. We cannot stress enough the need to brief your participants in advance of the Youth Parliament.

Case Study 10: Victoria, Australia

The Young Mens Christian Association of Victoria, in conjunction with the Parliament of Victoria, Australia, hires a camp in Melbourne and all participants move into that camp on the Sunday before the Youth Parliament. At this stage they are divided into Government and Opposition and they elect leaders and deputy leaders for both parties. On the Monday they come into Parliament House for a practise session and a briefing on procedures for the event.

The first day of the Youth Parliament begins with a formal opening which is attended by a Minister representing the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. Parliamentary staff assist by carrying out their normal roles during this ceremony. After the opening, the Youth Parliament continues with debate on various bills that have been put forward for discussion and a set of modified procedures have been developed for consideration of these bills. The Governor of Victoria usually hosts a reception for the participants in the evening.

The students remain at their camp the following day. This time is used to discuss possible amendments and to refine their attitudes to the various bills. The students return to Parliament House on the Thursday and continue their consideration of the bills. At the conclusion of the day, all bills that have been passed by the Youth Parliament are presented to the Government (a Minister normally attends to receive the bills) for consideration.

In Alberta, the Speaker's Youth Parliament includes the opportunity to witness the Assembly in session and features briefing sessions with MLAs, cabinet ministers, members of the press gallery, and officers of the Assembly. Table Officers provide procedural orientation and, with the help of teachers, facilitate caucus planning sessions. These sessions are designed to provide the basic knowledge and understanding required for the students to participate effectively in the one-day model parliament, the main event of the program.

A similar model is followed in New Brunswick through the Student Legislative Seminar. This seminar is a non-partisan program held annually in the Legislative Assembly Building designed to provide senior high school students with a better understanding of the functions and operations of government in their province. It consists of topics presented by guest speakers, and various workshops on the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. Students participate in a Model Parliament at the conclusion of the program.

The Millennium CPA Youth Parliament Programme

Wednesday 22 November

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|---------------|--|
| 1200 | Participants to meet at the Royal Commonwealth Society for a welcome reception and buffet lunch in the presence of High Commissioners, sponsors and MPs. |
| 1300 | Participants to be transferred to Euston Station by coach |
| 1358 | Participants to leave London Euston, with the assistance of Virgin Trains. |
| 1800 (approx) | Participants travelling from London Euston to arrive at Manchester Piccadilly. Coach transfer to Jurys Inn Hotel |
| 1830 (approx) | Participants to arrive at Jurys Inn Hotel. Check in. |
| 1900 - 2040 | Briefing for members of the New Millennium Party in the Conference Room, Jurys Inn to be followed by Party caucusing; choosing of Cabinet and preparations for Thursday's sitting. |
| 1900 - 2030 | Dinner for members of the Youth Party, Direct Democracy Party and Independents at the Arches Restaurant, Lower Ground Floor, Jurys Inn Hotel. |
| 2030 | Members of the Youth Party, Direct Democracy Party and Independents to meet in the Hotel Lobby, Jurys Inn. |
| 2045 – 2230 | Briefing for members of the Youth Party, Direct Democracy Party and Independents in the Victoria Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel followed by party caucusing, choosing of cabinet members and preparations for Thursday's sitting. |
| 2045 | Dinner for members of the New Millennium Party at the Arches Restaurant, Lower Ground Floor, Jurys Inn Hotel |

Thursday 23 November

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 0630-0800 | Breakfast in hotel |
| 0830 | Participants to assemble in the Hotel Lobby in preparation for coach transfer to the House of Commons Chamber, Granada Studios |
| 0900 | Official Welcome by CPA Secretary-General, Arthur Donahoe |

- 0910 Speaker's procession (Serjeant at Arms, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Clerk of the House)
- 0915 Throne Speech by His Excellency the Rt Hon Donald McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General
- [0945 Group Photo in the Chamber followed by tea/coffee break]
- 1030 Debate on the Throne Speech and the Commonwealth on a Government Motion
- 1230 Lunch sponsored by the British Council with Commonwealth Scholars
- 1400 Opposition Motion (to be decided by the New Millennium Party)
- 1600 Adjournment Debate on Programmes for Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability.
- 1700 Return to Jurys Inn Hotel
- 1800 - 2000 Briefing for members of the New Millennium Party in the Conference Room, Jurys Inn to be followed by Party caucusing; drafting of amendments for the Committee of the Whole House; and the drafting of Questions for Question Time.
- 1800 - 1930 Dinner for members of the Youth Party, Direct Democracy Party and Independents at the Arches Restaurant, Lower Ground Floor, Jurys Inn Hotel.
- 1945 Members of the Youth Party, Direct Democracy Party and Independents to meet in the Hotel Lobby.
- 2000 – 2200 Briefing for members of the Youth Party, Direct Democracy Party and Independents in the Victoria Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel followed by party caucusing; drafting of amendments for the Committee of the Whole House; and the drafting of Questions for Question Time.
- 2000 Dinner for members of the New Millennium Party at the Arches Restaurant, Lower Ground Floor, Jurys Inn Hotel

Friday 24 November

- 0630-0800 Breakfast in hotel
- 0830 Transfer to Granada Studios
- 0900 Speaker's procession

0905	Debate on Bill (Second Reading)
1045	Break
1115	Committee of the Whole House
1230	Lunch
1400	Question Time: Canadian Style (i.e. any Minister can be asked anything)
1500	Government Motion: debate on Motion
1700	House Rises; return to Jurys Inn Hotel
1845	Participants to assemble at the Hotel Lobby of the Jurys Inn Hotel
1900	Pre-dinner drinks at Manchester Town Hall
1930	Civic Dinner organised by Manchester 2002 and Manchester City Council in the presence of the Lord Mayor.

Saturday 25 November

0630 – 1000	Breakfast
1000	Participants to check out of the Hotel and assemble in the Hotel Lobby.
1030	Coach transfer from Jurys Inn to Manchester Piccadilly
1130	Participants to leave Manchester Piccadilly
1530 (approx)	Participants to arrive at London Euston

<p>When devising your precise programme, do ensure that you allow time for emergencies such as train or rail delays or bad weather.</p>
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The Order Paper used for the Jersey Youth Assembly in March 2002 is included as Appendix G.

i. “Throne Speech”

“The Throne Speech tradition is a symbol of our parliamentary democracy in which the government is accountable to the people’s representatives in Parliament. Members of Parliament represent the ultimate authority before whom the government, through the throne speech, presents in the governments own words its plans and priorities in the years ahead”.

The Honourable Hilary M. Weston, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario on the opening of The First Session of the Thirty-Seventh Parliament of the Province of Ontario.

As the Throne Speech performs an important procedural and ceremonial function in Commonwealth Parliaments, we decided to include a Throne Speech at the CPA Youth Parliament. Although there was no formal legislative platform to announce as such, we thought it would be useful as a way to further ingrain the concept of the Commonwealth together with its key values and principles among our young audience.

After reaching that decision, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, HE The Rt Hon Donald McKinnon, was identified as the most appropriate speaker for a “Throne Speech” of this kind (in 1997 the then Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General, Mr K. Srinivasan performed a similar role).

Having a guest speaker to open the proceedings will hopefully allow the young participants to get used to their surroundings and the ambience of the Chamber. It may also serve as a useful bridging gap between the first two sessions i.e. in his speech the Commonwealth Secretary-General identified the key priorities for the Commonwealth in the year’s ahead. The second session (see page 47) was then able to pick up and debate some of the themes and ideas raised in this speech – much as a Throne Speech is debated in Commonwealth Parliaments.

In a national setting it may be useful to ask the Speaker or a distinguished senior Parliamentarian to open the Youth Parliament and speak about some of the issues facing the Nation in much the same way as the Throne Speech was used in Manchester.

ii. Debate on The Throne Speech

For the second session of the Millennium Youth Parliament, the Parliament debated a Motion thanking the Commonwealth Secretary General for the Throne Speech. This was originally devised to be a non-partisan debate (hence the wording of the Motion), but it soon became clear that some of the participants wanted to use the debate to rehearse some of the partisan political arguments in later sessions!

It is normal parliamentary procedure to debate the Throne Speech and we thought this would give participants the opportunity to discuss their views of the Commonwealth and where its priorities should be in the years ahead. It proved to be an interesting and thoughtful debate. As we had announced the debate in the preparatory materials sent in advance, participants were able to research the subject and prepare their remarks in detail. Because of the dynamic nature of the Youth Parliament this was not possible at all sessions and we thought this would also serve as an icebreaker for the participants (although there was some spontaneity even in this debate as the Secretary-General's remarks were not released in advance). A common experience when organising Youth Parliaments is that young people may be a little nervous and take time to get used to the parliamentary setting. You should be mindful, therefore, that the start of a Youth Parliament can be rather formal and lack life.

We wrote to all participants asking them whether they wished to speak in this debate and a number of them agreed to do so. Participants were also given the opportunity to add their names to the Clerk of the House at the preceding evening's briefing sessions and were also informed they could pass their names to the Clerk during the debate if they wished to respond to a particular point raised in the session.

As the Throne Speech usually outlines the government's programme in the next session of Parliament, we asked the Youth Party (the governing party) to select a representative to move the following Motion "That this Parliament thanks the Commonwealth Secretary General for the Throne Speech". At the close of the debate the Speaker put the Question "That This Parliament Does Agree With The Motion." The Motion was passed unanimously.

iii. Debate on an Opposition Motion

After lunch on the opening day, the Youth Parliament began debating issues based on their party platforms. We had decided in advance to schedule a debate based on an Opposition Motion on the first day. We invited the New Millennium Party, the largest Opposition Party, to agree the terms of the Motion at the opening evening's briefing session, advising them to take account of their Manifesto. They were informed that they would need to identify two frontbenchers: one to move the Motion and the other to close the debate.

Examples of Motions distributed to Participants:

- * THAT THE AGE OF ENFRANCHISEMENT BE LOWERED TO 14 YEARS
- * THAT SCHOOL CURRICULA SHOULD BE CHANGED SO THAT CIVIC EDUCATION IS INCLUDED
- * THAT THE AGE OF CONSENT BE LOWERED TO 14 YEARS OF AGE
- * THAT SOFT DRUGS SUCH AS CANNABIS SHOULD BE DECRIMINALISED
- * THAT INDUSTRY AND SCHOOLS SHOULD WORK IN TANDEM, AND PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO SHOULD BE PROMOTED.

The New Millennium Party submitted the following Motion:

“That this House welcomes the governments commitment to the inclusion of Civic and sex education within the school curriculum; questions the governments ability to deliver on this pledge in light of its devotion to the flawed concept of public, private partnership (PPP); is concerned that previous PPP's have been expensive, ineffective and less than wholly state owned alternatives; calls on the government to abandon PPP's and provide free access via the state to education and health services for all Commonwealthland residents: and further calls on the government to make education up to age of 16 compulsory for all residents.”

After the wording of the Motion was agreed, it was printed and distributed to the other Political Parties. The Youth Party, as the Governing Party, was informed that it would need to select two Cabinet Ministers – one to respond to the opening speaker and the other to wind-up the debate. The Direct Democracy Party was advised to think very carefully about whether to support the Motion. All political parties were asked to obtain a list of participants who wished to speak.

iv. Adjournment Debate

In most Commonwealth Parliaments Members can use a motion to adjourn the House (“That this House do now adjourn”) to raise issues relating to his or her constituency or matters of special concern. We decided to follow this procedure for the Youth Parliament and organised an hour adjournment period at the end of the opening day’s business on “Programmes for Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability”.

Normally only the Member raising the matter and the Minister responsible for replying speak during an adjournment debate. Given the interest shown in the debate, the Speaker announced that she would use her discretion to call additional Members if time allowed. Participants were advised they should speak for a maximum of 10 minutes and were warned the Speaker may call upon any Member to resume his or her seat if, in the opinion of the Speaker, he/she was speaking at undue length.

The subject under debate was discussed as a panel session at the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in the United Kingdom just a few months before the Youth Parliament. We selected four of six Panel topics used at the Conference (Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability; Environmental Degradation; Modifying Attitudes, Customs and Practices that are Barriers to the Political, Social and Economic Development of Women; and Combating the Economic, Social and Political Threats of HIV/AIDS) and asked participants if they were interested in speaking on one of these topics during an Adjournment Debate.

We selected the most popular topic and then contacted those participants who had not expressed a wish to be on the Front Bench of their Party (i.e. as a Party Leader or Cabinet Member). We did this for two reasons. First, adjournment debates are usually initiated by backbench MPs and, second, we wanted to give an opportunity to all participants. We were also conscious of the fact that some participants would prefer to plan their speeches in advance. An adjournment debate gave them an opportunity to do so.

In the event the subject that most interested participants was poverty reduction, literacy and persons with disability. This was therefore selected as the Adjournment Debate. A full report of the panel discussion from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was sent in advance to all speakers together with some background information on the subject. Further details of the Adjournment debate were provided at the briefing on Wednesday 22nd November and the Youth Party was advised that they should select a Minister to close the debate and adjourn the House until the second and final day.

V. Debate on a Government Bill (Second Reading)

A Bill is a draft piece of legislation. In order to become an Act of Parliament or new law, a Bill must pass through several stages in Parliament and then be given assent by the Head of State. Most stages are known as Readings because in the days before printing, the only way in which Members of the UK Parliament could find out what was contained in the Bill by having the contents read out in the Chamber.¹²

There are two types of Bills: Private Bills and Public Bills. Private Bills are very rare as they affect only one or two people or an organisation; Public Bills, on the other hand, are intended to be wider in scope, affecting society as a whole, and can be sponsored by a Private Member or by the Government.

For the purpose of the Youth Parliament, we thought a Public Bill sponsored by the Government would be more challenging (and fun). Normally Government Bills are more successful than Private Members' Bills because Governments have a majority in Parliament. However, when Governments have a small majority or depend on the support of other parties, as at the Millennium Youth Parliament, a Bill may fail in completing its journey through Parliament – or be radically amended - if it is controversial in character (as is usually the case with Government Bills).

Before a Bill can be debated in Parliament it has to be written down or drafted by parliamentary officials. As the Bill has to be understood by MPs discussing the proposed legislation and then enforced in the appropriate way, considerable care has to be taken to make the Bill as clear and precise as possible. Specialised lawyers working in Parliament usually carry out the process of drafting and we therefore thought it unfair to ask the youth participants to draft their own Bill. Lack of time was also a factor in our decision.

First Reading

The First Reading formally introduces the Bill to Parliament and there is no vote. Under the Standing Orders of the Youth Parliament, no Bill could be debated in Parliament until a copy of the Bill had been lodged with the Clerk of the Chamber at the Table and been introduced by a Member reading the title of their Bill and the names of five of their supporters. Once a Bill was introduced, it was deemed to have been read the first time.

¹² Making a Law, Parliamentary Education Unit, United Kingdom p7

Second Reading

A Second Reading of the Bill explains the purpose and the principle of the Bill. No amendments can be proposed. The Youth Parliament followed a similar procedure. At the start of the debate the Clerk read the title of the Bill and the Speaker called the Member in charge of the Bill to move the motion “That the Bill be read a second time”. Other Members were then called to speak in the debate by the Speaker. At the end of the debate the Speaker put the question “That the Bill be read a second time”. Under the Standing Orders, if the Parliament agreed to the question, it would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill. If the Parliament disagreed to the question there would be no further proceedings on the Bill.

We asked Geoffrey Coppock, former Greffier of the States of Jersey, to draft a Bill to cover an area of the Youth Party’s Manifesto (it was clear from the forms returned by participants that the Youth Party would be the largest party in the Chamber). He used his vast experience to draft an Election Reform Bill, which amended the law relating to voting at public elections and to provide for the representation of minorities in the Legislative Assembly. Although the legislation was drafted with care, Mr Coppock ensured that there were a few loopholes and one or two ambiguous clauses within the Bill to aid debate. These were not highlighted in the briefing sessions; we wanted to see how the participants dealt with the Bill in Committee.

The draft Bill is re-printed with an explanatory note on pages 52 to 54. Bills which were discussed at the Victorian YMCA Youth Parliament in October 2001 and a Bill debated at the Zambia Youth Parliament in 2000 are included as Appendix H.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1	Reduction of voting age
2	Compulsory voting
3	Proxy votes
4	Representation of minority groups
5	Interpretation
6	Short title and commencement

An Act to amend the law relating to voting at public elections and to provide for the representation of minorities in the Legislative Assembly

1. Reduction of voting age

- 1) Any person who –
 - a) has fulfilled the relevant residential qualification for registration as an elector;
 - b) has or will have attained the age of 14 years on or before the closing date for the compilation of the electoral register for the constituency in which he or she resides,shall be entitled to be registered as an elector and to vote in any public election taking place after that date.
- 2) Notwithstanding any provision of statute or customary law relating to the age of legal capacity, all persons shall be entitled to apply on their own behalf to be registered as electors.
- 3) The Electoral Commissioner may make rules for determining the procedure by which any person to whom this section refers may apply to be registered as an elector.

2. Compulsory voting

- 1) An elector who is entitled to vote at a public election shall not, without a valid and sufficient reason, fail to vote at the election, whether in person or by proxy.
- 2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an eligible overseas elector.
- 3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an elector shall be taken to have a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote at an election if the elector believes it to be part of his or her religious duty to abstain from voting.

3. Proxy votes

- 1) A person who is or will be entitled to vote in a public election may apply to the registration officer of the constituency in which he or she resides for the appointment of a person named in the application as a proxy to vote for him or her at a public election for such period (not exceeding 5 years from the date of the application) as is specified in the application.
- 2) A person may not be appointed proxy to vote on behalf of an elector in any constituency if that person –
 - a) has not attained the age of 14 years; or
 - b) is subject to any incapacity to vote at an election.

- 3) A person may not be appointed proxy to vote on behalf of more than 2 electors in any constituency unless that person is the husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of each of those electors.
- 4) An application under subsection (1) shall be allowed by the registration officer if the officer is satisfied, by such evidence as may be prescribed –
 - a) that the elector –
 - (i) is likely to be absent from the jurisdiction on polling day in any public election within the period specified in the application;
 - (ii) is suffering from a physical defect or disability by reason of which he will be incapable of attending personally at the polling station on polling day;
 - b) that the person to be appointed proxy –
 - (i) is not disqualified under sub-section (2) or (3); and
 - (ii) is capable of and willing to be appointed.
- 5) Not more than one person may be appointed as proxy to vote for any elector at a public election.
- 6) An appointment of a person as a proxy to vote for an elector at a public election shall be revoked –
 - a) by notice given by the elector to the registration officer;
 - b) on the appointment of another person as a proxy to vote for the elector.
- 7) The Electoral Commissioner may make rules to provide for any incidental matters relating to proxy votes.

4. Representation of minority groups

- 1) Additional seats, up to 10 in number, (hereinafter called “reserved seats”) shall be established in the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of furthering the provisions of the Commonwealthland Constitution Act 1969 regarding personal equality.
- 2) Any body that purports to represent a group defined by race, gender, ethnic or social origin, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief, culture or language may, if it considers that the interests of the group are insufficiently represented in the Legislative Assembly, petition the Electoral Commissioner to obtain an allocation of a reserved seat for representatives of that group. The petition shall state the manner in which any representative of the group concerned would be elected.
- 3) The Electoral Commissioner shall make rules prescribing the procedure for submitting petitions and, after consultation with the Human Rights Commissioner, the criteria by which eligibility for a reserved seat would be determined.
- 4) If, after consideration of any petitions received, the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that the group concerned is entitled to be represented in the Legislative Assembly and that the group’s procedures for electing representatives is open and democratic, he or she shall, after consultation with the Human Rights Commissioner, determine the number of reserved seats that shall be allocated to each of the groups so that the total of seats so allocated shall not exceed 10 in number.

- 5) The Electoral Commissioner shall publish in the Official Gazette the allocation of the reserved seats and the manner in which the representatives of the groups would be elected.

5. Interpretation

- 1) This Act shall be construed as one with the Representation of the People Act 1969, as amended.
- 2) “Human Rights Commissioner” has the same meaning as in the Commonwealthland Constitution Act 1969.

6. Short title and commencement

- 1) This Act may be cited as the Electoral Reform Act 2000.
- 2) This Act shall come into operation one month after the date of its passing.

Explanatory Note

Section 1 provides for the voting age to be 14 years instead of 18 as at present (*sub-section (1)*). Persons below the age of majority will be able to apply on their own behalf to be registered as electors (*sub-section (2)*) in accordance with rules to be made by the Electoral Commissioner (*sub-section (3)*).

Section 2 makes voting at public elections compulsory (*sub-section (1)*) except for persons with religious objections to voting (*sub-section (2)*). Contravention of the section is punishable by a fine at level 1 on the standard scale (*sub-section (3)*).

Section 3 enables electors to apply for a person to be appointed to vote as proxy on their behalf (*sub-section (1)*) subject to certain restrictions (*sub-sections (2), (3) and (5)*). A proxy may only be appointed (*sub-section (4)*) if the elector is likely to be absent from the jurisdiction on polling day or would be physically incapable of attending at the polling station on that day. The appointment of a proxy may be revoked (*sub-section (6)*) and *sub-section (7)* empowers the Electoral Commissioner to make rules to provide for incidental matters.

Section 4 provides for the creation of up to 10 additional seats (“reserved seats”) in the Legislative Assembly to enhance the representation of minority groups (*sub-section (1)*). Groups wishing to be represented in this way must petition the Electoral Commissioner (*sub-section (2)*) in accordance with rules prescribed by the Commissioner (*sub-section (3)*). Criteria for allocating reserved seats will be determined by the Electoral Commissioner, after consultation with the Human Rights Commissioner, and will be prescribed in rules (*sub-section (3)*).

The allocation of reserved seats among the groups whose petitions are accepted shall be determined by the Electoral Commissioner, after consultation with the Human Rights Commissioner (*sub-section (4)*) and details shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Section 5 deals with matters of interpretation. *Section 6* gives the Act its short title (*sub-section (1)*) and provides for it to come into operation one month after the date of its passing (*sub-section (2)*).

Many Youth Parliaments ask their participants to undertake the task of choosing the Bill topic, undertaking research and drafting the Bill. Printed below is a guide prepared by the Youth Parliament Task Force for the Tasmanian Youth Parliament.¹³

The Parts of a Bill

1. Short Title: the short title appears at the top of a Bill and in the first clause. It provides an easy reference to the Bill by its topic.
2. Sponsor: the sponsor of a Bill is the person who introduces the Bill to the House.
3. Table of Provisions: a clause by clause index to the Bill. The sample Bills provide a good illustration of this.
4. Long Title: the long title states what the Bill sets out to do.
5. Commencement: the second clause of a Bill always explains when a Bill shall come into force as law. This is usually when Royal Assent is given, but often differs for different parts of a Bill.
6. Interpretation Clause: the third clause is used to define any terms within the Bill which are ambiguous. It is an important aid for the implementation of an Act.
7. The Body of the Bill: that's up to you (see "Creating a Bill"). This contains the operative clauses of the Bill.
8. Schedule: All Bills for Youth Parliament are required to include a Schedule stating the purpose of the Bill and/or its objectives. A Schedule appears after the final clause of the Bill.
Some Bills will also include a second schedule. It is used to include details which are not essential to the operation of the Bill but help to explain its implementation. For example, it might outline the objectives of a Committee which is to be formed, or give a diagram of an identification card or registration form which is to be introduced.

¹³ <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ymca/yp.htm>.

Creating a Bill

Step 1 – Topic/Issue

Naturally, the team should first decide on an issue which embodies the concerns or interests of the members of the group. You will be required to submit this topic and two alternatives to the Task Force after the first training day. The issue may be as controversial as you wish, the only inhibiting factor being that it must come under State, not Federal, jurisdiction as we are acting as a State Parliament. It is important that you determine this before going any further as you may otherwise waste a lot of time and effort on a topic which isn't viable. The reason for submission of three topics is to ensure two groups don't have the same Bill.

Step 2 – What are we going to do to the Law?

Once you have an issue you need to decide how you want to change the law, or create a law in regard to this topic.

e.g. issue: protection from passive smoking.

Left as it is this is an extremely broad topic which could give a twenty page Bill, therefore it must be decided how to protect people in a specific area. This may be achieved by banning smoking in public places, banning cigarette advertising through sponsorship, or perhaps Government issue of gas masks to all non-smokers.

NOTE: the issue will essentially be your short title.

e.g. "Gas Masks For Non-Smokers Bill"

The long title is a little more detailed as to what the Bill will do.

e.g. "*A Bill For An Act to Provide for the Government Issue of Gas Masks to All Non-Smokers*".

Step 3 – Research

Although you will need confirmation of your topic by the Task Force, you should begin researching your topic immediately (to choose your Bill topic you should have already done some preliminary research). You will need to do research not only for the Bill itself but also for the second reading speech. This is the five-minute speech one of your team members (the sponsor of the Bill) will give in Parliament.

- a) Find out what the existing law on your topic is. If you are changing an existing law you should mention the Act being changed, by its short title and year, along with the clauses which are to be amended, within your Bill.
- b) You must clearly define the words within your Long Title and any important words, or terms, in your Bill so as you know precisely what you are arguing in favour of and so that it is not ambiguous to anyone reading your Bill.
- c) If your Bill sets up a committee, mention should be made in the Bill of who the members are to be and/or who will appoint them.
- d) If your Bill requires a referendum or register (i.e. gun-owners), guidelines should be contained in the Bill.

- e) Any penalties must be expressed in years or days for a prison term, or in penalty units for a fine. One penalty unit is the equivalent of \$100. There are other possible penalties such as community service which you may like to investigate.

Before writing the Bill it will help to have a clear idea of the people it will affect, whether in a positive or negative way. By using the sources below, and any others you know, you can find a mass of information to support your Bill and the procedures therein.

General Sources: general and Parliamentary libraries, politicians, ministers, industry groups and individual companies, community groups, government departments, political parties, phone books (to help you find these groups). Any books which you use should include a list of other references which you can make use of. Ideally, each group will have a politician to help with Bill content.

Step 4 – How can the Bill Achieve our Objective?

Primarily, you must decide who is going to administer and enforce the Act and how this will be done. You may set up committees, prohibit things, impose penalties, change existing laws, etc. Be sure that, whatever you decide to do, you explain it clearly in your Bill. With the passive smoking example you may make the theft of gas masks punishable by death, with trials held before a tribunal of lung cancer patients at the Royal Hobart Hospital. It is desirable that you limit the number of clauses in your Bill to five operative clauses (i.e. not including clauses 1,2 and 3).

Step 5 – Points to Remember

When writing your Bill:

- . be clear and succinct in everything you write
- . try using headings as in the sample Bills
- . use a schedule as per sample Bills
- . each clause should only include one aspect of the Bill
- . a lengthy clause should be divided using sub-clauses
- . ambiguous or complex words or phrases should be defined in clause three, the interpretations clause

Step 6 – Bill Brief

Each group must prepare a ‘Bill Brief’ outlining what their Bill is intending to achieve and how it will do this. Also a brief summary of their arguments can be included (if they want to help the opposition). These briefing papers will be distributed to all groups before the Parliament so that they have an idea on what Bills they will be debating.

vi. Committee of the Whole House

“When Commonwealth discussions on ways to strengthen democratic systems of government focus on the role of Parliament, the performance of its members or the involvement of the public in the decision making process, it is the clear consensus that all these areas can be enhanced through the work of parliamentary committees ... Committee systems are seen today as one of the most effective processes to make Parliament more responsive, members’ roles more relevant and the democratic process more representative of, and accountable to, the views of the people.”

Arthur R Donahoe, QC, Secretary-General of the CPA (1992-2001) quoted in Parliamentary Committees: Enhancing Democratic Governance, the report of a CPA Study Group, Cavendish Publishing Limited, 1999

The Committee Stage examines the details of the Bill for the first time usually in small Committees of between 15 and 60 MPs known as Standing Committees. A separate committee is formed for the consideration of each Bill. Sometimes a Bill which is very controversial or has constitutional significance will be heard by a Committee of the Whole House, i.e. in the Chamber, so that all Members can contribute.¹⁴

Given the importance and increasing use of committees in parliaments across the Commonwealth, we thought it essential to include some committee work during the Youth Parliament with the aim of providing a different challenge and experience to the participants. In the interests of wide involvement and given the constraints of time and space, a Committee of the Whole House was identified as the best way to demonstrate how a committee operates in a parliamentary setting.

The Committee Stage allows Members, for the first time, to suggest changes or amendments to a Bill. This can literally be anything from a change of words to amending or deleting part of the Bill. The Standing Orders of the Youth Parliament stated that no amendment to a Bill could be raised in committee unless a written copy of the amendment was lodged with the Clerk of the Chamber on the evening before the session took place (i.e. Thursday evening). At all Briefing sessions on Thursday evening both the Bill and the procedure to be used for the Committee of the Whole were explained by Mr Geoffrey Coppock and the Clerk of the Youth Parliament. After the formal briefing session ended, the party’s split into their various groupings to devise strategy and draft amendments. The Clerk and the Secretariat team were on hand to give advice and assistance.

We did not attempt to explain the complicated details of procedure for the Committee of the Whole at the opening briefing session because we judged it to be unfair to expect participants to grasp what was expected of them in committee before experiencing how the Youth Parliament in general would operate. Our priority was first to allow time for

¹⁴ Ibid p9-10.

the three political parties to decide their broad strategies and select their front bench teams and generally to encourage the participants to become enthusiastic about the topics for debate. This allowed time at the second briefing session to explain the Bill and the procedure to be used at the Committee of the Whole House.

Amendments lodged with the Clerk of the Chamber on Thursday evening were as follows (we advise you to compare the amendments to the wording of the actual Bill on pages 52 to 54):

Amendment No. 1 New Millennium Party/ Direct Democracy Party

In Clause 1, delete “14” and insert “16”

Amendment No. 2 New Millennium Party

Delete Clause 2

Amendment No. 3 Tony Chappel (Youth Party)

In Clause 2 (1), after “an elector who” insert “has attained the age of 18 years and”

Amendment No. 4 Henry Ngutwa (Youth Party)

In Clause 2 (1), after “an elector who is entitled to vote at a public election” insert “and has so registered”

Amendment No. 5 Government

In Clause 2(1), delete “whether in person or by proxy” and insert “in person”

Amendment No. 6 Henry Ngutwa (Youth Party)

In Clause 2 (1), delete “whether in person or by proxy”

Amendment No. 7 New Millennium Party

In Clause 2 (2), at the end insert “or has a registered objection on political or cultural grounds”.

Amendment No. 8 New Millennium Party

Delete Clause 3

Amendment No. 9 Government

Delete Clause 3 and insert

“3. Post and Mobile Polling Authorised

Votes in an election may only be cast at official polling places, including official mobile polling places or via authorised postal voting”

Amendment No. 10 New Millennium Party

In Clause 3(3), after the word “grandchild” insert “or long-term partner, step-relation or adopted relation, provided that they are registered in advance with the Electoral Commissioner”.

Amendment No. 11 New Millennium Party

After Clause 3, insert a new Clause, to read

That citizens of Commonwealthland currently residing abroad shall be able to register as voters with the Electoral Commissioner; and that such registered overseas residents shall be able to vote in all elections in postal ballots, arrangements for such ballots being made by the Electoral Commissioner.

Amendment No. 12 Direct Democracy Party

Delete Clause 4

Amendment No. 13 New Millennium Party

In Clause 4 (1), delete “Additional seats, up to 10 in number (hereinafter called “reserved seats”)” and insert “An additional seat (hereinafter called the “reserved seat”) to be occupied by a representative of a minority group as defined in 4(2), chosen on a weekly basis by the Electoral Commissioner”

Amendment No. 14 New Millennium Party

In Clause 4 (4), delete “determine the number that shall be allocated to each of the groups so that the total of seats so allocated shall not exceed 10 in number” and insert “determine their eligibility for the reserved seat”.

Amendment No. 15 New Millennium Party

In Clause 4(5), delete “seats” and insert “seat”; delete “representatives” and insert “representative”

Amendment No. 16 George Swan (Direct Democracy Party)

At the end of the Bill, insert the following new Clause:

- (1) At the earliest opportunity, a referendum shall be put to the electorate, asking “Do you support the principle of proportional representation in electing Members of Parliament?”
- (2) If a majority of those who vote answer in the affirmative, the Government shall investigate the most appropriate means for implementing proportional representation and amend the law accordingly

Amendment No. 17 Leah Radcliff (Direct Democracy Party)

At the end of the Bill, insert the following new Clause:

No citizen shall serve more than two terms as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Amendment No. 18 Jusu Sesay (Youth Party)

At the end of the Bill insert the following new Clause:

There shall be traditional rulers in the Legislative Assembly who shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of the electoral laws of Commonwealthland.

Amendment No. 19 Jusu Sesay (Youth Party)

In the title of the Bill, after “minorities” insert “and traditional rulers”

Selection of amendments for debate and decision were at the discretion of the Deputy Speaker (who presided over the debate). Amendments were grouped by the Clerk for ease of debate (see page 62).

Mr Deputy Speaker's Selection of Amendments for Debate

DISCUSSION:	Amendment 1	<i>minimum voting age</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 1	
DECISION:	Clause 1 stand part of the Bill	
DISCUSSION:	Amendments 3 + 4	<i>conditions attached to compulsory voting</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 3	
DECISION:	Amendment 4	
DISCUSSION:	Amendments 5 + 9 + 11	<i>proxy voting</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 5	
DISCUSSION:	Amendment 7	<i>conscientious objections to voting</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 7	
DECISION:	Clause 2 stand part of the Bill	
DECISION:	Amendment 9	
DISCUSSION:	Amendment 10	<i>relatives as proxies</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 10	
	NB: Amendment 10 was not called for debate & decision as amendment 9 was agreed to and it deleted text amended by amendment 10	
DECISION:	Clause 3 stand part of the Bill	
DECISION:	Amendment 11	
DISCUSSION:	Amendments 13 + 14 + 15	<i>representative seat to rotate weekly</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 13	
DECISION:	Amendment 14	(only if Amendment 13 agreed to)
DECISION:	Amendment 15	(only if Amendment 13 agreed to)
DECISION:	Clause 4 stand part of the Bill	
DISCUSSION:	Amendment 16	<i>referendum on PR</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 16	
DISCUSSION:	Amendment 17	<i>maximum 2 terms for MPs</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 17	
DISCUSSION:	Amendments 18 +19	<i>traditional rulers in Parliament</i>
DECISION:	Amendment 18	
DECISION:	Amendment 19	

The Committee went through the Bill clause by clause and when it encountered the first amendment from any group, the proposer of the amendment spoke to it. Debate then continued on all amendments in that group. When the debate on the group was concluded, the Deputy Speaker put the question on the first amendment. The questions on further amendments in the group were put, without debate, when the amendments were reached in the Bill.

At the end of debate on each Clause of the Bill, the Deputy Speaker put the Question “That the Clause [as amended] stand part of the Bill”.

For example Amendment 1, which was supported both by the New Millennium Party and the Direct Democracy Party, sought to amend the Bill by reducing the voting age to 16 and not 14 as contained in the draft legislation. The Youth Party, no doubt conscious of the need to obtain the support of Opposition MPs to get the legislation through the Committee Stage, accepted the age of 16 as a compromise. Clause 1 as amended, therefore, stood part of the Bill. Although Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were also amended, not all individual amendments commanded the support of the House. If you are not familiar with the procedure used in committees in Parliament, we recommend viewing the edited highlights of the Youth Parliament.

Motion of No Confidence in the Government

After the government lost a vote on an opposition amendment inserting a new Clause to a key part of the Bill, the New Millennium Party proposed the motion “That this Chamber has no confidence in the Government”. Although it is not usually possible for Governments to face a motion of no confidence after a vote in committee, the Standing Orders of the Youth Parliament allowed any Member to propose a motion of no confidence should the Government of the day lose any vote in Parliament. The Deputy Speaker was therefore obliged to accept the motion and immediately called the mover of the motion to speak to it and then on the Prime Minister to speak against it. Further debate was then at the discretion of the Deputy Speaker followed by a vote.

As the motion of no confidence was agreed to by the chamber, the Youth Party immediately vacated office and a governing coalition comprising the New Millennium Party and Direct Democracy Party took over (it was impossible to arrange a General Election in the time allowed!) The collapse of the Government also ultimately defeated the Election Reform Bill.

Motions of No Confidence are great parliamentary occasions and we recommend that there be provision in the Standing Orders of your own Youth Parliament for such a procedure. Not only are they great fun for participants and spectators alike, they allow for a change of roles and serve as a reminder that governments can be changed peacefully and without recourse to disorder.

Third Reading

If the Chamber had concluded its proceedings in Committee on the Bill, the Deputy Speaker or the Speaker would have returned to the Chair and put the question “that the Bill be read the third time”. The Third Reading of a Bill allows a Parliament to examine the amended Bill and decide whether to accept or reject it. Under the Standing Orders of the Youth Parliament, there would be no further debate (because of problems of time) and the House would have proceeded directly with a vote. If the Parliament had agreed to the question the Bill would have passed and concluded its proceedings through Parliament (in many Commonwealth countries the Bill would be reviewed by the second chamber before receiving Royal Assent). If the Parliament had disagreed to the question there would have been no further proceedings on the Bill.

In many youth parliaments successful Bills are presented to the Premier or appropriate Government department giving young people the opportunity to express their views on issues of state or national importance.

VI. Question Time

“Question Time” is the most popular and well-known of parliamentary events. It is also often very exciting. Although it has many critics – it is often claimed that Question Time is more theatre than substance – the opportunity to orally ask questions to the Prime Minister or Ministers is fundamental to effective oversight and effective scrutiny of the Executive.

We predicted that Question Time would be the liveliest session of the Youth Parliament and it was therefore scheduled to take place after lunch on the final day. We thought this would allow the participants to let off some steam after the more sedate Committee work in the morning - we had not envisaged that the Committee stage would prove so exciting!

The change of government caused some operational difficulties for the organisers, but it allowed the participants to immediately take on new roles and ask questions of the new government’s priorities.

We had informed Participants at the briefing session on Thursday evening that Question Time would be based on the Canadian Parliamentary practice of asking oral questions to any Minister without notice. We did not want to restrict questions to any one individual and the Canadian procedure allowed for the widest possible participation. Participants were informed that they could lodge a question to any Minister of the Government on any issue with the Clerk of the Chamber. The selection of questions was then at the sole discretion of the Speaker.

Examples of questions taken from the 1997 CPA Youth Parliament were circulated at Thursday’s briefing meeting (see page 65). At the Millennium Youth Parliament questions were to be lodged with the Clerk on Thursday evening, but the change of government forced us to re-think these arrangements. We therefore asked participants to use their lunch period to submit new questions to the Clerk taking account of the change of circumstances in the Chamber.

The form inviting participants to submit their questions is shown as Appendix I. The video shows edited highlights of the Question Time session.

Experience in Jersey suggests that it works well to involve ‘real’ politicians in Question Time although they are not allowed to participate in the debates. As a relatively small jurisdiction their local politicians are well known and the organisers have found that the young people enjoy being able to put them ‘on the spot’.

Sample Questions for Question Time

Prime Minister

- 1. WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE ATTENDING THE NEXT COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING? IF SO, WHAT ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES IN ATTENDING?**

Minister of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs

- 1. WHY DO WE CONTINUE AS COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS WHEN OTHER REGIONAL GROUPINGS HAVE GREATER ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO US?**
- 2. WHEN IS THE MINISTER GOING TO ACT ON HIS PROMISE TO REDUCE DEFENCE EXPENDITURE?**

Minister of Women and Youth

- 1. WILL THE MINISTER CONSIDER ESTABLISHING MICROCREDIT PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT SET UP SMALL BUSINESSES?**
- 2. WHAT STEPS WILL THE GOVERNMENT BE TAKING TO IMPROVE THE ABYSMAL TURN OUT OF YOUNG VOTERS AT ELECTIONS?**

Minister of Education

- 1. WHY IS OVERSEAS STUDENTS' EDUCATION IN COMMONWEALTHLAND SO EXPENSIVE?**
- 2. WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT?**

Minister of Home Affairs

WHEN IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO TACKLE THE APPALLING STATE OF COMMONWEALTHLAND'S PRISONS?

Minister of Environment:

IS THE MINISTER SUPPORTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CUT GLOBAL WARNING? IF SO, WOULD HE/SHE SUPPORT AN ENERGY TAX?

Minister of Health:

- 1. DOES THE GOVERNMENT PLAN TO BUILD ANY PRIVATE HOSPITALS?**
- 2. WHAT STRATEGY IS THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTING TO COUNTER THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS?**

These questions were distributed to participants for illustrative purposes only.

VIII. Debate on an Opposition Motion¹⁵

The final session of the Youth Parliament was originally programmed to be a debate on a Government Motion (the Opposition Party having submitted a Motion on the opening day). The Youth Party was therefore invited to select a Motion for debate on Thursday evening. As it turned out, the change of government meant that it was an Opposition Motion.

The Motion concerned the legalisation of soft drugs in Commonwealthland and was organised on the same basis as the Motion on the preceding day (see page 48).

Social Arrangements

The New Brunswick Student Legislative Seminar has two components: a Business Program and a Social Program. The latter provides students with an opportunity to visit the Lieutenant-Governor's Home, to meet the Lieutenant-Governor, to interact with students from other parts of the province and to visit areas of interest.

The tight schedule meant that it was impossible to arrange many social occasions during the Millennium Youth Parliament especially as briefing sessions were scheduled for two evenings. On the final day, however, a farewell dinner at the Manchester Town Hall was organised in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Manchester and invited guests. This gave the young delegates time to relax and to reflect on the whole experience in a social setting. It is also worth keeping in mind that Youth Parliaments serve as a unique networking opportunity for young people. We agreed to circulate contact addresses of the participants after the Youth Parliament to enable them to keep in touch with one another.

At the farewell dinner, we asked the local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Lloyd, MP to give a brief speech about the Commonwealth and the role of young people and the Lord Mayor spoke about the history of Manchester and its rich cultural heritage. Finally, the then Secretary-General of the CPA, Arthur Donahoe, replied with a vote of thanks both to the hosts of the dinner and to the various people who had made the Youth Parliament such a success whilst acknowledging the support of various sponsoring organisations. Ms Paola Baca (British Columbia) replied on behalf of the participants. It was a fitting end to a marvellous event and many of the participants continued to socialise later that night in the city centre of Manchester.

Although the social component of a project should be subservient to the business in hand, free time and social evenings can encourage greater interaction among the group, allow time for rest and relaxation and improve knowledge of local culture and history.

¹⁵ This debate is not shown on the video.

Case Study 11: Report of the Inaugural Youth Parliament in Papua New Guinea

The Youth Parliament comprised representatives from schools and selective communities/settlements within the National Capital District. Participants were between the ages 16-25 years. The schools invited were asked to select two students, one male and one female to ensure equal gender representation, to participate in the event. The communities/settlements according to their population were asked to select either one or two youths.

The programme began with a tour of Parliament House, then briefings with the relevant divisions of the National Parliament that are involved in Sittings of Parliament. The afternoon session was left entirely for a Mock Session of Parliament.

The majority of participants shared many common views despite the fact that the students, observers and youths were from different communities. Nearly all participants and observers had never heard of the CPA prior to this event. They are now appreciative of the work done by the CPA and understand that the National Parliament not only comprises Members of Parliament but also the Parliamentary Services Staff, which ensures that the Parliament runs smoothly and efficiently.

Conclusion

The Inaugural Youth Parliament was, although the first of its kind, very successful. All involved, including Parliament Staff, were extremely satisfied and unanimously agreed that they would leave having gained greater knowledge and awareness of the workings of Parliament. All participants responded positively to the idea of holding this event annually. The Mock Session went well although some interventions from the First Clerk Assistant were necessary to assist participants in presenting statements.

For future Youth Parliaments we would need to plan at least two months in advance of the actual event and hold it as a two day programme where all briefings are held on the afternoon of the first session with a mock session on the second day. This would ensure that participants are briefed and have time at home to examine materials and notes taken at the briefings before the Mock Session. All participants should also be given a copy of the Standing Orders well in advance of the event to give them ample time to get a firm grasp on House Procedures. This would prepare them to participate in the Mock Session with confidence and ease.

There should be a greater and more widespread awareness drive launched on the National Parliament by means of Youth Parliaments, pamphlets and booklets on the 'Peoples House' and other educational materials. This would instil a more positive picture of the National Parliament and Members of Parliament in the minds of the general populace and especially the youth of the country. This could be carried out by establishing an Education Office or Public Relations Officer in the Parliamentary Service that would cater for general enquiries from the public on National Parliament and Members of Parliament and dissemination regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various divisions within the Parliamentary Service.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Conducting a post-project evaluation is good practice in all forms of project work and a Youth Parliament is no exception.

As mentioned earlier you can make evaluations of varying detail but however you approach it, you should try to ascertain whether the objectives set out were achieved. Whether the answer is 'yes' or 'no', you will have learned not only how to run a Youth Parliament but also how to set about creating and running a project, a skill which will stand you in good stead whether or not you intend planning a similar project in the future.

At the Millennium CPA Youth Parliament Evaluation Forms were distributed to all participants. Thirty-five Evaluation Forms were returned and comprehensive reports were received from five participants. Articles on the Youth Parliament were published in the *World Parliamentarian*, a journal which promotes dialogue and exchange between parliaments and their members, and *The House Magazine*, a publication for Members and parliamentary staff at Westminster.

The results of the evaluation are as follows:

1. What were your expectations in attending the Youth Parliament?

Participants generally expected to have the opportunity to meet young people across the Commonwealth and engage in debate in a mock Parliament about important issues facing the Commonwealth of Nations. Participants also expected to deepen their understanding of parliamentary procedures.

2. To what extent were your expectations met?

Fully	Very well	Quite well	Not very well	Not at all
40.0%	40.0%	17.1%	2.9%	0%

3. How would you rate the event in terms of:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Accommodation	74.3%	20%	5.7%	0%
Transport	52.9%	44.1%	2.9%	0%
Meals	22.9%	37.1%	31.4%	8.6%
Venue	73.5%	17.6%	8.8%	0%
Information Packs	65.7%	28.6%	5.7%	0%

Briefing Sessions	42.9%	51.4%	5.7%	0%
Throne Speech	52.9%	41.2%	5.9%	0%
Debate on the Commonwealth	54.3%	42.9%	2.9%	0%
Adjournment Debate	32.4%	44.1%	20.6%	2.9%
Committee of the Whole	46.9%	40.6%	12.5%	0%
Question Time	42.4%	45.5%	12.1%	0%
Overall	61.8%	35.3%	2.9%	0%

4. How well did you understand the Youth Parliament?

Fully	Very well	Quite well	Not very well	Not at all
40%	48.6%	11.4	0%	0%

5. What did you value most about the event?

Participants generally enjoyed making friends and contacts and exchanging ideas with people from different cultures, countries and background; exchanging ideas with young people from Commonwealth countries; learning how parliamentary procedures enhance democracy and good governance; and taking part in debates in a parliamentary setting. One participant commented on the balance of gender in the three political parties.

6. What did you value least about the event?

Fifty per cent of participants could not identify what they valued least about the event. Of the remaining participants who were able to identify something complaints emerged as follows:

- * The lack of opportunity to formulate real policy that could be implemented.
- * Some of the debates and speeches went on too long and there were not enough breaks
- * The Youth Parliament should have lasted longer than two days
- * Not all participants were able to give an account of the role of the Commonwealth in their respective jurisdictions
- * The Aggressive manner of some participants (particularly from developed countries)
- * The debate on legalising soft drugs.
- * The weather!

7. Were the topics chosen for debate relevant?

Yes

No

97.0%

3.0%

8. Were there other subjects that you would have liked to debate?

Suggestions included:

Information Technology and the Digital Divide in the Commonwealth

The Environment

Globalization

Violence against Women

Child Labour and Empowering young people

Zimbabwe

Health (specifically HIV/Aids)

9. Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve the Youth Parliament in future?

Suggestions included:

- Making the event longer (therefore allowing more time for debates, party caucusing and social events.)
- Arranging for participants to be met at the airport.
- Creating a newspaper to cover the debates, with participants as journalists, and a Hansard report.
- More frequent Youth Parliaments.
- Greater opportunities for speakers to express their views on matters in their respective countries.
- Better information about the rules of the Youth Parliament prior to attendance.
- Allowing participants to act as Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Clerk.

10. Would you do it again?

Yes = 97.1%

No = 2.9%

Report

A COMMONWEALTH OF IDEAS

Commonwealth Youth Parliament

MANCHESTER, NOVEMBER 2000

Francis Gagnon
Delegate of the National Assembly of Québec

March 2001

A Commonwealth of Ideas

Francis Gagnon

In November 2000, I participated as the National Assembly of Québec's delegate at the Commonwealth «Millennium Youth Parliament». This event took place over a three-day period in Manchester. During these three days, we held lively debates, exchanged ideas and formed friendships.

When looking at the group photograph, I am still surprised that so many people from such distant horizons were able to come together for three days. I see Akima from Grenada, Aadilo from Manitoba, Linda from Zimbabwe and Naomi from Australia. I also notice Pascal from Kenya, and I chuckle as I remember his admiration for Québec superstar Céline Dion!

As is immediately apparent, writing these lines on my experience at the Youth Parliament brings back many good memories. One cannot return from such an experience without being affected by it in one way or another. The first memory that comes to mind is the vitality of the persons present. Many participants demonstrated an openness and a will to express themselves that made you want to do the same. There was no shortage of ideas, and the viewpoints were often well grounded.

When the participants rose to speak, they were spontaneous, amusing and surprising. Time was taken in preparing their comments, and these were both articulate and moving. I hold a vivid memory of the comments by Simone Donaghue of Australia, who taught us that a physical handicap is above all in the eye of the beholder. Her message has stayed with me: take interest first and foremost in the person behind the handicap. I also remember the spontaneity of the youngest participant in the Assembly, of the rightfulness of Paola's arguments and of Juan's sense of theatre.

The challenge of taking the floor before such an assembly is not the only one to be faced. Just the formulation of a motion by such a large number of people from such diverse origins is an achievement in itself. It is necessary to come to an agreement, to have a common ideology. The meetings were lengthy and the discussions sincere, as all had their hearts set on persuading their colleagues of the soundness of their ideas. And that is the main ingredient in a successful debate.

There are also personal challenges, such as preparing one's comments. One must weigh one's words and choose one's arguments, because when one has the attention of such an audience, that is so international and is interested in similar issues, it is an opportunity not to be missed. Approaching strangers to make their acquaintance is practically an ongoing challenge, when one meets so many new people in such a short time. Such a gathering creates a mix of cultures, but also of characters! Indeed, it is an accelerated course in geography! Also, it is surprising that the level of English was so high, considering the diversity of origins of the participants.

I am pleased to have met a few people there who were ready to engage in politics in their own way. My experience with parliamentary simulations has taught me that all too often, the participants reproduce politics as they perceive it, which focuses more on the interpretation of it than on participation. The sincerity of comments cannot be taken for granted. I have a penchant for idealists who are aware of their power to change the face of the world, and have the courage to think differently.

And there is no shortage of bold ideas. Let us take the parties and their ideologies. Mine promised to eliminate the use of the automobile, the government wished to grant the right to vote from the age of 14, and the third party wished to abolish the Parliament! All of this leaves plenty of room for open minds that would dare to put forward unusual suggestions.

Thus, we debated the decriminalization of soft drugs, as well as obligatory voting and free education. During these debates, I was also initiated to surprising and amusing parliamentary customs: for example the government was brought down in a parliamentary committee, and the Members had to express their vote by shouting out!

These few memorable days went well, to a large extent because of the good preparation by the team of organizers. Here I wish to express my congratulations to Anthony Staddon and to his team. They were not only good organizers, but also friendly and amenable hosts.

I am very proud to have represented the National Assembly at such an event. It was my first trip to England. I cannot conceal my appreciation of that country, since as I write these lines, I am taking steps to study in London next year...

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Millennium Youth Parliament - Manchester, November 2000
James North

Introduction

I was selected to represent the Scottish Branch of the CPA at the Millennium Youth Parliament, held in Manchester in November 2000. This was a great honour for me and I am delighted to report back to the Branch on my experiences. One major factor was that the overall organisation of the event by the CPA Secretariat was excellent. Particular mention should go to Anthony Staddon, Assistant Director of Development and Planning, who organised much of the event.

Welcome

The Parliament began with a reception at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London at Noon on Wednesday. This set the tone for the rest of the week, for it gave participants a chance to meet for the first time and get to know each other. There were around 100 participants drawn from all over the Commonwealth, with large delegations from Australia and Canada. Introductions from various members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association were followed by a buffet lunch.

The planning was very thorough and at 1pm participants and organisers were taken by coach to Euston and then by train to Manchester. Coach transfer to the Hotel and full accommodation until Saturday morning was provided. Rooms were allocated on a sharing basis. The participants were organised beforehand into three political parties. These were fictional groups and in the background information sent to participants before hand, the manifestos for each party had been printed. Participants were asked to choose a political party they wished to be a part of and requests were largely accommodated. The final make up of the parties meant that the Youth Party was a minority government, the New Millennium Party was the official opposition and the Direct Democracy Party formed the third party.

The parliament was not designed to be the parliament of any existing Commonwealth nation, although by using the House of a Commons replica studio at Granada Studios Tour, it took on the atmosphere of parliaments with developed Westminster systems such as the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. The parliament was supposed to be the legislative chamber of a fictional country known as "Commonwealthland". Briefing sheets detailing what Commonwealthland entailed were sent to participants beforehand.

On Wednesday evening, after dinner in the hotel, the three party groups met separately for a period of party caucusing. Being the government, the Youth Party of which I was a member had to elect a front bench team. This took up most of the evening and involved people interested for a particular position (e.g. Minister for Education etc) making a short speech. A vote between the remainder of the party would then confirm who was to take up the role. I was selected as Deputy Party Leader and therefore became Deputy Prime Minister. The other parties replicated this procedure until each group had a front bench team.

Youth Parliament

The Parliament proper began on Thursday morning. The Speaker's procession began the formalities, with Baroness Fookes of Plymouth (Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons) taking the chair. His Excellency James Aggrey-Orleans, High Commission of Ghana, acted as Deputy Speaker and Shona McGlashan (a senior Clerk in the House of Commons) acted as Clerk for the Parliament. The presence of such figures had a major impact on the Parliament.

In particular, Baroness Fookes as a former Deputy Speaker of the Commons was especially effective. Her role was enforced by the inclusion in the preparatory information Rules Governing the Conduct of Business.

The entrance of the Speaker was followed by an official opening from the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Rt. Hon Donald McKinnon. This took the form of a 'throne speech' and provided the topic for the debate which followed. This motion was that "This House welcomes the speech made by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth and wishes all Commonwealth citizens well." Such a non-controversial motion gave people the chance to become accustomed to speaking in the chamber and overcome any initial nerves. Although the debate was not as 'fiery' and as interesting as possible, it did give a large number of people the chance to speak and was good as an 'ice breaker'.

This was followed by lunch, which on both days was an excellent three-course meal. The afternoon session recommenced at 2pm with a motion decided the prior evening by the official opposition party. This was debate in a better way, and was followed at 4pm by an adjournment debate proposed by a member, on "Programmes for Poverty Reduction Literacy and Persons with Disability". (This was the subject discussed as a panel session at the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference)

This was concluded at 5pm and the participants were then taken by bus back to the hotel. It should be noted that a major factor in the success of the Youth Parliament was the keeping to, albeit with slight diversion so that people could have a chance to speak, of the timings. This meant that the whole operation ran smoothly. Dinner at 7pm in the hotel was followed by another session of party caucus which enabled all parties to prepare for the next days' session. This went on till 11.30 at night, which meant that having been up since 6.30, the day had been and extremely long and tiring!

The next morning began similarly early, with Breakfast at 7am in the hotel followed by coach transfer to the studios and another 9am start. The first item after the Speaker's procession was a debate on a Bill put forward by the government party to reform the electoral system of Commonwealthland. Again this Bill was sent to participants beforehand, having been devised by Geoffrey Coppock, former Greffier of the States of Jersey, with the assistance of the CPA Secretariat.

After a break the House moved into Committee to debate the clauses of the bill. At party caucusing the evening before, amendments to the bill had been devised and submitted to the Clerk. The bill was debated clause by clause and the amendments voted on. This was an interesting procedure, for it illustrated how political bargaining goes on. Several times the government had to change its position in order to win crucial votes on clauses. However, at Amendment 16 the nature of party politics was demonstrated when the government lost a vote. Under the standing orders a motion of no confidence in the government could then be called, and the Opposition parties duly proposed this. A coalition deal between the two parties of Opposition saw the Youth Party topple from government. The House was the adjourned for lunch, in order for the parties to organise themselves.

After lunch, there was a session of Question Time in the style of many Commonwealth countries, i.e. that any minister can be asked anything. The questions due to be asked had been prepared by the Opposition the night before at party caucusing. However because the government had fallen, the Youth Party, the new Opposition, over lunch prepared new questions, to be asked to the new

government. After a fiery session of Question Time, Parliament was concluded with a debate on a motion put forward by the Youth Party on the decriminalisation of soft drugs.

The conclusion of the formalities was a Civic Dinner on Friday evening at Manchester Town Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. The dress code indicated national dress and I hope I did my best for Scotland by wearing my tartan! I certainly attracted much attention! The dinner was a nice end to the Parliament and each participant received a photograph of the parliamentary participants and a certificate. The proceedings of the parliament were professionally filmed and a copy of the video has been promised to each participant. It certainly looks set to be interesting viewing and I would urge the Scottish Branch to try and obtain a copy. I would say that the proceedings flowed together very well, but would also stress the importance of having officials (i.e. Presiding Officer, Clerk etc) who have a detailed grasp of the procedures. They certainly enhanced the authenticity of this event.

Conclusions

Overall the Commonwealth Youth Parliament was an extremely well organised and managed event. Bringing together so many young people from all over the world was an enormous logistical challenge. It was orchestrated with good organisation and a programme of events that was extremely fast moving, but well put together. Some criticisms and points to note when hosting such an event are:

1. **Too Much, Too Quickly:** Having flown people to the UK, the Parliament was over in two days. Perhaps more days could have been given over to debate, and then the working days made shorter? Financial pressures obviously apply but the days were extremely long and tiring, and it may have been better to have an extra day of parliamentary time.
2. **Difficulties with Procedure:** Because participants were drawn from all over the Commonwealth, difficulties did sometimes arise with elements of procedure and tradition. Members from smaller nations, where parliaments have say 30 members – the size of small local councils in the UK, were unused to the larger House of Commons style setting and this sometimes brought problems. Some participants wished to be heard in complete silence and appealed to the Speaker for this, unused to the rumblings and debate between sides that goes on in the House of Commons!
3. **House of Commons Setting:** The parliament was supposed to be that of a fictional country, i.e. Commonwealthland but the use of the Commons setting obviously meant it had a British style and perspective. As mentioned above, this did bring about problems with those unused to the Commons style. Perhaps a different approach would have been to use a ‘neutral’ venue (such as the Scottish Parliament Chamber) which has a layout (horseshoe) more akin to the developed Westminster based parliaments in many Commonwealth countries.

I must say however that these are minor points, and they did not detract *significantly* from the event. They are merely ideas for improvement in any future Youth Parliament.

Scottish Youth Parliament

I would be very keen to help in the establishment of a Scottish Youth Parliament and believe that many of the things I learnt in Manchester could be replicated in an Edinburgh based Parliament. Such an initiative has a lot of potential and could become a regular event. I am in regular contact with Scott Robertson who is an organiser of the South Australian Youth Parliament and who has offered to help in any way he can.

One proposal I would have for such an event is to have the entry age at a reasonably high level (perhaps 17-21?) instead of younger children who could perhaps be accommodated in a “Junior Parliament”. Having been involved in Youth Parliaments at school etc, I found that the standard of this event was much higher than anything I had been involved with before. Debates were fast flowing, witty and had a sense of reality. They tended to stay focused and serious issues were discussed. I feel that this had much to do with the age and experience of the participants.

An interesting idea that I discussed with Mr. Crios Freeman - the representative of St. Kitts and Nevis and Prime Minister of the Youth Parliament - was the provision in St Kitts of a Youth Parliament that met regularly, debate and voted on issues, and then sent a mandate and message to the government about what young people wanted. Whether something like that would be feasible in Scotland is unclear – perhaps it could meet once every term (3 times a year) with delegates nominated by each MSP – but it could be an interesting goal to work towards.

I would like to thank the Scottish Branch of the CPA for allowing me to take part in such a unique event. I thoroughly enjoyed it and am very grateful for the opportunity. I am now very keen to help in whatever way I can to help set up a Youth Parliament in Scotland, building upon what I learnt in Manchester.

James North
St Andrews
January 2001

CPA Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament

A Report for the New South Wales Branch of the CPA¹⁶

Dates: 22-24 November 2000
Venue: London and Manchester, United Kingdom.

Introduction

The 2000 CPA Millennium Youth Parliament was an important and worthwhile enterprise. It provided an opportunity for young people involved in political matters throughout the Commonwealth to give voice to their concerns, to exchange ideas, to meet with future community leaders and an opportunity to show case to the Commonwealth the NSW Branch's commitment to educating young people in the workings of parliamentary democracy.

Highlights of this short visit were many, however the opportunity to be Prime Minister of the Youth Parliament after a day as Opposition Leader was a personal highlight for me. The mock parliamentary program was an ambitious one with many forms of parliamentary debate and procedure including a Prime Minister's question time and debate of a detailed Bill introduced over the three days.

The temporary institution was also robust enough to allow for and indeed encourage the experimentation in a change of government on the floor of the parliament – demonstrating in dazzling fashion how the Westminster system may radically transfer executive power without recourse to means outside the rule of law.

Many lessons may be garnered from this worthwhile endeavour for the NSW Branch in its education programs and supervision of any Youth Parliaments in this jurisdiction. The production of a video of the event should also be a valuable tool for demonstrating our system of government as well as the sophisticated level of understanding young people have of it. Hopefully this will go some way to reducing the often held false perception that young people are not interested in the body politic. Rather, given a voice, young people throughout the Commonwealth have profound and urgent concerns that should be better represented in the various branches of the CPA.

¹⁶ By Sam Moreton, President NSW Young Labor, 16/301 Anzac Parade Kingsford NSW 2032.

Participation

The Millennium Parliament was attended by over 100 young people from throughout the Commonwealth. 62 CPA Branches sent representatives between the ages of 16 and 29. Most delegates were in their twenties. Representation was diverse with delegates from the Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, the Pacific the many jurisdictions of the U.K. and even the Mediterranean.

One of the participatory achievements of the Youth Parliament was that over 50% of delegates were women.

The Mock Parliament – Parties, Leadership, Venue.

Participants were divided into three political parties. These groupings were:

1. The Youth Party: The largest single party, the initial minority government, and a party with policies such as public-private partnerships.
2. The New Millennium Party: The second largest party, the initial opposition and later the major party in a coalition government with the Direct Democracy Party, policies of this party could loosely be described as being of the left.
3. The Direct Democracy Party: The Party with the balance of power, later to be in government with its leader the Deputy Prime Minister of “Commonwealth Land”, as its name implies, this party was for greater direct representation of public views through referenda and a lessening of the role of the legislature.

Leadership

Crios Freeman (St Kitts and Nevis) was elected leader of the Youth Party and Prime Minister before assuming the role of Opposition Leader.

Sam Moreton (New South Wales) was elected leader of the New Millennium Party at its caucus meeting on the 22nd November and after a day as Opposition leader became the Prime Minister.

Leah Ratcliff (South Australia) was elected leader of the Direct Democracy Party and later became the Deputy Prime Minister.

Venue

The venue for debates was the Replica House of Commons at Grenada Studios in Manchester. The venue was most realistic and afforded great flexibility for the production of a video of the event.

Debates

The Parliament held numerous debates, some in adversarial fashion and others in a spirit of unity. An example of the latter included an examination of the relevance of the Commonwealth to young people. This debate certainly did much to improve the patently limited awareness most delegates (including myself) initially had about the working of the Commonwealth. Adversarial debate centred around matters of urgency such as the proposal to provide free universal health and education services and Prime Ministers Question Time.

Issues of Poverty, HIV/AIDS, Literacy and disability were passionately debated with enormous diversity in background and opinion expressed.

Events

As well as the parliamentary proceedings, participants were treated to a reception at the Royal Commonwealth Society to commence proceedings on the 22nd November in London and a stunning reception and civic dinner within the majestic surrounds of the Manchester Town Hall. This last official event was part of the cultural festivities leading up to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in July 2002.

These events provided an opportunity for Youth MPs to meet each other in a manner the adversarial nature of the Parliamentary Proceedings had not. The structure of the Youth Parliament had largely kept participants separate in their respective caucus meetings late into the evenings. The receptions at both ends of the Youth Parliament also allowed sponsors and dignitaries from various countries to meet the participants.

Officials

The Youth Parliament was particularly well served by its presiding officers and other officials who both explained and enforced the specially drafted standing orders of the Youth Parliament. The role of Speaker was taken on by Baroness Fookes, former deputy speaker of the House of Commons. Her role was flexible – ranging from a robust directness through to a patient and educative role depending on the experience and manner of the contributors to debate.

The High Commissioner for Ghana, His Excellency Mr James Aggrey-Orleans, showed his immense experience as a former Official in that nation's parliament as the Youth Parliament's Deputy Speaker.

The Clerk of the Parliament and one of the busiest people at the Youth Parliament was Shona McGlashan, a Clerk from the House of Commons.

The Parliament was addressed by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth H.E. Donald McKinnon (who assumed the role of Head of State). Considerable guidance both during and outside proceedings was also given by Arthur R. Donahoe QC, Secretary-General of the CPA. Extensive advice on the drafting and debating of legislation was provided to representatives in their caucus meetings by Geoffrey Coppock, former Greffier of the States of Jersey.

Conclusion

The general perception of the Commonwealth amongst participants at the commencement of proceedings was not particularly positive on the whole. A common perception acknowledged the sporting competition provided between Olympic years by the Commonwealth but many participants clearly viewed the Commonwealth as a fading post imperial institution with a shrinking role in international diplomacy.

Events such as the Millennium Youth Parliament go some way to highlighting the positive side of our joint heritage – in particular the flexible and robust interpretation of parliamentary democracy through the Westminster system and its many derivatives.

The organisers are to be commended for promoting and successfully implementing an ambitious program of parliamentary debate and accompanying caucuses and events that did fairly represent the nature of a working parliament. The approach of “total immersion” in the parliamentary experience (some delegates even had the opportunity to give media interviews with the BBC) provides by far the best way to give a vast number of young people a variety of experiences fitting their confidence and ability in a relatively short period of time. A similar approach is taken by the United Nations through its International mock United Nations Conferences.

Much could be learned from the approach taken by the CPA for the Schools in Parliament program in NSW and other opportunities for Young people in NSW to learn about their representative institutions.

Particular thanks must go to the NSW Branch of the CPA for this wonderful opportunity to represent it. I would also like to put on record my sincere appreciation of the support and encouragement provided by the office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. To Mr Russell Grove and Patricia Broderick a very special thank you is in order.

Finally, I hope and trust events such as the Millennium Youth Parliament continue to be held, improved, and made available to many more young people involved in politics and public policy making in this state.

CPA Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament
Manchester, United Kingdom Wed. Nov. 22 – Fri. Nov. 25, 2000

Delegate: Paola Baca

CPA Branch: British Columbia

Nomination Process:

In May an invitation to participate in the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament was distributed by the Speaker of the BC Legislative Assembly to youth parliamentarians and former legislative interns. I was chosen to represent British Columbia on the basis of an essay on the subject of Legislative Reform and my two references.

Preparation:

The Speaker's Office provided me with a copy of the 1997 CPA Youth Parliament video for viewing. In early September I received a package of materials from Mr. Anthony Staddon, Asst. Director of Development and Planning. The package included a preliminary schedule of events, map to the Royal Commonwealth Society (where we were to meet on the first day), details about the CPA, details about "Commonwealthland" (the imaginary jurisdiction in which our parliament was set), details about the three parties invented for the youth parliament, and information sheets regarding parliamentary procedures.

I returned the required paperwork due October 6 selecting to speak to the Speech from the Throne (on the relevance of the Commonwealth in the new Millennium), choosing the New Millennium Party as my first choice for party affiliation in parliament, and choosing to speak on the subject of *Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability* at the adjournment debate. In mid-November I received a package of literature from the CPA to prepare for the adjournment debate. Aside from this reading and preparation of remarks to the Speech from the Throne, we were told that knowledge of our home jurisdiction was sufficient preparation for the proceedings.

Wednesday, November 22, 2000

The BC Legislative Assembly covered my airfare costs to England. I arrived in Manchester on Nov. 15 and stayed with friends until Wed. Nov. 22 when I made my way to the Royal Commonwealth Society in London. The Royal Commonwealth Society held a welcome reception and buffet lunch for all the participants. At this time we were introduced to Mr. Staddon and Mr. Raja Gomez, Director of Development and Planning.

It was amazing to begin meeting people from so many different countries over lunch – more than 100 participants from about 50 Commonwealth nations – some who had just arrived that morning from Australia or Africa. I met the participants from Alberta and Manitoba (both were studying in England) and a representative from Quebec House who

introduced all of us to the Quebec delegate. In total, there were 4 delegates from Canada (including myself).

After lunch we collected our briefcases and were transported by coach to London Euston train station, and from there we took the train to Manchester Piccadilly. On the train we familiarized ourselves with the briefing materials (I was part of the New Millennium Party) and we had a chance to meet more of the participants. I had the opportunity to get to know the participants from Turks & Caicos and learn more about their home country (which I didn't know existed before then!).

Immediately after checking in, we received our first briefing and our party (the opposition party) began the long, though democratic, process of electing its shadow cabinet – this exercise took us about an hour and a half. We elected 9 shadow ministers and began a debate about our party's manifesto (which we concluded after dinner).

Thursday, November 23, 2000

An official welcome by Mr. Arthur Donahoe, CPA Secretary-General, opened parliament, and the Speech from the Throne was made by His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Donald McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General. The Throne Speech elaborated the principles of the Commonwealth and called for actions to support sustainable development, democracy and democratic institutions.

The debate on this speech was a non-partisan debate allowing the participants to speak their minds about the relevance of the Commonwealth in the new Millennium. This portion of the debate was one of the most interesting and inspiring as people spoke about the conditions of poverty and illness in their countries, the need for sustainable development, the need for debt reduction, the threats of globalization and the need for action.

Representing a developed country in a forum dominated by developing nations was humbling to say the least. Prior to this event, I knew very little about the family of Commonwealth nations, or the activities of the Commonwealth. Having been born in a developing country myself, I spoke of how fortunate we were in Canada to live in a democratic environment with universal access to public health care and education; and how important it was for those of us living in developed nations to think about the consequences of our daily actions to the global environment, and to developing nations' labour environments. I expressed my hope that we remember our experiences over the two days, the people we had met and the nations they represented, and that our proceedings result in action and not merely rhetoric.

After lunch our party proposed a motion to make school mandatory for children under the age of 16 and provide free health care and education to all citizens of Commonwealthland. After a constructive debate, we failed to bring the Direct Democracy party on side and our motion failed.

Following an impassioned adjournment debate on programs for poverty reduction, literacy and persons with disabilities, we returned to the hotel for further party caucusing. We were briefed on the next day's proceedings and on the technicalities posed by the Committee of the Whole House. We also drafted amendments to the government bill on electoral reform.

Friday, November 24, 2000

Prior to the day's proceedings a representative from the British Council escorted the delegates from New South Wales, Zimbabwe, and myself to the BBC GMR Manchester radio station. We were on the local breakfast show for approximately 3-5 minutes and answered questions about our impressions of the upcoming Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games, our participation in the youth parliament, and our impressions of the experience. It was very exciting!

The parliament began with first reading and second reading debate of the government bill. During Committee of the Whole House we debated and voted on the various amendments. At one point our party, in conjunction with the Direct Democracy party, won an amendment vote and called for a vote of non-confidence in the government. A successful coalition with the Direct Democracy party helped to topple the minority Youth Party and brought our coalition to power.

After lunch, we had question period, which consisted of an almost equal number of opposition questions and backbench questions, mostly due to the recent change in government. This portion of the debate was the most light-hearted, and it was amusing to see how youth parliamentary ministers (like members of parliaments themselves) dodged opposition questions and utilized backbench questions to highlight their own government's achievements.

We concluded our session with a lengthy and powerful debate on the opposition (previously the government) motion to decriminalize soft drugs.

I think we had a very full and productive two-day session of youth parliament. The parliamentarians, some in their teens, were mature, articulate, and well informed about issues facing the Commonwealth countries (poverty, the HIV/AIDS crisis, education, and globalization). Our debates were not only productive during the session, but also outside the session during lunches and dinners. It was interesting to learn about the lifestyles of youth from the Caribbean and Africa. Similarly, some delegates were surprised to see how well representatives from the Western Canadian provinces got along with the representative from Quebec. We often spoke about the differences between countries' elections and parliamentary systems (often poking fun at the U.S. elections!)

On Friday evening, we were honoured by a civic dinner organized by Manchester 2002 and the Manchester City Council in the presence of the Lord Mayor. It was an honour and my pleasure to have been chosen to address the Lord Mayor, dignitaries, councillors and delegates on behalf of the youth parliamentarians and offer our thanks for a wonderful experience.

That evening a group of youth parliamentarians and some of the conference organizers went out to a local nightclub. Two of my best memories of this experience will be firstly yelling loudly to speak with Pascal, my new friend from Kenya, so we could discuss the different educational systems in our countries, and secondly being on the dance floor with a bunch of people I had only met two days earlier all singing “We are Family.”

General Impressions and Observations:

To be honest, I really did not know what to expect before this experience. I have never before participated in a youth parliament, although I have a good working knowledge of the parliamentary system from my work as a legislative intern and work with the BC government caucus.

I was very impressed with the organization of this event, and the welcoming and supportive environment created by the CPA for the delegates. The debates were always inclusive and there were opportunities for both the outspoken and the shy delegates to participate – and no one was ever forced to speak. We were at all times comfortable, well fed, and well informed. The only suggestion I would make to future organizers is to perhaps give the participants more time to work in caucuses – at times we did feel a little rushed since our caucus meetings took place right before dinner and most of us were not concentrating near the end of our meetings due to hunger. Because these meetings were short, certain members often dominated them (in order to have them proceed quickly) and this was unfortunate for some of the more quiet members.

I can understand the financial implications of an event of this size. I was impressed by everything that was provided to us by way of transportation, accommodation, and materials. If at all possible, however, it may be more convenient to have an extra half-day for parliament proceedings, instead of such an ambitious two days. I understand that most of Wednesday was spent on travel between London and Manchester, but if the delegates met in one location without need for internal travel, there may be more time to spread the 2 day agenda over two and a half or three days – leaving more room for rest, recovery from jetlag, a quick sightseeing trip, or sleep for those travelling from afar.

In all, my impression has been very positive. I was amused by how similar some of our proceedings were to those I have watched take place in the BC Legislative Assembly. Mostly, however, I was inspired. My recent work with government had made me a bit of a cynic. It was refreshing to talk to so many young people who were enthusiastic about government and what we could accomplish within our respective countries and together.

I am still in touch by email with youth in Australia, the Caribbean and Africa. I hope that these friendships develop and continue, and more importantly I hope I can contribute positively to our government and the Commonwealth in the future.

**REPORT ON THE MILLENIUM COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT
HELD IN MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM**

Rehema Kabiru (Kenya)

INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament was held as part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's millennial celebrations. The city of Manchester was chosen as the venue to mark the first event of the Manchester Spirit of Friendship Festival, a series of cultural, educational and sporting events and festivals culminating with the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has been determined to hold a second Commonwealth Youth Parliament after its first Youth Parliament, also held in Manchester in 1997, was so successful. The CPA used the Youth Parliament to teach young people how parliaments operate and carry out various functions. The CPA is active in the promotion and support of parliamentary democracy, by events such as Youth Parliaments.

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

On arrival in London, all the participants met at the Royal Commonwealth Society for a welcome reception and a buffet lunch in the presence of High Commissioners, Sponsors and Members of Parliament.

It is at this juncture that the Youth Members of Parliament, High Commissioners, Sponsors and Members of Parliament interacted and exchanged various ideas before departing to take an inter-city train to Manchester, Piccadilly. As the Youth Parliamentarians left the Royal Commonwealth Society, they were given briefcases that contained information sheets; the Rules Governing the Conduct of Business; a Bill on Electoral Reform which was to be later discussed and amended; a Biographies Booklet containing information on all the participants, their ambitions and goals, the regions they were representing and which political party they belonged to; and a CPA map.

BRIEFINGS

The Youth members of Parliament had briefing sessions to inform them on what was expected of them in the House and also on how the debates were to be carried out and how they could contact the Clerk of the House to indicate their desire to speak during the debates. I believe that the organisers of the Youth Parliament and the support staff kept us well informed and gave us ideas on what we could raise in the Chamber.

During the briefings the members selected their Cabinet Members and thereafter there was party caucusing where the three political parties discussed what was on the agenda for the first day of business, i.e. how they would vote, who would speak, what motions should be put forward etc.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS

The political parties of this Youth Parliament were as follows:

1. The Youth Party – the Ruling Party
2. The New Millennium Party – The official Opposition Party
3. The Direct Democracy Party – Opposition
4. The Independents.

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Clerk of the August House and the Sergeant of Arms were as follows:

1. Speaker – Baroness Fookes of Plymouth
2. Deputy Speaker – His Excellency Mr James E K Aggrey-Orleans
3. Clerk of the House – Ms Shona McGlashan
4. Sergeant of Arms – Various members of the Youth Parliament i.e. participants
5. The Head of State of Commonwealthland – His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Donald McKinnon.

As the Commonwealth is such a diverse organisation, the CPA Secretariat decided that, for the purpose of the Youth Parliament, the jurisdiction in which the Youth Parliament was set would be “Commonwealthland”. As the Youth Parliament had four different parliamentary sessions, I will discuss each of the sessions individually.

DAY ONE SESSION ONE:

The House commenced at 9.00 a.m. (UK time) with an official welcome from the CPA made by the Secretary-General, Arthur Donahoe. Soon after that, there was the Speaker’s procession and the “Throne Speech”, which was delivered by his Excellency the Rt. Hon. Donald McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

The “Throne Speech” touched on various areas e.g. the education of young people and the need to insure that young people are introduced to parliamentary politics through events such as the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament. The Rt. Hon. Donald McKinnon also mentioned the problems that the Commonwealth faces: unemployment, HIV/AIDS, pollution, poverty and the lack of access to health care and education.

The Rt. Hon. Donald McKinnon reiterated the commitment of the Commonwealth and the CPA to actually promote young people as an asset to their countries. There was then a debate on the Throne Speech and Members of Parliament thanked the Secretary-General for his speech.

SESSION TWO:

The session began in the afternoon at 2.00 p.m. (UK time) with the Speaker’s procession and the introduction of the Motion the Official Opposition. The Motion was “That this House welcomes the governments commitment to the inclusion of Civic and sex education within the school curriculum; questions the governments ability to deliver on this pledge in light of its devotion to the flawed concept of public, private partnership

(PPP); is concerned that previous PPP's have been expensive, ineffective and less than wholly state owned alternatives; calls on the government to abandon PPP's and provide free access via the state to education and health services for all commonwealth land residents: and further calls on the government to make education up to age of 16 compulsory for all residents.”

“Commonwealthland” is a developing country experiencing a lot of problems in health and education. The government was spending a lot of money on defence and the New Millennium Party felt that the security measures taken by the Government were excessive and caused suffering amongst the population. If Public-Private Partnerships are so successful then why do we have people under the age of 16 working in dangerous industries and why are there high unemployment levels?

Although the debate was at times heated, it was a good discussion, but the Official Opposition lost the motion and this was really difficult and sad.

Soon after, we had an Adjournment Debate on Programmes for Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disabilities. The Members of Parliament had various ideas on how to combat poverty in Commonwealthland and stressed the importance of giving education to every resident of Commonwealthland and also to provide equal opportunities to persons with disability. This debate was an eye opener to all of us as it touched on issues that directly or indirectly affected every participant.

DAY TWO SESSION THREE:

The third session commenced at 9.00 a.m. (UK time) with the Speaker's procession. This day was going to be difficult but all participants were filled with enthusiasm as we had by now all settled in to our parliamentary roles. The following Bill was to be debated:

<p>“A Bill to amend the law relating to voting at public elections and to provide for the representation of the minorities in the Legislative Assembly”.</p>

The Bill touched on various issues e.g.

1. Reduction of the voting age from 18 to 14 years
2. Compulsory voting for the electorate
3. Proxy votes – this involved that an elector could apply for the appointment of a person named to vote on their behalf
4. Representation of minority groups with up to 10 in number (hereinafter called “reserved seats”).

As the Bill was discussed in Committee, some of the provisions were amended e.g. the voting age was indeed lowered but not to 14 years but to 16 years. As the Bill was being amended in Committee, the Official Opposition Shadow Minister for Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs put forward a vote of no confidence. At this juncture, the House voted and, after losing the vote, the government vacated its office with immediate effect.

The opposition parties formed a coalition government with the New Millennium Party and the Direct Democracy Party taking office. At this point in time the House adjourned for one and a half hours before resuming. Hence the amended Bill didn't continue its passage through Parliament.

SESSION FOUR

The next session was Question Time based on the Canadian practice whereby a Member of Parliament can ask any question to Members of the Front Bench. The questions asked were breathtaking and had much relevance to the situation in Commonwealthland and I would like to congratulate all participants on how they asked and answered questions and handled the Debates with precision and seriousness. After Question Time had ended, there was a final Opposition Motion which read: **“That this House welcomes the conclusions of the Criminal Law Revisions Committees Report, recommending that the possession and personal use of soft drugs shall be decriminalised and its endorsement of the governments recent consultation paper.”**

The Shadow Prime Minister introduced the motion and later all parliamentarians made their contributions with interventions occasionally being granted. The tact needed to approach this motion was well approved and when voting time arrived the opposition lost the motion as it was felt that a line could not be drawn between the use of hard and soft drugs. At this point the House adjourned until further notice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the Madam Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Clerk. I believe that they were very patient with us, as the youth are full of energy and always wanting to say something extra to highlight how they feel exactly about some issues. But I just wish to say thank you to each and every one of them.

I also wish to thank the CPA for the good services offered to us and help especially when checking in and out. I thank them for also giving us the opportunity to stay in the Jury's Inn Hotel and actually being at the Granada Studios which was a dream come true.

The replica House of Commons at the Granada Studios was superb and indeed it did give us the exposure of really being Members of Parliament.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I enjoyed the opportunity of being a youth parliamentarian and I believe that the CPA should encourage every region or jurisdiction to hold youth parliaments that will culminate to even larger events. This move will encourage the youth to get instructed in parliamentary business and politics and hence curb the problem of low voter turnout among the young people.

I also wish to encourage the Kenyan Parliament to form a Youth Parliament in the East African Region and that with the inauguration of the East African Community this would be a move to encourage not only trade between the three nations but also exchange ideas concerning Parliament among the youth of the three nations hence encouraging all forms

of interaction among these people. This can only be achieved if the three nations share these common ideas.

The Millennium Youth Parliament was very involving and the sessions were long and draining. I believe that having only had two days to discuss all the issues was a little bit limiting. I wish to thank the CPA for giving us the opportunity to be youth parliamentarians and to actually let us experience the stress that came along with being a parliamentarian and their duties and roles.

Most of all I wish to thank the Kenya National Assembly for giving me the opportunity to represent my country in such an event. Words cannot express my gratitude and how much I learnt from the interaction with other young people who have youth parliaments in their regions.

Conclusion

This Youth Parliament Kit has been based on the CPA Secretariat's experience in organising the Millennium Youth Parliament. The feedback received from those who attended this event was extremely positive. The participants clearly appreciated the opportunity to learn the tools of parliamentary democracy in a Commonwealth setting and we were all deeply impressed at the way in which the young people so naturally adjusted to the parliamentary forum, and by the very high quality of their contributions. It was clear from the debate on the future of the Commonwealth that participants had thought about their comments in advance enabling them to respond to the Commonwealth Secretary-General's remarks. The "Youth MPs" met the challenge of examining a Bill in committee and put forward many thoughtful amendments, one of which led to the fall of the government. At all times, the atmosphere of the Youth Parliament was vibrant and constructive and it was clear that the participants enjoyed the experience. From our perspective, the key objectives were met.

It is always useful to keep track of the career path of any young people who attend such events. It is possible, perhaps even inevitable, that some of the young people will go on to work in or around the political arena. The CPA Secretariat has maintained contact with many of the participants. We know for example that some are involved in establishing Youth Parliaments in their local jurisdictions. Many participants have taken part in other CPA projects for young people, such as local events in Branches, or are engaged in supporting the work of Parliaments in various capacities, for example as parliamentary researchers.

This Youth Parliament Kit is an example of how a project can be developed further and there is plenty of evidence across the CPA that Youth Parliaments are becoming more prevalent. On Commonwealth Day 2002, for example, Youth Parliaments were held in many places including Papua New Guinea, Zanzibar, Nevis Island, Sierra Leone, Turks and Caicos, Edo State (Nigeria) and St. Kitts and Nevis. We hope this Youth Parliament Kit will inspire other events across the Commonwealth and beyond.

The CPA would appreciate comments and feedback on this Kit from Branches and other interested groups.

APPENDIX A

UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Operational Guidelines lay out the procedure and arrangements for the election of the Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs), their duties between their election and the sitting of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. As decisions on procedures have to be ratified by the MYPs themselves, these may be subject to change following each sitting.

2.0 NAME

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

3.0 ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Staff

The work of the UKYP is currently managed by the UKYP Development Manager and the UKYP Project Co-ordinator. A Social Inclusion Officer was appointed at the end of September 2001, with funding from Comic Relief to ensure that young people from all walks of life are represented by the UKYP.

3.2 The Procedures Committee

The Procedures Committee of the UKYP makes the decisions that guide the development of the UKYP, and agree the arrangements for each sitting. The Procedures Committee is made up of MYPs from each region of the UK, who have been nominated by their Region to represent the views of the MYPs to the Committee. It aims to physically meet at least twice a year, whilst discussing and agreeing urgent issues using the latest telecommunications.

3.3 The Trustees

The work of the UKYP is overseen by a body of Trustees who bear the ultimate responsibility for the work of the Trust, one third of whom have their positions reviewed each year. A Trustee's term can last between 3 – 4 years. The Trustees are bound in their actions, by the rules of the Charity Commission. The board of trustees has a balanced make-up of young people and representatives of Parliament and national organisations involved in working with and representing young people throughout the United Kingdom and professional expertise.

3.4 The Advisory Group

UKYP has been supported by a large number of national charities and organisations working with young people, together with local authorities and young people, who formed the Steering Group which guided the UPYP to its first sitting. These parties will be brought together in the context of an advisory group, through which mechanism their views, suggestions and help can be sought in the development of the UKYP.

4.0 AIMS

The UKYP aims to give the young people of the UK, between the ages of 11 and 18 (inclusive) a voice, which will be heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people. The UKYP has a rolling programme. It meets on an annual basis, and will give the young people of the UK a chance to express their views and concerns at the highest levels.

5.0 **OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 The UKYP is composed of representatives aged between 11 and 18 years old (inclusive) from across the UK. The UKKYP particularly encourages the involvement of young people who are socially excluded, but also representation from established groups such as local youth councils, and individuals.
- 5.2 The UKYP ensures that the young people of the UK are given a voice on any issue that affects them and as laid out in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 5.3 The UKYP gives the young people of the UK an opportunity to be involved in a democratic process at a national level.
- 5.4 The UKYP empowers young people to take positive action within their local communities based upon their issues of concern. The UKYP encourages community action for social change.
- 5.5 The UKYP is an a-political organisation, which seeks to represent no party political view. The UKYP is therefore solely, issued based.

6.0 **OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- 6.1 The UKYP has created a Youth Manifesto which has been presented to the Government, the major political parties and service providers for young people. It is intended that these agencies consider the views of the UKYP when reviewing and creating new policies that will have a direct impact on the young people of the UK.
- 6.2 Every young person who becomes involved in the UKYP, whether it be as an MYP or a member of a UKYP regional group, will have the opportunity to have their work and contribution to the UKUP accredited under a nationally recognised scheme.

7.0 **OUTCOMES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

- 7.1 By involving young people at a local level to influence decision makers nationally, it is hoped that local decision makers will also recognise the value of young people as part of their local communities. The UKYP will encourage them to work in partnership with young people, raising awareness of the means by which local communities can effect change for themselves and taking positive action for social change at a local level too, e.g. – through the establishment of Youth Councils, Drop-In Centres, Community Gardens, urban and rural regeneration and other projects which are a positive reaction to the concerns of young people.

8.0 **OUTCOMES FOR THE DECISION MAKERS**

- 8.1 The UKYP enables the “Decision Makers” of the UK, i.e. – the Government, the political parties, pressure groups, non-governmental organisations, etc to have a nationally recognised body of young people, which has been democratically elected by its peer group, to consult with on issues that are of concern to the youth of the UK.

The fact that the recommendations of the UKYP will have been made by democratically elected representatives for young people, places a far greater responsibility on the “Decision Makers” to listen and act upon these views.

9.0 **STRUCTURE**

- 9.1 The UKYP is developing support structures in the English Regions and in the other countries in co-operation with the appropriate bodies. These are based on the regional and national boundaries adopted by Government – Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the 9 English regions - London, South East, South West, Eastern, Yorkshire and The Humber, North West, North East, East Midlands and West Midlands.

The UKKYP has created regional groups whose core base is made up of the MYPs in that region. It is intended that as the UKKYP develops, these groups will be able to be accessed by any young

person in that area who wishes to be involved in the work of the UKYP, or bring to light a specific issue of concern, e.g. – like an MP’s surgery.

- 9.2 Each of the 12 nations and regions will have support staff. In England, the UKYP has already established the regional forums, with each region having its own Regional Coordinator. The role of the Regional Co-ordinator is to support the work of the elected MYPs in their region, and as the UKYP develops to draw together young people from the region who are interested in the UKYP and want to have some direct involvement.

Since the first sitting, the UKUP has recognised the needs of the youth workers, who are doing a fantastic amount of support work at grass roots level. The UKYP intends to continue to develop its work with youth workers, especially through the work of the UKYP’s Co-ordinator and to provide them with support and training as required/requested.

In the longer term it is proposed that retiring MYPs act as mentors to their successors for 12 months, adopting the Millennium Volunteers standards and approach where appropriate.

- 9.3.1 The UKYP uses Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in England and their equivalents in the other countries, to define the constituency boundaries for the MYPs. Each LEA area has a minimum of one MYP elected as a representative to the UKYP. Areas with a larger population of young people are entitled to return a larger number of MYPs. The UKYP will agree local arrangements in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

10. THE ELECTION OF MYPs

- 10.1 The MYPs are elected at a series of Election Days which are facilitated locally in each constituency.

A timescale of dates for regional/country and UK meetings is set prior to the election of MYPs, in order that every young person who gets involved in the UKYP will be aware of the commitment required of them (these may be subject to change once the MYPs have been elected and discussed the suitability of the dates). Regional/country meetings may vary according to area.

- 10.2 Election Days are held across the UK and are open to any young person between the ages of 11 and 18 (inclusive) who is interested in becoming a MYP.

In outline, the election process involves a series of “fun” workshops around the themes of Citizenship, Democracy, Representation and the UKYP. Young people attending the Election Days will be given the chance to discuss and learn about these issues, whilst meeting other like-minded young people from across their area.

At the end of this process, the young people present will be asked if they are still interested in becoming a MYP; those that do will have their names placed on a ballot paper, and an election will be held amongst those present. As further funding becomes available it is hoped to develop an on-line voting system which will work alongside the election days.

Dependent upon the size of the constituency – relative to the number of young people in each area, a minimum of one MYP will be elected in each constituency area across the UK, that being the young person with the most votes.

The total number of MYPs will be not more than 450.

- 11.0 **TIMETABLE OF EVENTS FROM THE ELECTION DAYS TO THE NATIONAL SITTING OF THE UKYP**

11.1 January 2002

The Elections

The UKYP would like all elections for the 2002 sitting, and those beyond, to take place in the last two weeks of January. In conjunction with the elections, and to raise the profile of the UKYP an event will be run parallel to the elections called Express Yourself.

Express Yourself

The UKYP needs to be able to raise a significant sum of money for itself on an annual basis to ensure its sustainability, encourage private sponsorship and to maintain the support of national government.

The Aim

To establish a nation-wide UK Youth Parliament Week, under the banner of Express Yourself to:

1. Raise funds for the UKYP.
2. Actively encourage young people to think about their role as responsible citizens in their communities, whether that be a local, national, European or global community.
3. Raise awareness of the UKYP amongst young people, schools, parents, local and national government and the local and national media – in conjunction with local elections.

The Proposal

1. **To Raise Funds**

Every Local Education Authority and school in the country will be contacted to request their support for the UKYP. Schools will be asked to host a non-uniform day (which will take place on the same day across the country), for which young people will be charged £0.50 per head. The young people will be asked to be as imaginative as possible when attending in non-uniform so as to “Express” their identities on the day.

If just five secondary schools, containing 1,000 students, in each LEA sign up to the day we will raise the following:

1,000 young people x £0.50 = £500 per school
£500 per school x 5 £2,500 per LEA
150 LEAs Across ENGLAND ONLY x £2,500 = £375,000.00

We will of course also be asking the schools in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to take part too – the above is an example of what is possible if just the LEAs in England participate.

Schools who cater for young people with disabilities and special needs will also be targeted and youth clubs and young offenders’ institutions will be encouraged to get involved.

2. **To Be Responsible Citizens**

Schools who take part in “Express Yourself” will be asked to provide Citizenship Boxes around the school. During the day the young people will be asked to think about the issues that concern them – locally, nationally and globally and to place these issues on a postcard and put them in the Citizenship box. They will be asked how they feel they can make a difference and what action they can take to make a positive change in their communities.

All the issues placed in the boxes will be passed to the MYP’s Regional Groups for action. The MYPs will work through the issues to see how they can be addressed and

will raise the concerns of the young people in the relevant places, e.g. to local parish, town, district and County Councils; Regional Development Agencies, local businesses and service providers; the national Government; and at the national sitting of the UKYP.

In this way we are encouraging young people to “Express” their concerns at a local level, whilst making them aware of the UKYP and their rights as citizens.

3. **Raising Awareness**

Whilst the use of Citizenship Boxes will help to raise awareness of the UKYP, we also intend to:

- a) Ask the MYP’s Regional Groups to organise a Regional Conference for service providers for young people, voluntary organisations and local government to promote the work of the UKYP, educate groups about what the UKYP is and what it does, and highlight ways in which local organisations can get involved.
- b) Organise an annual event in the House of Commons, where MYPs have the opportunity to “Express” their concerns directly MPs and members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Young People – Huw Edwards, the BBC News Presenter has already expressed an interest in helping to host this event for 2001.
- c) Encourage MYPs to visit local schools and youth clubs to talk about the UKYP, their work as MYPs and how other young people can get involved.

Conclusion

An annual event at which young people are encouraged to “Express Themselves” will enable the UKYP to raise its profile and much needed funds to ensure its growth. It will also enable schools to encourage pupils to play an active part as citizens (following national curriculum guidelines) and to make young people aware that their actions at a local level can have a global impact.

Express Yourself also has the scope for the involvement of other agencies, such as the Citizenship Foundation; to build upon the themes of Citizenship and the responsibilities associated with being a good citizen.

11.1 **February 2002**

Elected MYPs will meet in their Regional/Country Groups. These groups will be made up of elected MYPs, young people who attended the “Election Days” who were not elected but wish to remain involved in the UKYP, and representatives from other youth groups from within the region.

Each of these groups has a responsibility to represent the views of young socially excluded people in their area, who will themselves be encouraged to attend group meetings with the support of the Regional Co-ordinator. The Social Inclusion Co-ordinator of the UKYP will monitor the effectiveness of the UKYP’s policy in relation to social exclusion.

The Regional/Country groups will be required to appoint a representative to one of seven topic groups, (Activities, Media & Fun, Better Society, Education & Opportunities, The Environment, Health, Law & Society and UK & International Matters) and the UKYP Procedures Group. Each group represents a “Select Committee” which enables external organisations and the Government to consult with the MYPs on specific topics, e.g. – sex education comes under the Health Committee’s remit.

The UKYP Regional Co-ordinators will support the MYPs during their term of office, to meet representatives from local authorities within the region/country, the youth (or equivalent) and additional organisations to enable the group to find out what is going on and being done for local

young people in their areas. They will be encouraged to produce regular articles for their local newspapers and other media outlets to enable the UKYP to establish a high profile, not just nationally but also locally.

The Regional/Country groups will be required to keep a catalogue of all the issues that they are made aware of by their peer group/electorate to ensure that a record is kept of the concerns of young people. In addition to this a local list of project ideas and subsequent developments should also be kept as a record of their achievements at a local level.

During the term of their office, MYPs will be encouraged to shadow their local Westminster MP for one day. It is hoped that the local papers will cover their experience, and will provide publicity for the UKYP, the young person and the MP.

The UKYP Steering Group will produce a newsletter to be distributed to all the Regional/Country groups, young people on the database, etc to reflect the work being done at a local level and what the elected MYPs have been doing.

At the first meeting of the Regional Group in 2002, they will be asked to consider the issues raised during “Express Yourself” and to consider how they will represent these views at the National Sitting.

11.2 **March 2002**

The MYPs should aim to consult with a minimum of 20 constituents face to face. This could be done by holding a joint surgery with their MP.

11.3 **May 2002**

Regional/Country groups to meet and plan the ways in which they are going to ensure representation of the issues from their region at the national sitting.

11.4 **July 2002**

THE MEETING OF THE UKYP

Day 1

1100 – 1500

Arrival & Registration – on arrival MYPs will be asked to provide the details of the key issues they wish to see discussed. These issues will be displayed on “Talkboards” which will later be categorised under specific headings.

1600

Opening Ceremony with key public figures including ministers, MPs, etc.

1730

Break

1900

UKYP Ball

During dinner UKYP Administration will need to go through the items on the talkboards and categorise them into groups/debate topics – under their key headings, which will then be re-displayed on the talkboards.

MYPs will also be expected to read the talkboards before retiring for the evening and identify the areas in which they have a specific interest. The MYPs will be expected to attend the discussion groups relevant to their area(s) of interest during the following days.

Day 2

Whilst this timetable is a skeleton, expert facilitators will be provided to use participatory methods designed to include and involve young people in a process which is designed to develop their skills in the public processes, e.g. – public speaking, assertiveness, etc. At the end of each session a short period of time will be allocated for critical evaluation.

0730 – 0930

Breakfast

0945

Introduction to the day

1015

MYPs will have expressed an interest in a specific issue. All the issues will be debated in themed groups and MYPs will be expected to attend group meetings. The groups will be asked to consider the recommendations from the previous year's Youth Manifesto and whether any of the issues have been addressed (in their opinion).

1230

Lunch/Break

1400

A Statement For Action – The MYPs will be asked to consider new issues and make fresh recommendations, bearing in mind at which level action should be taken, e.g. – local government, national government, a European level, a global level – or whether it be issues which could be tackled by pressure groups and non-governmental organisations.

The issues identified by the MYPs will be produced as a Statement For Action.

Debate/discussion groups. As recommended by the Procedures Group debate/discussion groups will last approximately one hour, with five minute breaks between group sessions. MYPs will have the freedom to move between the discussion groups at the end of each session – or may choose to remain with their initial group.

1730

Break/Dinner

1900 – 2100

“Fringe Meetings” And/Or Workshop Sessions

2100

Evening Entertainment

Day 3

0730 – 0930

Breakfast

0945

Introduction To The Day

1015

Groups To Identify, Finalise And Make Recommendations For The Statement For Action.

1300

Lunch

1430

Time For The UKYP To Meet As One Group For A General Discussion/Debate On Any Issues Identified At The Meeting, e.g. UKYKP Procedures, Regional Group Presentations, Issues Of Concern, etc.

The Procedures Group recommended that to ensure every Region was fairly represented during this session, each Region should elect two speakers to speak on behalf of the Region at the beginning of the session, i.e. – each region is given the opportunity to air its view before the general debate.

Each Region should also identify a list of questions (if any!) that they may want answering at the sitting.

(Whilst this debate is taking place, the administrative team will be producing the Statement For Action – a copy of which will be given to every MYP at dinner).

1730

Break/Dinner

The Statement For Action Distributed

2000

A postal ballot of those in support of each topic in the Statement For Action.

2100

Evening Entertainment

Day 4

0730 – 0930

Breakfast

1000

Topic groups reconvene to be told the result of the postal ballot for their section of the Statement For Action. Each group to nominate two people to present their action points to the whole UKYP and government ministers, and how this should be done.

Each member of the topic group to identify one issue from their Statement and decide how they will address that issue and at what level – they will report their actions back to their regional meetings.

1100

Whole UKYP reconvenes to hear the Statements For Action presented. Government Ministers and NGOs will be invited to attend this session to enable the MYPs to put questions directly to them.

1230

Packed Lunch/Home

11.5 THE EVALUATION PERIOD

An independent evaluator will be appointed to draw together the views of participants and organisers following the election process. These will be collated to form a report to go to the regional/country groups of MYPs to inform their consideration as part of the evaluation process below.

11.6 September 2002

MYPs to work with their LEAs to begin planning the next round of elections.

- 11.7 **October 2002**
Regional Meetings. The groups may want to consider local action for Local Democracy Week and National Youth Work Week.
- 11.8 **November 2002**
MYPs to write to their MP to ask for their permission to shadow them for a minimum of one day during this month.
- 11.9 **December 2002**
Regional/County groups to meet for the last time prior to the next round of Elections for a general discussion and to make recommendations for good practice.
- 12.0 **January 2003**
Election time again !!!

APPENDIX B

NEWS RELEASE **(No.1 29 February 2000)**

Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Manchester, UK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following the success of the 1997 International Youth Parliament in Manchester, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), in conjunction with the CPA United Kingdom Branch, will bring together young people from across the Commonwealth for a Youth Parliament.

The Millennium Youth Parliament, to be held at the replica House of Commons Chamber at Granada Studios on 22-24 November 2000, will enable close to 150 young men and women, aged between 18 and 29, to face the pressure of adversarial politics and discuss issues of concern to young people across the Commonwealth. The "Youth MPs" will be nominated by many of the Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures and they will be travelling to the UK specifically to join the Youth Parliament. The intention is to have an equal number of male and female participants.

Participants will have a chance to experience life in the parliamentary spotlight and at the same time show how the next generation would approach parliamentary politics. "Youth MPs" will be selected to serve as Prime Minister, Ministers, Opposition Leader, shadow Ministers and government and opposition Backbenchers. The agenda will include Question Time, debates, votes on Bills and government motions.

Formal parliamentary practice adapted from several Commonwealth countries will be followed and the proceedings will be observed under the watchful eyes of experienced parliamentary officials. Representatives from Commonwealth organizations and the diplomatic corps will be invited as observers. The event will be recorded on video and distributed widely throughout the Commonwealth. It will be open to the media.

The United Kingdom will host the 46th annual CPA Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in September 2000. By holding the Youth Parliament after the annual conference, we are providing young Commonwealth citizens with a unique opportunity both to discuss the conclusions of established Commonwealth MPs and to interact and exchange ideas on issues of concern to the Commonwealth of Nations.

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of the law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. CPA Branches now exist in 142 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments, with a total membership of over 14,000 Parliamentarians.

For further details please contact Anthony Staddon on 020 7799 1460

INFORMATION BULLETIN
(August 2000)

Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Manchester, UK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), in conjunction with the CPA United Kingdom Branch, is delighted to announce that His Excellency the Rt Hon Donald McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, will officially open the CPA Youth Parliament on the morning of Thursday 23 November 2000.

The Millennium Youth Parliament, to be held at the replica House of Commons Chamber at Granada Studios on 22-23 November 2000, will enable close to 120 young men and women, aged between 18 and 29, to face the pressure of adversarial politics and discuss issues of concern to young people across the Commonwealth. The "Youth MPs" will be nominated by many of the Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures and many will be travelling to the UK specifically to join the Youth Parliament.

The Youth Parliament has been designed to demonstrate how most Commonwealth Parliaments, operating a Westminster-style of democracy, are able to make legislation; to debate matters of national and international concern; to demand accountability from those in government; to change government without recourse to civil disorder; and to make and enforce their own rules of conduct, practice and behaviour.

Baroness Fookes of Plymouth has agreed to act as Speaker and she will be assisted by His Excellency Mr James E. K. Aggrey-Orleans, High Commissioner for Ghana, as Deputy Speaker. The Clerk of the House will be Shona McGlashan, currently a senior Clerk in the UK Parliament's Journal Office. Representatives from Commonwealth organizations and the diplomatic corps will be invited as observers. The event will be recorded on video and distributed widely throughout the Commonwealth. It will be open to the media.

We would like to thank the Department of International Development (DFID), Manchester 2002, British Airways, British Council, Virgin Trains, Liquid Plastics Limited, The Emerson Group, Manchester City Council for sponsoring this exciting event.

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of the law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. CPA Branches now exist in 142 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments, with a total membership of over 14,000 Parliamentarians.

For further details please contact Anthony Staddon on (+44 20) 7799 1460

Appendix C

CPA MILLENNIUM YOUTH PARLIAMENT

NAME:

NOMINATED BY (Name of Home Parliament, e.g. Bangladesh or Ontario)

Please indicate which political party you would prefer to represent in the Youth Parliament.
Highest preference = 1, lowest preference = 4.

POLITICAL PARTY	CHOICE
<p>Direct Democracy Party: Manifesto to include commitment to direct democracy; the abolition of Parliament, political parties and MPs; stress on the use of new technology. In the interim, manifesto includes the abolition of income tax; an increase in defence expenditure; privatisation and liberalisation programmes in all sectors of the economy; support for devolution and referenda (including a referendum on changing the election system to a form of Proportional Representation).</p>	
<p>New Millennium Party: Manifesto to include commitment to phase out the use of the private car; extension of public transport network; tax rises; redistribution of wealth; punitive legislation to punish industry and utilities which pollute the atmosphere; nationalisation of key industries; extension of public transport network; assistance to refugees; cuts in defence expenditure; a rise in the state pension; and free access to health and education services.</p>	
<p>Youth Party: Manifesto to include lowering the voting age to 14 years; mixed economy; compulsory voting; alteration of curriculum in schools to include civic and sex education; legalisation (or decriminalising) of soft drugs; promotion of partnerships between private industry and schools/youth clubs; support for public-private partnerships in education and healthcare; quotas to ensure seats for women and minority groups in society.</p>	
<p>Independent</p>	

Please indicate by a tick whether you would be prepared to assume any of the following roles (you may choose as many as you like)

OFFICE	CHOICE
Prime Minister (or Leader of the Opposition)	
Member of Cabinet (or shadow Cabinet)	
Serjeant at Arms	
Whip (or shadow Whip)	

*Please return to Anthony Staddon, Assistant Director of Development and Planning, at CPA Secretariat, Suite 700, Westminster House, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA.
Tel: 020 7227 1686 (Direct Line); Fax: 020 7222 6073 and E-Mail: Anthony@cpahq.org*

APPENDIX D

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE USED AT THE VICTORIA YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Introduction of Bill – The First Reading

- Sponsor Mr/Madam Speaker/President, (*Give your name*) The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (*Surname*)
I move that I have leave to bring in a Bill to (*read the long title of the Bill*)
- President The question is that the Honourable Member have leave to bring in a Bill. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.
The question is that the Bill be printed and read a second time immediately. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

Second Reading Stage

- Sponsor Mr/Madam Speaker/President, (*Give your name*) The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (*surname*)
I move that the Bill now be read a second time.
The Sponsor will then introduce his or her self as The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (Surname) and proceed with their five minute sponsoring speech of the Bill.
After the Sponsor resumes their seat the Refuter stands, waits for acknowledgment from the Speaker/President, and begins their refuter speech.
The person refuting the Bill will introduce themselves as the Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (Surname) and present their refuting speech of five minutes.
The floor is now open to debate. The chair will choose a person from the government and opposition in turns to speak. Youth Parliamentarians wishing to speak at this stage shall stand in their place and wait to be acknowledged by the Speaker/President, who will say - The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (Surname).
The Youth Parliamentarian with the call will then introduce themselves as The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (Surname).
Each Youth Parliamentarian may only speak once during the second reading debate stage and for no more than two minutes.
The sponsor of the Bill will be invited to conclude the debate by giving a short response to matters raised by other Youth Parliamentarians. The Speaker/President will then put the question.

President The question is - that the Bill now be read a second time and committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

This is a procedural motion to enable the Bill to be read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House. It is suggested that this motion should not be opposed to enable the Bill to proceed to the committee stage where amendments can be considered.

President The question is - That I do now leave the Chair.
All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

The Speaker/President will then leave the Chair and the Chairman of Committees will preside while the Bill is in Committee

Committee Stage

At this stage the Bill is dealt with clause by clause and amendments may be proposed and discussion will take place on each clause that has an amendment moved to it.

There are four different cases to consider at this stage:

1. Passing the Clause as it stands
2. Amending a Cause
3. Omitting the Clause, or
4. Inserting a new Clause

CASE 1 *If there is no problem with the clause then when the question is put*

Chairman The question is that Clause ... stand part of the Bill. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

A straight vote supporting the clause should be voiced, by the Members.

CASE 2 *If an amendment is to be made, the Member moving to amend the clause is to stand now and wait to be called by the Chairman.*

Chairman The question is that Clause ... stand part of the Bill.

Member Mr Chairman The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (Surname).

I move to amend Clause ... by (*read the details of the amendment, then read the amended clause as a whole. The amendment should be supported by a short address to the House.*)

Other members of the house can then argue for or against the proposed amendment. The Chairman will then put the question.

Chairman The question is that the amendment be agreed to.
All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

This question is asking the members to vote on the proposed changes to the clause.

The question is that the Clause ..., as amended, stand part of the Bill. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No, I think the Ayes have it.

CASE 3	<i>If the clause is to be omitted then when the question is put</i>
---------------	--

Chairman The question is that Clause ... stand part of the Bill.
All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Noes have it.

A "NO" vote should be voiced by the Members of the house.

CASE 4	<i>If you wish to insert a new clause, wait until all other clauses have been dealt with, then stand and wait to be called.</i>
---------------	--

Member Mr/Madam Chairman The Honourable Mr/Miss/Ms (*Surname*).
I move that a new Clause be inserted that shall read (*read the new clause in full, supporting the new clause with a short address to the house*)

Other Members of the house can then argue for or against the proposed new Clause. The Chairman will then put the question.

Chairman The question is that the new clause be read a second time and added to the Bill.
All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

Once all clauses have been dealt with, and any new clauses added, the Chairman must make a report to the House.

The question is that I report the Bill, with/without amendments. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes *have* it.

The Speaker/President then returns to the chamber. The Chairman of Committees will move to the left of the Chair and report as follows.

Mr/Madam Speaker/President. I have the honour to report that the Committee have gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with/without amendments.

President The Chairman of Committees reports that the Committee have gone through the Bill and agreed to the same with/without amendments.

The Chairman of Committees moves to the rear of the Chair and waits for an appropriate moment to resume his or her seat, staying mindful of etiquette.

Adoption of the Report

President The question is that the Report be taken into consideration immediately. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

 The question is that the amendments made by the Committee be agreed to. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No I think the Ayes have it.

Third Reading Stage

Sponsor Mr/Madam Speaker/President I move that the Bill now be read a third time.

 Where a Youth Parliamentarian does not agree with the Bill, they should vote against the third reading. A majority of Youth Parliamentarians voting against the Bill will cause it to be defeated.

President The question is that the Bill be read a third time. All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

This is now the vote which decides whether or not the Bill is passed. This is a conscience vote, your individual opinion. Vote "Aye" to pass it, "No" to defeat it

The question is, - that the Bill pass the Youth Parliament and that the title of the Bill, be a Bill to (*read the long title of the Bill*). All those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Ayes have it.

Some of the votes held throughout the process are what is referred to as formal votes, as opposed to the conscience vote just described. These are votes where Members are required to vote Aye, so that the question is resolved in the affirmative, allowing the Bill to continue all the way through the process, and enabling full discussion and thee all important Third Reading.

Divisions

When calling the result of a vote in house, the Speaker/President will usually say "the Ayes have it", unless the result is obviously in the negative.

If you disagree with the call made by the Speaker/President, you can call for a division: during a division the members of the house divide on either side of the chamber, Ayes to the right. Noes to the left.

Tellers are then appointed to count the number of people on either side of the chamber. The result is returned to the Clerk of the House who in turn notifies the Speaker/President of the result of the division. The question is then resolved depending on the result of the division.

*Divisions take quite some time to carry out, therefore **we recommend that divisions be avoided**, unless there is an obvious discrepancy in the Speaker/President's call. It is also particularly important to remember that divisions should not be called on a formal vote, for example; "The question is that the Bill be printed and read a second time". For the purposes of Youth Parliament, divisions are really only necessary during the Third Reading, when the Speaker/President puts the question that the Bill be passed by the Youth Parliament.*

In the event of a division being required on any questions the following procedure will apply.

President

Division required, ring the bells.

The bells will be rung for one minute.

Those in favour of the question move to the Speaker/President's right and those opposed move to the Speaker/President's left. Anyone wishing not to vote (abstain) can leave the chamber.

Lock the doors. The house will divide, Ayes to the right, Noes to the left.

I appoint as tellers for the Ayes, the Honourable (Member) and the Honourable (Member) and I appoint as tellers for the Noes the Honourable (Member) and the Honourable (Member)

At this point the Clerk and Clerk Assistant will rise. The Clerk will move to the Ayes, the Clerk Assistant to the Noes. One teller from each side will count the Ayes and one teller from each side will count the Noes.

While the division is in progress all Youth Parliamentarians must remain seated

The Clerk and Clerk Assistant will confirm that the numbers are correct and the Clerk will advise the Speaker/President of the outcome.

The Speaker/President will then announce: Result of the division Ayes..., Noes...

Therefore it is resolved in the affirmative

Or

Therefore it passes in the negative.

Youth Parliamentarians should then return to their allocated seats.

APPENDIX E

[N.B. Appendix E contains information which was sent to participants in advance of the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament. Not all information has been included because some material is already contained in the Youth Parliament Kit e.g. the Rules Governing the Conduct of Business.]

Ref: AS/C29(1)

September 2000

Dear Participant:

Millennium CPA Youth Parliament in Manchester, United Kingdom
(23-24 November 2000)

I am very happy to inform you that you have been nominated by the Parliament in your home jurisdiction to attend our Millennium Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Manchester, United Kingdom. Our intention in holding a Youth Parliament is to promote the virtues of both the Commonwealth and parliamentary democracy to the younger generation, and to provide you with a memorable, enjoyable and educative experience.

The Youth Parliament's agenda has been designed to demonstrate how most Commonwealth Parliaments, operating a Westminster-style of democracy, are able:

- to make legislation;
- to debate matters of national and international concern;
- to demand accountability from those in government;
- to change government without recourse to civil disorder; and
- to make and enforce their own rules of conduct;

Please find enclosed the following materials:

- A. A Travel and Dietary Requirements Form.
- B. A Political Party Preference Form.
- C. A Biographical Information Form.
- D. A Debate Preference Form.
- E. A Map of the Centre of London. All participants should meet at the Royal Commonwealth Society, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London on Wednesday 22 November at 12 Noon. The nearest train and tube station to the Royal Commonwealth Society is Charing Cross Station. On arrival at Charing Cross, head towards Trafalgar Square and Northumberland Avenue is the first road on your left.
- F. Information Sheets containing further information about the Youth Parliament

It is very important that you should return the enclosed forms to me by **Friday 6 October** (you can send the forms by fax, post or by E-Mail). Please read the documents in full before completing the forms, as you will find the proceedings of the Youth Parliament explained in these papers.

Raja Gomez, Director of Development and Planning, and I look forward to meeting you on 22 November.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Staddon
Assistant Director of Development and Planning

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME:

AGE:

HISTORY:

OCCUPATION:

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:

CAREER ASPIRATIONS:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

FAX NUMBER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

OTHER INFORMATION:

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER OR TELEPHONE
ANTHONY STADDON ON 020 7227 1686 (Anthony@cpahq.org)**

**CPA YOUTH PARLIAMENT
23-24 November 2000**

NAME:

COMMONWEALTH JURISDICTION REPRESENTED:

Opening Debate on the Commonwealth (following the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Throne Speech)

I would be interested in contributing to this debate	YES	NO
---	------------	-----------

(Please circle)

ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

I would be interested in speaking on the following topics:

Subject	✓
Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability	
Environmental Degradation	
Modifying attitudes, customs and practices that are barriers to the political, social and economic development of women	
Combating the economic, social and political threats of HIV/AIDS.	
Other (Please Specify a Debate):	

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER OR TELEPHONE
ANTHONY STADDON ON 020 7227 1686 (Anthony@cpahq.org)**

**CPA YOUTH PARLIAMENT
23-24 NOVEMBER 2000
MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM
TRAVEL AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS FORM**

NAME:

NOMINATED BY: (Name of Home Parliament, e.g. Bangladesh or Ontario

<p>If you are travelling to the Youth Parliament from outside mainland Britain, please give your flight details:</p> <p>Date of arrival:</p> <p>Time of arrival:</p> <p>Place of arrival:</p> <p>Flight No.</p> <p>Date of departure:</p> <p>Time of departure:</p> <p>Place of departure:</p> <p>Flight No.</p> <p>Note: The CPA does not have diplomatic or other facilities to greet participants at the airport. The CPA will be responsible for all participants from 12 Noon on Wednesday 22 November until arrival back in London on Saturday 25 November (estimated at 2 PM). You are, of course, free to arrive in London before 22 November at your own expense (many of you will be travelling long distances), but if you will be arriving before 22 November, please let us know where you will be staying.</p>
<p>Do you have any special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian)</p>
<p>If you live in United Kingdom, is it possible for you to make your own way to central London on Wednesday 22 November? (We will reimburse your bus/tube/train fare)</p>
<p>Please give the name and telephone number of a person to be contacted on your behalf in the event of an emergency:</p>

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2000 TO:
**Anthony Staddon, Assistant Director of Development and Planning, at CPA
Secretariat, Suite 700, Westminster House, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. Tel: 020
7227 1686; Fax: 020 7222 6073 and E-Mail: Anthony@cpahq.org**

CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH PARLIAMENT
MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS THE CPA?

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was founded in 1911 (as the Empire Parliamentary Association), and is the parliamentary wing of the Commonwealth. Legislatures and Parliaments in some 164 jurisdictions are our members which translate to in excess of over 14,000 individual Members of Parliament. Our Association (which is a charity under U.K. law) acts as the professional development body for these MPs, to assist in carrying out their responsibilities, and to provide a forum for consultation and to provide information services.

We are active in the promotion and support of parliamentary democracy, by such means as: the running of post-election seminars for Parliamentarians; the exchange of constitutional and parliamentary experts from one jurisdiction to another; the provision of election monitors, and the publication of a range of authoritative publications on parliamentary subjects.

WHY A YOUTH PARLIAMENT?

As part of the CPA's millennial celebrations, it has been determined to hold a second Commonwealth Youth Parliament (the first having been successfully held in 1997). In September this year the United Kingdom hosted the 46th annual CPA Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, in Jersey, London and Edinburgh. By holding the Youth Parliament after the annual conference, we are providing young Commonwealth citizens with a unique opportunity both to discuss the conclusions of established Commonwealth MPs (the Adjournment Debate will focus on a subject discussed as a Panel Topic at the Annual Conference) and to interact and exchange ideas on issues of concern to the Commonwealth of Nations. Manchester has been chosen as the venue to mark the first event of the Manchester Spirit of Friendship Festival, a series of cultural, educational and sporting events and festivals culminating with the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The CPA Secretary-General, Mr Arthur Donahoe, wrote to all Branches of the Association, and asked them to nominate a young person from their jurisdiction (ideally in the age range 18-29 years) to participate in the Youth Parliament. Branches were asked to secure funding to cover the transport costs of their participant from their home jurisdiction to the United Kingdom and back again. Representatives from Commonwealth organizations and the diplomatic corps have been invited as observers.

The intention was to have, as nearly as possible, an equal number of male and female participants, being representative of all the regions of the Commonwealth. This reflects the CPA's efforts to enhance the participation of women in public life and would be a marked improvement on the make-up of current Commonwealth Parliaments, where women on average constitute approximately 13 per cent of their membership.

In fact there will be 58 female participants and 50 male participants in Manchester making this Parliament the first truly gender-sensitive Commonwealth Parliament. The youngest participant is just 16 years old; the oldest is 29 years old.

ACCOMMODATION

Rooms have been booked for the nights of Wednesday 22 November 2000 through to Friday 24 November inclusive at the Jurys Inn, Manchester. Twin Rooms will be provided (i.e. two people will be sharing one room). All meals (including breakfast) will be arranged by the CPA Secretariat.

The address of the Conference Hotel is Jurys Inn, Manchester, 56 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester, M1 5LE (Telephone: +44 (0)161 953 8888; Fax: +44 (0)161 953 9090).

THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT VENUE

The Millennium Youth Parliament, which will be session from Thursday 23 - Friday 24 November, will be held at the replica House of Commons Chamber at the Granada Studios in Manchester.

DRESS CODE

Commonwealth Parliaments have a dress code. The Millennium CPA Youth Parliament maintains this tradition and participants will be expected to dress appropriately during parliamentary proceedings. If you choose to wear clothing that the Parliament may deem inappropriate, you should be prepared to defend your choice of attire! Very casual clothes (e.g. jeans) will be acceptable for the evenings of Wednesday 22 November and Thursday 23 November and for the morning of Saturday 25 November.

As Manchester is likely to be cold (and wet!) you are advised to bring an overcoat.

OTHER INFORMATION

No cameras will be allowed in the House of Commons chamber (too many camera flashes going off will be distracting) and all mobile phones must be switched off.

The CPA will not cover the cost of telephone calls, alcoholic drinks or any other expenses. You have been advised to arrange some form of insurance to cover you in the event of a medical emergency. Please advise a member of the CPA Secretariat if you are taken ill.

BRIEFINGS

On the Wednesday evening there will be a general briefing and the Standing Orders of the Youth Parliament will be explained. This will be followed by an opportunity for you to meet the other members of your "CPA Youth Parliament party", and hopefully to reach a consensus on the important issues in your party's platform. Each party will need to identify its cabinet (or shadow cabinet) and prepare for the opening day's programme. There will be ample opportunity for you to ask questions if there is anything you are unclear about.

On the Thursday evening there will be further Party meetings in preparation for the Committee of the Whole House and Question Time sessions on Friday 24 November.

Briefing times vary for each political party and please ensure that you attend the correct session. **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND WEDNESDAY'S AND THURSDAY'S BRIEFINGS.**

**CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

INFORMATION SHEET

GLOSSARY

SPEAKER: The Speaker is the presiding officer of Parliament, and his/her authority is respected on all sides of the House. The function of the Speaker is to regulate debate and enforce the observance of rules. The Speaker determines a point of order and gives rulings when required. The Speaker of the Youth Parliament will be assisted by a **DEPUTY SPEAKER**.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: The chief permanent officer of the Legislature. The Clerk assists and advises the Speaker and Members of Parliament on matters of procedure.

SERJEANT AT ARMS: This officer attends the Speaker in a ceremonial capacity and is in charge of security. The Serjeant is the custodian of the mace, the symbol of Parliament's authority, which is carried by the Serjeant in the speaker's procession. If ordered by the Speaker, the Serjeant can take disciplinary action against badly-behaved Members.

BILL: A Bill is a draft piece of legislation. In order to become an Act of Parliament, every Bill must pass three readings in the Parliament and then be given assent by the Head of State.

DIVISION: All questions are decided by a vote, a simple majority being required. Sometimes, a vote is carried to a division, or recorded vote, in instances where it is not possible to determine the feeling of the House. For the purposes of the CPA Youth Parliament, participants are required to stand in their places when the call for "yesses" and "noes" is made. All participants must be present when a vote is taken.

POINT OF ORDER: Any Member can bring to the attention of the Speaker any instance of an apparent breach of order or a transgression of a written or unwritten law of the House which the Speaker has not noticed. A Member may, on such cases only, interrupt a debate by rising and saying "On a point of order, Madame Speaker", and then

explain the perceived transgression. The Speaker then decides if there has been a transgression.

e.g. “Honourable Speaker, the Member is being repetitious and irrelevant in her comments. He/She should confine herself to the topic under discussion”

QUESTION TIME: The practice in which a Member of Parliament can put a question to a Minister on a matter concerning that ministerial department. In the CPA Youth Parliament, Ministers will not receive advance notice of questions.

STANDING ORDERS: The printed rules which regulate procedure, debate and the conduct of Members. Special Standing Orders have been written for the CPA Youth Parliament and a copy has been placed in your briefcase. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the Standing Orders at the Briefing Sessions.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE: At the end of each day’s sitting the House adjourns (suspends its proceedings) until the next sitting. An Adjournment Debate is a chance for an individual MP to raise a matter of special concern and to get a detailed response from the Minister involved. There will be an Adjournment Debate on Thursday 23 November.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE: A Government Bill has to pass through several stages in Parliament, each of which has a clear purpose, before becoming an Act of Parliament. The Committee Stage allows the examination of all the details of the Bill for the first time. Most Government Bills are considered by small Committees of between 15-60 MPs known as Standing Committees. During the Committee stage Members are, for the first time, allowed to suggest changes or amendments to a Bill. As in the Chamber, Members vote on amendments. Occasionally a Bill which is very controversial or has constitutional significance will be heard by a Committee of the Whole House, i.e. in the Chamber, so that all Members can contribute.

CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

INFORMATION SHEET

Youth participants may find the following information on election systems useful as background information.

SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES

FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

Also called 'plurality' or 'simple majority', in this system, the candidate receiving the most votes cast in a particular constituency is elected.

This system is used in the parliamentary elections for seats at Westminster. For example, in a constituency where five people are standing for election to one seat, if Candidate A gets 40 votes, Candidate B gets 39 votes, Candidate C gets one vote, and Candidates D and E get 10 votes each, Candidate A wins the seat even though 60 per cent of those voting did not want her/him as their MP, and even though s/he polled only one more vote than Candidate B.

Some alternative forms of voting systems for use in single-member constituencies are given below:

APPROVAL VOTING

A first-past-the-post system in which a voter may give one vote each to as many candidates as s/he likes, regardless how many are to be elected.

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

This system requires the successful candidate to have secured fifty per cent plus one of all the votes cast in the constituency. If no candidate manages to do that, then a second ballot is held. Depending on the system, either all the original candidates stand again in the second poll, or only the two candidates gaining the highest number of votes in the first poll.

ALTERNATIVE OR PREFERENTIAL VOTE

In this system voters vote for a single candidate, but indicate in declining order their second, third and fourth choices, etc. If no candidate secures an absolute majority of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and the second choices indicated by the voters whose first choice had been the losing candidate are then counted. The process is repeated until one candidate emerges with an absolute majority.

MULTI-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES

In jurisdictions which have constituencies returning more than one Member to Parliament, in addition to the first-past-the-post voting systems described above, there is also the option of proportional representation (PR). PR relies on the existence of political parties, which prepare a list of names of candidates from their party for election. The names at the top of the list have the

greatest chance of winning a seat in Parliament. Parties therefore put their favourite candidates at the top of the list.

Under PR systems the seats awarded to the different political groups after the election are proportional to the number of votes actually cast for them. PR systems can result in many parties returning a small number of candidates to Parliament, thereby fragmenting the political spectrum and possibly resulting in coalition or unstable government, no single party having sufficient seats to form a government alone. Typically voters vote for the party, rather than for the individual.

FULL PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In such a system, the entire country is considered as a single constituency, which must elect a Parliament full of candidates. With full PR, the correlation between electoral results and parliamentary seats is the closest possible, but the relationship between an MP and a given locality is less strong, as is the link between the individual MP and the electorate.

LIMITED PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In this system, the country is divided into several constituencies, each constituency returning several MPs. This system recognises that one country may have significant regional differences regarding political party support, and by having the distribution of seats determined at constituency level (rather than a national level) allows smaller parties and regional interest groups to win seats in Parliament.

MIXED VOTING SYSTEMS

SINGLE NON-TRANSFERABLE VOTE (SNTV) AND LIMITED VOTE

These are first-past-the-post systems used in multi-member constituencies, where voters can choose only one candidate (SNTV), or (Limited Vote) any number of candidates providing it is one fewer than the actual number of seats to be filled by the constituency.

These systems are characterised by a dominant majority.

CUMULATIVE VOTE

Another first-past-the-post system where each voter has a number of votes, or parts of votes (usually, one for each seat to be filled) and may divided these among several candidates, or cumulate them upon one single candidate, as s/he pleases.

SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE (STV)

In this voting system, voters cast only one vote for a single candidate. A candidate must poll a required quota of votes to be elected (determined by a variety of complex formula). If any candidate is over the quota (and therefore has won a seat), his/her surplus votes are transferred on the basis of the second choices expressed by the voters on those ballot papers. Similarly, the candidate polling the lowest number of votes is eliminated and all the votes on those ballot papers are transferred; this continues until the required number of candidates is over the quota.

RESERVED SEATS

Some Commonwealth Parliaments ensure representation of minorities or other groups within Parliament by reserving seats for such Groups, which can be filled either by election, or by appointment. For example, the Parliaments of Bangladesh and Tanzania reserve seats for women, the Parliament of Uganda reserves seats for the disabled, and the Indian Parliament has two seats for representatives of the Anglo-Indian community.

**CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

INFORMATION SHEET

Participant Branches at the 2000 Youth Parliament

CPA Branch	CPA Region	No. of Participants
ALBERTA	CANADA	1
ANGUILLA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
AUSTRALIA	AUSTRALIA	2
BAHAMAS	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
BANGLADESH	ASIA	3
BELIZE	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	1
BERMUDA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
BOTSWANA	AFRICA	2
BRITISH COLUMBIA	CANADA	1
CAYMAN ISLANDS	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	1
CYPRUS	BRITISH ISLAND AND MEDITERRANEAN	1
DOMINICA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
EASTERN CAPE	AFRICA	1
GAMBIA	AFRICA	2
GAUTENG	AFRICA	1
GHANA	AFRICA	2
GIBRALTAR	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	1
GRENADA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	1
GUYANA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2

INDIA	ASIA	1
ISLE OF MAN	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	2
JAMAICA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
JERSEY	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	1
KENYA	AFRICA	2
KWAZULU-NATAL	AFRICA	2
MALAWI	AFRICA	1
MALAYSIA	SOUTH-EAST ASIA	1
MALTA	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	2
MANITOBA	CANADA	1
MAURITIUS	AFRICA	2
MEGHALAYA	ASIA	1
MONTSERRAT	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	1
MPUMALANGA	AFRICA	2
NAMIBIA	AFRICA	2
NEGERI SEMBILAN	SOUTH-EAST ASIA	1
NEVIS	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
NEW SOUTH WALES	AUSTRALIA	2
NEW ZEALAND	PACIFIC	1
NORFOLK ISLAND	AUSTRALIA	1
NORTHERN TERRITORY	AUSTRALIA	2
NIGERIA	AFRICA	2
NIUE	PACIFIC	1
NORTH-WEST LEGISLATURE	AFRICA	2
QUEBEC	CANADA	1
RAJASTHAN	ASIA	1
SABAH	SOUTH-EAST ASIA	1
SALFORD COUNCIL**	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION	1
SCOTLAND	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION	2
SEYCHELLES	AFRICA	1
SIERRA LEONE	AFRICA	2
SINGAPORE	SOUTH-EAST ASIA	1
SOLOMON ISLANDS	PACIFIC	1
SOUTH AFRICA	AFRICA	2

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	AUSTRALIA	2
SRI LANKA	ASIA	2
ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	3
ST LUCIA	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	1
ST HELENA	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	2
TANZANIA	AFRICA	1
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	4
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	CARIBBEAN, ATLANTIC AND AMERICAS	2
UNITED KINGDOM	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	5
VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA	2
WALES	BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN	1
WEST BENGAL	ASIA	1
WESTERN CAPE	AFRICA	1
ZAMBIA	AFRICA	2
ZIMBABWE	AFRICA	2

Total: 111 Participants

** Salford Council is not a member of the CPA, but is sponsoring the Youth Parliament.

**CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

INFORMATION SHEET

“HEAD OF STATE”: **HIS EXCELLENCY THE RT HON DONALD
MCKINNON**

SPEAKER: **BARONESS FOOKES OF PLYMOUTH**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: **HIS EXCELLENCY MR JAMES E. K.
AGGREY-ORLEANS**

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: **MS SHONA McGLASHAN**

CPA SECRETARIAT STAFF

Mr Arthur Donahoe, CPA Secretary-General
Mr Raja Gomez, Director of Development and Planning
Mr Anthony Staddon, Assistant Director of Development and Planning
Mr Nicholas Bouchet, Assistant Editor
Ms Susie Kelly, Secretary (Finance)

CPA (UK BRANCH)

Ms Helen Haywood

**CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

INFORMATION SHEET

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would like to record its thanks to the following organizations and individuals for supporting the CPA Millennium Youth Parliament:

- **The U.K. Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**
- **All CPA Branches participating in the project**
- **The Department of International Development (DFID)**
- **Manchester 2002**
- **British Airways**
- **Royal Commonwealth Society**
- **Virgin Trains**
- **British Council**
- **Liquid Plastics Ltd**
- **The Emerson Group**
- **Manchester City Council**
- **Salford Council**
- **Bombardier Aerospace**
- **SriLankan Airlines**
- **International Media Centre, Salford University**

Ref: AS/C29(1)

October 2000

Dear Participant:

Millennium CPA Youth Parliament in Manchester, United Kingdom
(23-24 November 2000)

We are delighted that you will be attending the Youth Parliament in Manchester next month. You should now have received all of the forms and briefing sheets for the Youth Parliament, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a question about any aspect of the programme.

Please note the following information:

1. Youth participants should arrive at the Royal Commonwealth Society at 12 Noon on Wednesday 22 November (you should already have received a map showing the location of the Royal Commonwealth Society). A member of the CPA Secretariat will greet you on arrival and assist you in placing any luggage on one of three coaches. You will be given a coloured ticket to show you which vehicle has your luggage (please ensure that you travel on the same coach). The reception at the Royal Commonwealth Society will last for an hour and be relatively informal. You may dress casually if you wish (jeans and trainers, for example, are permitted). Conference briefcases will be available for collection at the Reception.
2. If you arrive later than 1pm, please go straight to London Euston Station in time for the 1.58pm train to Manchester. Please note that the transfer to London Euston must be at your own expense. If you miss the train departure time, please contact Jennifer Fonseca at the CPA Secretariat on 020 7799 1460.
3. A few participants are travelling direct to Manchester and they should make their own way to the conference hotel (to arrive no later than 5pm) at the following address:

Jurys Manchester Inn
56 Great Bridgewater Street
Manchester M1 5LE
Tel: +44 0161 953 8888
Fax: +44 0161 953 9090
4. If you have not already done so, please inform me immediately if you are intending to travel direct to the conference hotel.
5. All participants will be expected to attend the briefing sessions on Wednesday and Thursday evening, beginning at 6pm.

We all look forward to meeting you on 22 November.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Staddon
Assistant Director of Development and Planning

Appendix F

Notes used for Briefing Sessions at the Millennium Youth Parliament

A. BRIEFING AT ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Points to Remember

1. Thank Stuart Mole for his speech
2. Remind participants that we are leaving the RCS at 1pm sharp and to collect the conference briefcases on departure. Welcome any observers; briefcases for them too.
3. Remind Participants to write their name on the tag on the briefcase.
4. Remind Participants to take the same coach as their luggage (i.e. Red, Green or Yellow).
5. Ask participants to look through the Rules Governing the Conduct of Business; the programme; and the membership listings of the three political parties: Direct Democracy Party; Youth Party; and New Millennium Party. We have tried to accommodate as many first preferences as possible, but for reasons of balance some participants have been allocated to a party according to his/her second preference.
6. Inform participants that the Youth Party will be the governing party. The New Millennium Party will be the largest opposition party.
7. Inform participants of the following briefing/dinner times:

Youth Party/Direct Democracy Party and Independents: Dinner at 7pm followed by a briefing at 8.30. Dinner will be at the Stables Restaurant, Lower Ground Floor of the Jurys Inn. Participants are asked to meet at the Hotel Lobby at 8.30 for the Briefing.

New Millennium Party: Briefing at 7pm at the Jurys Inn. Please meet in the hotel Lobby. Dinner at 8.45 at the Stables Restaurant, Lower Ground Floor of the Jurys Inn.

8. Remind Participants that accommodation in Manchester will be based on two people sharing one room (i.e. twin rooms). A list is provided in the Conference Briefcase. If there are any problems there will be an opportunity to bring it to the attention of staff at the briefings this evening.
9. Apologise for the long journey to Manchester. Get some rest!

B. Plan for Briefings on Wednesday and Thursday

Overall Responsibilities

Youth Party – AS/HH

New Millennium Party – RGG/SK

Direct Democracy Party and Independents – GC/NB

Briefings/Party Caucusing on Wednesday 22 November

1. New Millennium Party (Conference Room at Jurys Inn Hotel, 6pm)

Present: SG/RGG/AS/SM.SK

General Briefing (RGG/AS)

Standing Orders (SM)

Election of Party Leaders/Shadow Cabinet Leaders

Opposition Motion to be agreed

While this briefing is taking place, NB/HH will be with the other 80 Delegates at dinner. After the briefing ends, SK will accompany the delegates to dinner.

2. Briefing/Party Caucusing of Youth Party and Direct Democracy Party (Victoria Suite, Crowne Plaza, Manchester, 8pm)

Present: SG/RGG/AS/GC/SM/NB/HH

General Briefing: RGG/AS

Standing Orders: SM

The participants will then split into two groups:

A. The Youth Party (AS/HH)

Election of Prime Minister/Cabinet

Speakers to be decided for the debate on an Opposition Motion (see above) and responding to the Adjournment Debate.

B. The Direct Democracy Party/Independents (GC/NB)

Election of Party Leader/Shadow Cabinet

Speakers to be decided for relevant debates

Briefings and Party Caucusing on Thursday 23 November

1. New Millennium Party (Conference Room at Jurys Inn Hotel, 6pm)

Present: RGG/AS/SM/GC/SK

General Briefing: RGG/AS

Explanation of procedure to be used for the Committee of the Whole House: SM

Briefing on Election Reform Bill (GC)

Amendments to be drafted to Bill

Questions to be drafted for Question Time

2. Youth Party and Direct Democracy Party (Victoria Suite, Crowne Plaza, Manchester, 8pm)

Present: AS/SM/GC/HH/NB

General Briefing: AS

Explanation of procedure to be used for the Committee of the Whole House: SM

Briefing on Election Reform Bill (GC)

The participants will then split into two groups:

A. The Youth Party (AS/HH)

Government Motion to be agreed

Speakers to be agreed for debates

Amendments to be drafted to Bill

Questions to be drafted for Question Time

B. Direct Democracy Party

Speakers to be agreed for debates

Amendments to be drafted to Bill

Questions to be drafted for Question Time

Key:

SG: Secretary-General

RGG: Raja Gomez

AS: Anthony Staddon

GC: Geoffrey Coppock

SM: Shona McGlashan

NB: Nick Bouchet

SK: Susie Kelly

HH: Helen Haywood

C. BRIEFINGS ON WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

I. NEW MILLENNIUM PARTY BRIEFING

GENERAL BRIEFING (RGG)

1. Welcome participants and any observers present
2. Introduce CPA Secretariat team, Geoffrey Coppock (if appropriate) and Shona McGlashan
3. Dinner will be at 8.45pm on the lower ground floor in the Stables Restaurant
4. Breakfast will be from 6.30 in the Stables Restaurant. Please be ready to meet in the Hotel Lobby at 8.30 sharp. Coaches will transfer participants to the Granada Studios. If you are late you must make your own way at your own expense.
5. Accommodation
 - i. Permissible to change rooms, but keep hotel informed.
 - ii. We will pay for the room and meals, but not for drinks, telephone calls, laundry etc
6. Travel back to London on Saturday 25 November. Please fill in the travel form so we know if you are intending to travel back to London by train. Please pass it on to any member of the CPA Secretariat. Further details Thursday's briefing..
7. Telephone. There are payphones by reception. If you want to make any outgoing calls from your room then you will need to leave a credit card or deposit at the hotel reception. Please inform your roommate to avoid any confusion.
8. Civic Dinner – Further details at Thursday's briefing.
9. Illness. Let us know.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

10. Re-iterate objectives of the Youth Parliament. Stick to rules and must attend each session. Unofficially representing CPA Branch.
11. Describe Commonwealth. To be used in all debates except opening debate on the Commonwealth.
12. New Millennium Party (Official Opposition i.e. second largest party in the Parliament)
13. Other political parties: Youth Party (the Government), Direct Democracy Party and two independents.
14. The proceedings of the Youth Parliament will be recorded. **DO NOT SPEAK TO THE CAMERA** and always address your remarks to the Speaker.
15. No Mobile phones or cameras are allowed in the chamber. Risk being escorted from the chamber!
16. If you want to speak in a debate or ask a question at question time you must inform the clerk in writing on the evening before using the forms in your briefcase. If you decide that you want to speak during a debate then hand the form to a member of the CPA Secretariat. He/she will pass this on (or other messages) to the CPA Secretariat.
17. Serjeant at Arms. The participants selected to act as Serjeant at Arms are:
 - i. Alvin Ong (Youth)
 - ii. Anastasia Dimo (Direct Democracy)
 - iii. Nerissa Lewis (Youth)
 - iv. Smangaliso Mthimunye (New Millennium)

Alvin and Nerissa will carry the Mace during the Speakers procession (Alvin on Thursday and Nerissa on Friday) and we ask therefore that you do not enter the chamber with the rest of the group in the morning at 9am. You will be told where to sit by AS/RGG.

18. Thursday's Programme: Throne Speech, break, debate on throne speech and the Commonwealth, lunch, debate on Motion decided by official opposition (i.e. New Millennium Party) and Adjournment Debate.
19. Pass over to Shona for Rules governing the Conduct of Business.

THE CLERK'S BRIEFING

18. Brief overview stressing main points. Invite questions from participants

[SHONA: I WOULD BARELY MENTION THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE OR QUESTION TIME ON WEDNESDAY EVENING AND LEAVE IT TO THURSDAY'S BRIEFING]

After questions have ended, please hand back to RGG.

PARTY CAUCUSING

20. Introduce staff assisting party (RGG/SK) NOTE SK MAY HAVE LEFT BY THIS POINT TO THE CROWNE PLAZA. SHE WILL HAVE DINNER WITH THEM AT 8.45PM
21. Refer to list of members of Party which indicates those people who would like to be leader or member of the Shadow Cabinet. It is up to the party to decide how it decides who does what. WE MUST HAVE LIST OF SHADOW CABINET AT END OF BRIEFING
22. Refer to the list of speakers for the Commonwealth Debate. Inform the clerk, via a member of the CPA Staff if necessary, if you want to be added or removed from the list.
23. Decide Motion for debate. Use manifesto as guideline, plus the sheet describing Commonwealthland. Try to be clever and couch the motion in terms of attacking the government. A member of the Shadow Cabinet must open and close the debate and backbenchers are free to contribute to the debate. Inform the Clerk, via CPA Staff if necessary, of names of speakers ESPECIALLY OPENING AND CLOSING SPEAKER.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BRIEFING MUST END BY 8.45. IF NOT MUST CONTINUE AFTER DINNER.

AS/HH AND GC/NB must be informed of the Opposition's Motion before second briefing at 8.45

II. YOUTH AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY PARTIES (PLUS TWO INDEPENDENT PARTICIPANTS) BRIEFING

GENERAL BRIEFING (RGG/AS)

1. Welcome participants and any observers present
2. Introduce CPA Secretariat team, Geoffrey Coppock (if appropriate) and Shona McGlashan

3. Breakfast will be from 6.30 in the Stables Restaurant. Please be ready to meet in the Hotel Lobby at 8.30 sharp. Coaches will transfer participants to the Granada Studios. If you are late you must make your own way at your own expense.
4. Accommodation
 - I. Permissible to change rooms, but keep hotel informed. Key for each.
 - II. We will pay for the room and meals, but not for drinks, telephone calls, laundry etc. Settle before Departure and hand in key on Saturday (10am)
5. Travel back to London on Saturday 25 November. Please fill in the travel form so we know if you are intending to travel back to London by train. Please pass it on to any member of the CPA Secretariat. Further details at Thursday's briefing
6. Telephone. There are payphones by reception. If you want to make any outgoing calls from your room then you will need to leave a credit card or deposit at the hotel reception. Please inform your roommate to avoid any confusion.
7. Civic Dinner – Details at Thursday's briefing.
8. Illness. Let us know. Otherwise attend all occasions on programme.
9. Dress

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

10. Re-iterate objectives of the Youth Parliament. Stick to rules (Standing Orders) and must attend each session. Unofficially representing CPA Branch.
11. Describe Commonwealth. To be used in all debates except opening debate on the Commonwealth.
12. New Millennium Party (Official Opposition i.e. second largest party in the Parliament)
13. Youth Party (the Government), Direct Democracy Party (smallest party in chamber, but holds balance of power) and two independents.
14. The proceedings of the Youth Parliament will be recorded. DO NOT SPEAK TO THE CAMERA and always address your remarks to the Speaker.
15. No Mobile phones or cameras are allowed in the chamber. Risk being escorted from the chamber!
16. If you want to speak in a debate or ask a question at question time you must inform the clerk in writing on the evening before using the forms in your briefcase. If you decide that you want to speak during a debate then hand the form to a member of the CPA Secretariat. He/she will pass this on (or other messages) to the CPA Secretariat.
17. Serjeant at Arms. The participants selected to act as Serjeant at Arms are:

- i. Alvin Ong (Youth)**
- ii. Anastasia Dimo (Direct Democracy)**
- iii. Nerissa Lewis (Youth)**
- iv. Smangaliso Mthimunye (New Millennium)**

Alvin and Nerissa will carry the Mace during the Speakers procession (Alvin on Thursday and Nerissa on Friday) and we ask therefore that you do not enter the chamber with the rest of the group in the morning at 9am. You will be told where to sit by AS/RGG.

18. Thursday's Programme: How proceedings commence. Throne Speech, break, debate on throne speech and the Commonwealth, lunch, debate on Motion decided by official opposition (i.e. New Millennium Party) and Adjournment Debate.
19. Pass over to Shona for Rules governing the Conduct of Business.

THE CLERK'S BRIEFING

18. Brief overview stressing main points. Invite questions from participants

[SHONA: I WOULD BARELY MENTION THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE OR QUESTION TIME ON WEDNESDAY EVENING AND LEAVE IT TO THURSDAY'S BRIEFING]

After questions have ended, please hand back to RGG.

PARTY CAUCUSING

20. Introduce staff assisting party (Youth Party – AS/HH) and Direct Democracy Party GC/NB

SPLIT INTO 2 GROUPS

YOUTH PARTY (AS)

21. Refer to list of members of Party which indicates those people who would like to be Prime Minister or member of the Cabinet. It is up to the party to decide how it decides who does what. **WE MUST HAVE LIST OF CABINET AT END OF BRIEFING**
22. Refer to the list of speakers for the Commonwealth Debate. Inform the clerk, via a member of the CPA Staff if necessary, if you want to be added or removed from the list. Two backbenchers need to move the motion thanking the Commonwealth Secretary-General.
23. Ask for volunteers to speak attacking the Opposition motion. Two members of the cabinet must open/close the debate.
24. Decide Motion for debate on Friday afternoon. Use manifesto as guideline, plus the sheet describing Commonwealthland. A member of the Cabinet must open and close the debate and backbenchers are free to contribute to the debate. Inform the Clerk, via CPA Staff if necessary, of names of speakers **ESPECIALLY OPENING AND CLOSING SPEAKER. RGG/SK must be informed of the government's motion before Thursday's briefing.**
25. Select Government Minister to wind up Adjournment Debate.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY PARTY AND INDEPENDENT MPS

26. Refer to list of members of Party which indicates those people who would like to be leader or member of the Shadow Cabinet. It is up to the party to decide how it decides who does what. **WE MUST HAVE LIST OF SHADOW CABINET AT END OF BRIEFING**
27. Refer to the list of speakers for the Commonwealth Debate. Inform the clerk, via a member of the CPA Staff if necessary, if you want to be added or removed from the list.
28. Ask for volunteers to speak on Thursday afternoon during the debate on a motion selected by the New Millennium Party.

GC/NB: The Direct Democracy Party should be advised to think very carefully about their tactics before deciding whether to support the government on any vote.

Please note that the briefing must end by 10.30.

D. THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER

I. NEW MILLENNIUM PARTY BRIEFING 6pm

GENERAL BRIEFING (AS)

1. Dinner will be at 8pm on the lower ground floor in the Stables Restaurant
2. Breakfast on Friday and Saturday morning will be from 6.30 in the Stables Restaurant. Please be ready to meet in the Hotel Lobby on Friday morning at 8.30 sharp. Coaches will transfer participants to the Granada Studios. If you are late you must make your own way at your own expense.
3. Travel back to London on Saturday 25 November. Please fill in the travel form (if you have not already done so) as we need to know if you are intending to travel back to London by train. Please pass it on to any member of the CPA Secretariat by 12 Noon on Friday.
4. Check-out. Please start Checking out from 10am on Saturday 25 November. Return key and you will be charged for any expenses incurred during your stay (excluding meals and room). Please collect a packed lunch for the journey back. On arrival at Euston station you must make your own arrangements; you will find an underground map and some other useful information in your briefcases. Due to arrive at London Euston station between 2.30 and 3pm.
5. Civic Dinner – Dress code; meet in the hotel lobby at 6.45pm. Drinks at 7pm followed by dinner. After dinner please make your own way back to the Jurys Inn (its just a short walk).

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

6. Remind participants to inform the clerk (via CPA Staff if necessary) in writing if they want to speak during a debate or ask a question at question time using the forms.
7. Serjeant at Arms. The participant selected to act as Serjeant at Arms on Friday is:

Nerissa Lewis (Youth)

8. Friday's Programme: Debate on a Government Bill (Second reading) followed by a Committee of the Whole House. The Bill is in the Briefcase. After lunch: Question Time and a debate on a Government Motion.
9. Pass over to Shona for Committee of the Whole and Question Time.

THE CLERK'S BRIEFING

18. Brief explanation of the procedures to be used at Question Time and for the Committee of the Whole, stressing main points. Invite questions from participants.

GEOFFREY'S BILL

19. Short explanation of the Bill. Questions.

PARTY CAUCUSING

10. Decide Opening and closing speakers for debate on Second Reading.
11. Draft amendments to Bill (handing them to the Clerk)
12. Draft questions for Question time
13. Decide opening and closing speakers for the debate on a government motion.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BRIEFING MUST END BY 7.45 . IF NOT MUST CONTINUE AFTER DINNER.

ii. YOUTH PARTY AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY PARTY (AND INDEPENDENTS) BRIEFING (8PM CROWN PLAZA)

GENERAL BRIEFING (RGG)

1. Breakfast on Friday and Saturday morning will be from 6.30 in the Stables Restaurant. Please be ready to meet in the Hotel Lobby on Friday morning at 8.30 sharp. Coaches will transfer participants to the Granada Studios. If you are late you must make your own way at your own expense.
2. Travel back to London on Saturday 25 November. Please fill in the travel form (if you have not already done so) as we need to know if you are intending to travel back to London by train. Please pass it on to any member of the CPA Secretariat by 12 Noon on Friday.
3. Check-out. Please start Checking out from 10am on Saturday 25 November. Return key and you will be charged for any expenses incurred during your stay (excluding meals and room). Please collect a packed lunch for the journey back. On arrival at Euston station you must make your own arrangements; you will find an underground map and some other useful information in your briefcases. Due to arrive at London Euston station between 2.30 and 3pm.
4. Civic Dinner – Dress code; meet in the hotel lobby at 6.45pm. Drinks at 7pm followed by dinner. After dinner please make your own way back to the Jurys Inn (its just a short walk).

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

5. Remind participants to inform the clerk (via CPA Staff if necessary) in writing if they want to speak during a debate or ask a question at question time using the forms.
6. Serjeant at Arms. The participant selected to act as Serjeant at Arms on Friday is:

Nerissa Lewis (Youth)

7. Friday's Programme: Debate on a Government Bill (Second reading) followed by a Committee of the Whole House. The Bill is in the Briefcase. After lunch: Question Time and a debate on a Government Motion.
8. Pass over to Shona for Committee of the Whole and Question Time.

THE CLERK'S BRIEFING

9. Brief explanation of the procedures to be used at Question Time and for the Committee of the Whole, stressing main points. Invite questions from participants.

GEOFFREY'S BILL

10. Short explanation of the Bill. Questions.

PARTY CAUCUSING

YOUTH PARTY

11. Decide Opening and closing speakers for debate on Second Reading of government bill.
12. Draft any govt amendments to Bill (handing them to the Clerk)
13. Draft questions for Question time
14. Decide opening and closing speakers for the debate on a government motion.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY PARTY (INCLUDING INDEPENDENTS)

15. Decide opening speaker in debate on the second reading of the bill (he/she will speak third)
16. Draft amendments for Committee of the Whole
17. Questions for Question Time
18. Decide opening Speaker for debate on Government motion (he/she will speak third)

E. Notes for Speaker

THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2000

1. SPEAKER'S PROCESSION (0910)

The Speaker, preceded by the Serjeant at Arms and followed by the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk, processes to the Chair.

2. THRONE SPEECH (0915)

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker face the Chair as His Excellency the Rt Hon Donald McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary General, gives the Throne Speech.

3. BREAK (0945)

The Speaker resumes the Chair and announces a break until 1030.

4. DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH (1030)

The Speaker resumes the Chair.

Wanda CONNOR (St Kitts & Nevis) (Youth Party) moves "That this Parliament thanks the Commonwealth Secretary General for the Throne Speech".

Debate Majonga MUNYARADZI (Zimbabwe) (Youth Party)
 Backbenchers (see attached list)
 Wind-up by Minister: Bryan ELLIOTT (Northern Territory) (Youth Party)

(At 1220) The Speaker puts the Question "THAT THIS PARLIAMENT DOES AGREE WITH THE MOTION."

Vote: "ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, SAY "YES""
 "ALL THOSE AGAINST, SAY "NO""

"THE YESES HAVE IT" (the Opposition have been advised not to vote against the motion)

5. LUNCH BREAK (1230)

The Speaker announces a break for lunch until 1400.

6. **OPPOSITION MOTION** (1400)

The Speaker resumes the Chair and calls the Shadow Minister.

Kimo TYNES (Turks and Caicos) (New Millennium Party) Shadow Minister moves “.....”
[motion calling for state healthcare provision and compulsory education to 16]

Debate:

Opening:

Kimo TYNES (Turks and Caicos) (New Millennium Party) (Shadow Minister)

Nketu MATIMA (S Africa) (Youth Party) (Minister of Health)

Elsa AMBRISTE (Nevis) (DD Party) (3rd Party spokeswoman)

Backbenchers:

Alessandro FARRUGA (Malta) (New Millennium)

Serene JOSEPH (Trinidad & Tobago) (Youth)

Francis GAGNON (Quebec) (New Millennium)

Keivin CRANE (Bermuda)(Youth)

Sanura LAMBERT(Dominica) (New Millennium)

Robert DAVID (Seychelles) (Youth)

Cory GREENLAND (Malta) (New Millennium)

Tony CHAPPEL (New South Wales) (Youth)

Rehema KABIRU (Kenya) (New Millennium)

Wind-ups:

Sam MORETON (New South Wales) (NM Party) (Leader of the Opposition)

Naomi ANTESS (Northern Territory) (Youth Party) (Minister of Education)

(At 1550) The Speaker puts the Question “THAT THIS PARLIAMENT DOES AGREE WITH THE MOTION.”

Vote: “ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, SAY “YES””

“ALL THOSE AGAINST, SAY “NO””

If contested: “ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, STAND IN THEIR PLACES”

Clerk to count

“ALL THOSE AGAINST, STAND IN THEIR PLACES”

Clerk to count

Clerk hands Speaker result.

“YESES, X; NOES, Y. THE [YESES/ NOES] HAVE IT”.

7. **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE** (1600)

Backbencher moves “That this House do now adjourn”

NB The Speaker may wish to impose a 7 minute time limit on speeches.

Debate on Poverty Reduction, Literacy and Persons with Disability.

Theo MTYI (Eastern Cape) (Youth Party)

Simone DONOGHUE (Australia) (New Millennium)

Samia HOSSAIN (Bangladesh)(Youth Party)

Paolo BACA (British Columbia) (New Millennium)

Rughuendra MIRDHA (Rajasthan) (Direct Democracy)

Akila BYRON (St Kitts & Nevis) (New Millennium)

Deputy Prime Minister to wind up: **James NORTH** (Scotland) (Youth Party).

The Speaker: “ORDER, ORDER”.

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2000

1. SPEAKER'S PROCESSION (0900)

The Speaker, preceded by the Serjeant at Arms and followed by the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk, processes to the Chair.

2. DEBATE ON BILL (0905)

Speaker: "DEBATE ON A BILL. MINISTER"

Minister for Home Affairs (Aaron HART, Victoria) stands in his place and reads long title of Bill and lists 5 supporters.

Speaker: "THE BILL HAS BEEN READ THE FIRST TIME. CLERK TO READ THE TITLE OF THE BILL"

Clerk: "Electoral Reform Bill".

Speaker: "I CALL Aaron HART"

Minister moves "That the Bill be read a second time".

Debate: Aaron HART, Victoria (Minister)
Juan WATTERSON, Isle of Man (Shadow Minister)
Leah RATCLIFFE, S Australia, (3rd Party Leader)

Backbenchers:

Candia CARETTE (Dominica) (Youth)
Abigail READ (UK) (Youth)
George SWAN (NZ) (Direct Democracy)
Monica HAMUNGHETE (Namibia) (Youth)
Howard JOHNSON (Bahamas) (Youth)
Nerrisa LEWIS (Turks & Caicos) (Youth)
Sharon GALLAGHER (UK) (Youth)
Francis GAGNON (Quebec) (New Millennium)
Serene JOSEPH (Trinidad & Tobago) (Youth)
Rughuvenda MIRDHA (Rajasthan) (Direct Democracy)
Tony CHAPPELL (NSW) (Youth)
Shirazi ZAVAHIR (Sri Lanka) (New Millennium)
Annastasia DIMO (Gauteng) (Direct Democracy)

wind-ups: Sam MORETON, NSW, (Leader of the Opposition)
Naomi ANSTESS, Northern Territory (Minister for Education)

(At 1040) The Speaker puts the Question "THAT THE BILL BE READ A SECOND TIME".

Vote: "ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, SAY "YES""
"ALL THOSE AGAINST, SAY "NO""

If contested: “ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, STAND IN THEIR PLACES”
Clerk to count

“ALL THOSE AGAINST, STAND IN THEIR PLACES”
Clerk to count

Clerk hands Speaker result.

“YESES, X; NOES, Y. THE [YESES/ NOES] HAVE IT”.

3. BREAK (1045)

The Speaker resumes the Chair and announces a break until 1115.

4. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE (1115)

The Deputy Speaker takes the Clerk’s Chair.

See list of amendments and Deputy Speaker’s selection.

Members will rise in their places to indicate a wish to speak. It is advised that all votes are not allowed to continue to a count (for time reasons)

(At the end) Deputy Speaker resumes the Chair and puts the Question “THAT THE BILL BE READ THE THIRD TIME”.

Vote

Deputy Speaker: “ THE [YESES/ NOES] HAVE IT. THE BILL HAS [NOT] BEEN PASSED BY THE HOUSE”.

5. LUNCH BREAK (1230)

The Deputy Speaker announces a break for lunch until 1400.

6. QUESTION TIME (1400)

The Speaker resumes the Chair.

7. GOVERNMENT MOTION (1500)

The Speaker calls Bryan ELLIOTT, Northern Territory, Minister for Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs.

The Minister moves “.....” [motion on legalisation of soft drugs]

Debate: Bryan ELLIOTT (Minister)

Shadow Cabinet member
Backbenchers
Wind-up by James NORTH (Scotland) (Deputy Prime Minister)

(At 1650) The Speaker puts the Question “THAT THIS PARLIAMENT DOES AGREE WITH THE MOTION.”

Vote: “ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, SAY “YES””
“ALL THOSE AGAINST, SAY “NO””

If contested: “ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR, STAND IN THEIR PLACES”
Clerk to count

“ALL THOSE AGAINST, STAND IN THEIR PLACES”
Clerk to count

Clerk hands Speaker result.

“YESES, X; NOES, Y. THE [YESES/ NOES] HAVE IT”.

8. HOUSE ADJOURNS (1700)

The Speaker: “ORDER, ORDER”.

Appendix G

Embargo till 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 21st March 2002



JERSEY YOUTH ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2002

A. COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT

B. STATEMENT BY MEMBERS

Commonwealth Day Observance in London, March 2002 (*André Le Rossignol and Eloise Murphy*)

Attendance at the Parlement des Jeunes, Quebec, July 2001, organised by the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (*Joseph de la Haye and Joanne Pallot*)

C. QUESTIONS

Nick Mière (Victoria College) will ask a question of Senator F.H. Walker, President of the Finance and Economics Committee regarding the inclusion of a woman's income on her husband's tax return.

Richard Hunt (De La Salle College) will ask a question of Senator F.H. Walker, President of the Finance and Economics Committee concerning the possibility of Jersey adopting the Euro as its currency.

Jenna Kilmister (Beaulieu Convent School) will ask a question of Deputy M.F. Dubras, President of the Industries Committee concerning the use of overseas workers to stem the Island's labour shortage.

Felicity Agnès (Jersey College for Girls) will ask a question of Senator L. Norman, Vice-President of the Harbours and Airport Committee regarding the retention of the Harbours and Airport as States owned entities.

Craig Le Sueur (Highlands College) will ask a question of Deputy C.J. Scott-Warren, Rapporteur of the Health and Social Services Committee concerning the safety of the MMR vaccine.

Stephanie De La Cour (Hautlieu) will ask a question of Deputy C.J. Scott-Warren, Rapporteur of the Health and Social Services Committee regarding the effects of short term cut backs on health care services.

D. PUBLIC BUSINESS

Improving the current state of the Tourism Industry.
Claudia Le Blancq (Hautlieu School)

The Independence of Jersey from the United Kingdom
Barnaby Crowcroft (Victoria College)

Reducing the residency period required to attain Residential Qualifications to 5 years for 'j' category employees and removing the restriction on lengths of residency for essential employees.
Christian May (De La Salle College)

The cost of Living in Jersey
Eloise Murphy (Highlands College)

Reducing the age of majority
Hollie Falle (Beaulieu Convent School)

The legalisation of all drugs.
Laura Dauny (Jersey College for Girls)

Improvements to Jersey's level of sustainability
Camilla Wimberley (Hautlieu School)

Appendix H

Sponsor: Benalla College
Refuter: Sacred Heart Girls College

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPULSORY DNA DATABASE OF ALL VICTORIANS BILL

BRIEF

In recent times the Victorian consensus has overwhelmingly been to get tough on crime. The vast majority of law abiding citizens in this state are becoming increasingly frustrated at the apparent increase in major offences such as rapes, assaults and murders which often remain unsolved. It is our contention that the technology is now available to accurately and quickly identify criminals who then can be brought swiftly to justice. That technology is a DNA database and although the establishment of the database would be a very slight imposition on Victorians, we (and future generations) would have a much safer society.

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Establishment of a Compulsory DNA Database of All Victorians

To be enacted by the Victorian YMCA Youth Parliament.

Part I

Clause 1: Purpose

This Bill shall be cited as the establishment of a compulsory DNA database of all Victorians Bill.

Clause 2: Commencement

This Bill shall commence two years after the day it receives assent from the Youth Governor.

Clause 3: Interpretation

In this Bill, unless the contrary intention appears;

DNA shall mean deoxyribonucleic acid.

All Victorians shall mean all persons residing for 90 days or longer in one of the 88 Legislative Assembly seats of the Victorian Legislative assembly.

Authorised Person shall mean a qualified medical practitioner, nurse, paramedic, police officer or St Johns Ambulance officer.

Newborn shall mean a baby less than 48 hours of age.

Minor shall mean a child under 17 years of age.

Central database shall mean a computerized register of all DNA samples.

Prescribed places shall mean any hospital, general practitioners surgery or police station in the state of Victoria.

DNA sample shall mean a swab from the mouth, hair, blood, skin or any other relevant bodily fluid.

Part II

Clause 4: Upon the commencement of this Bill;

- a) All Victorian parents or legal guardians will be required to allow a swab from the mouth to be taken from their new born child for storage on a central DNA database.
- b) For the next six years all Victorian students enrolling for the first time in a government, catholic or independent primary school will be required to provide a swab from the mouth for the central DNA database. The only exceptions being those children who have already provided a sample at birth.
- c) For the next seven years all Victorian students enrolling for the first time in a government, catholic or independent secondary school will be required to provide a swab from the mouth for the central DNA database. The only exceptions being those children who have already provided a sample at primary school or at birth.
- d) All Victorians voting at the next state election (due in 2003) will be required to provide a swab from the mouth for the central DNA database. The only exceptions being those voters who have already provided a sample at secondary school, primary school or birth.
- e) All Victorians who die between the commencement of this Bill and the next state election must have a DNA sample taken from them unless it has been taken previously.
- f) All Victorians arrested by the Victorian police between the commencement of the Bill and the next state election must provide a DNA sample unless it has been taken previously.
- g) Any prisoner in the state of Victoria, on the date of the next state election, will be required to provide a DNA sample unless it has been taken previously.

Clause 5: Anyone visiting the state of Victoria from interstate or overseas for more than 90 days must provide a DNA sample at any Victorian police station.

Clause 6: All persons who have provided a DNA sample for the central database will be issued with a certificate and their own "DNA number".

Clause 7: All samples must be taken by an authorized person at a prescribed place and are to be entered onto the central DNA database within 48 hours of collection.

Clause 8: The Attorney General of Victoria will be personally responsible for the staffing and security of the central DNA database.

Clause 9: The Victorian police and all other police forces in the Commonwealth of Australia will have access to the central DNA database. Also Interpol and other international crime fighting bodies may be granted special access to the central DNA database under the authority of the Attorney General of Canada.

Clause 10: DNA samples are kept on the central database for an indefinite period of time.

Clause 11: It is an offence for any person who is required by law to provide a DNA sample to:

- a) Refuse, avoid or fail to permit a DNA sample to be taken
- b) Hinder obstruct, delay or physically or verbally assault after inducement an authorized person taking the sample.
- c) Fraudulently supply a DNA sample in the name of another, or incite, encourage or permit another person to fraudulently supply a DNA sample in the name of another.
- d) Being a parent or legal guardian refusing to permit a minor to provide a DNA sample as required.

Clause 12: A maximum Penalty of \$10,000 and/or 12 month jail term, be applied to anyone convicted of refusing to provide a DNA sample under this legislation. Upon conviction the relevant court must order a DNA sample to be supplied to police. Force may be used if necessary.

Clause 13: The penalty, as stipulated in clause 12, will be reviewed every 5 years.

Sponsor: MacKillop College

Refuter: Macleod YMCA

**THE STUDY OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY BETWEEN 1850-1950 SHOULD BE
COMPULSORY AT YEAR 10 LEVEL BILL**

BRIEF

It is becoming increasingly alarming that students who are of an age to leave compulsory education, have little knowledge of the forces that have shaped the nation. As they will be the citizens of the future, they must have an understanding of the consequences of actions that have formed the current basis of the social forces forming Australia in the 21st century.

All students in USA have to study the structure and history of their nation. If Australia is to become the "clever country", they too, must have knowledge as their base. To be able to initiate conversations, to be able to read and understand the newspapers, to follow current trends in TV news broadcasts a knowledge base of current affairs is essential.

There has to be enough genuine time allocated in the school curricula and timetables to enable an appreciation of the past to develop into an understanding of the present and a commitment to the future.

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Compulsory Study of Australian History at Year 10 Level

To be enacted by the Victorian YMCA Youth Parliament.

Part I

Clause 1: Purpose

This Bill shall be cited as the compulsory study of Australian History at Year 10 level Bill.

Clause 2: Commencement

This bill shall commence at the beginning of the school year, after consultation with the Curriculum Board, following the day it receives assent from the Youth Governor.

Clause 3: Interpretation

In this Bill, unless the contrary intention appears;

Study of Australian History shall mean the period of growth in the Australian colonies and then Commonwealth between 1850 and 1950.

Compulsory study shall mean that all students undertaking year 10 courses in Victorian Government and Independent schools shall be required to study this time frame in Australia's history.

Year 10 shall mean the year before VCE studies are begun.

Part II

Clause 4: That the study of Australian History as an independent subject be a compulsory study introduced into year 10 Curricula.

Clause 5: That the time frame for this study shall cover 1850-1950. It will include the following topics.

1850- Responsible government.

1860- Social consequence of the gold rushes

1880- Path towards Federation.

1890- Involvement in the Boer War.

1900-Federation.

1910- Migration Policy.

1914- Australia's part in World War 1

1920- Social Conditions in Australia.

1930- Effects of the Great Depression

1940- Involvement in World War 11

1950- Post War Migration.

Clause 6: The length of the course shall be for one semester.

Clause 7: Year 10 Australian History shall be taught by teachers who are SOSE trained.

Clause 8: Assessment will be based on the acquisition of skills, knowledge and interpretation of events. This may be done through any combination of the following:

Written assignment

Texts

Multi-Media presentations

Oral Presentations.

**THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000
MEMORANDUM**

The object of this Bill is to amend the Women and Children's Rights Act so as to remove the provision requiring Women and Children to seek authority of their parents and husbands whenever they wanted to acquire property.

J J Jumbo
Attorney-General

A BILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S ACT

ENACTED by the Parliament of Lusaka

1.(1) This Act may be cited as the Women and children's Rights (Amendment) Act, 2000, commencement and shall be read as one with the women and Children's Rights Act, in this Act referred to as the principal Act

Enactment
Short title and
Cap. 4m

(2) This Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on 31st January 2000

2. The Principal Act is amended by the repeal of Five Thousand and the substitution

Repeal and
replacement of

Thereof of the following:

Section 5000

5000 Women and Children shall not be required to seek authority of their parents and husbands whenever they want to acquire property

N.A.B. 1, 2000
30th January 2000

APPENDIX I

CPA MILLENNIUM COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

QUESTION TIME FORM

Within your "party" groups, please could you devise one question to be asked to the following Cabinet Members from the governing party, basing your questions upon the situation prevailing in "Commonwealthland" or on the current business of the Youth Parliament:

Prime Minister: Name of Questioner:
Minister of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs: Name of Questioner:
Minister of Women and Youth: Name of Questioner:
Minister of Education: Name of Questioner:
Minister of Home Affairs: Name of Questioner:
Minster of the Environment: Name of Questioner:
Minister of Health: Name of Questioner:

