



2009-2011 Communications Committee
National Association of Parliamentarians
Lorenzo Cuesta, PRP
May 4, 2011

Privileged Motion to Call for the Orders of the Day

This is a script to offer members a demonstration of the situations when calling the orders of the day would be in order and when not. The script contains 7 speaking parts.

The camera must be ready to capture the next speaker. The participants should be seated in a classroom arrangement. The topic should be handled with casual seriousness. [Instructions in square brackets are not intended to be read aloud.]

This script seeks to illustrate

1. That this motion is in order only if there is no pending motion;
2. That this motion is always in order when the starting time has come for a motion that was made a Special Order; and
3. That there are at least 2 means to set aside the orders of the day.

We join the monthly meeting of the San Diego Bird Watchers Society, during the 'General Orders' section of their agenda.

The adopted agenda contains the following items of business scheduled for the indicated times.

2:00 A postponed motion related to the planning of the Pelagic Field Trip.

2:10 A postponed motion related to the planning of the Riparian Field Trip.

2:15 A motion adopted as a Special Order related to the monument for the 2 Pied Crows from the Windex commercial.

The time is now **2:12** p.m. and the members are still handling the **2:00** p.m. motion related to the Pelagic Field Trip.

Ch: Is there any further discussion?

A: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

A: I call for the orders of the day. We have already passed the starting time for the **2:00** p.m. motion.

Z: Second

Ch: You are right about the agenda times. But I am sorry, your call for the orders of the day is not in order while another motion is pending.



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B: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

B: I move to refer the pending motion to the Field Trip Planning Committee to report next month.

Z: second

Ch: Is there any objection to referring the pending question to the Field Trip Planning Committee? [Pause]

There being no objection, the motion is referred to the Field Trip Planning Committee to report next month.

Ch: The next item of business is the motion related to the planning of the Riparian Field Trip. Are you ready for the question?

C: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

C: I call for the orders of the day. The time is now **2:16** p.m. It is time for the Special Order on the monument to the Pied Crows of the Windex commercial.

Ch: You are right. The motion before you is now the motion that was made a Special Order for today at **2:15** p.m. dealing with monument to the Pied Crows.

Ch: Is there any discussion?

A: Point of Parliamentary Confusion.

Ch: You mean Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, don't you?

A: That's what I said. A couple of minutes ago, you ruled my 'call for the orders of the day' not in order because a motion was pending. You now allow a 'call for the orders of the day', and yet, we still have a pending motion. There is something very wrong here.

Ch: A 'call for the orders of the day' may NOT interrupt a pending motion unless it is time to start a motion made a Special Order, and we are neglecting it. At this time in the agenda, the time to start a motion that was made a Special Order has come, and we have not taken it up as our current business. The 'call for the orders of the day' is now in order.

Ch: Is there any discussion on the Special Order?

D: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

D: It is critical that we complete our handling of the motion related to the planning of the Riparian Field Trip. The Special Order could wait until next month, if necessary. What parliamentary magic words can I use to allow us to finish with the Riparian Field Trip motion right now?



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Ch: One option is to allow the chair to handle this request. Allow me to explain.

Ch: The orders of the day are called for. The orders of the day are to deal with the Special Order on the Pied Crows. The question is: "Will the assembly proceed to the orders of the day?"

Ch: If you wish to take up the Pied Crow Special Order, vote 'Aye', meaning that you wish to adhere to the orders of the day.

If you wish to discuss the critical Riparian Field trip, vote 'No', meaning that you want to set aside the orders of the day.

It would take a 2/3 vote in the negative to discuss the critical Riparian Field trip. Shall the chair handle this request for the assembly in this fashion?

E: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

E: What was that? In order to get what I want, I have to vote in the negative.

But to defeat what I don't want, I have to vote in the affirmative.

Or is it the other way around? Never mine, give us another option to enable us to continue discussing the critical Riparian Field trip.

Ch: Another option is to have any member move that 'the time for considering the pending question be extended'. It would take a 2/3 vote in the affirmative to set aside the orders of the day. It follows the same logic as amending the agenda.

E: That makes a lot of sense. I move that the time for considering the pending question be extended by 5 minutes.

Z: Second

Ch: It is moved and seconded that the time for considering the pending question be extended by 5 minutes. Is there any objection to this motion? [Pause]

There being no objection, the time for considering the pending question will be extended by 5 minutes.

Ch: Mr. D, you had the floor. Do you have any further discussion?