

Date: Thursday, 18 March 1999 – No. 9

Heure: Ten o'clock

Président: Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

The Assembly was called to order at 10.02 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, —That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun) and Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Williams (Nelligan) moved the following want of confidence motion:

That the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its failure to act, particularly regarding support measures to facilitate services and care to disabled persons, as well as for its lack of leadership with regard to young people experiencing problems.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Williams (Nelligan);

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 12.00 o'clock p.m.

At 12.05 o'clock p.m., Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 2.00 o'clock p.m.
The proceedings resumed at 2.03 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

9 An Act respecting Financement-Québec.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

8 An Act respecting the leasing of part of the water power of the Shipshaw river.

The motion was carried.

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Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

5 An Act to harmonize public statutes with the Civil Code.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Ministère des Finances for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 171-19990318)

Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Commissioner of complaints for the health and social services sector on the implementation of the complaints examination procedure for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 172-19990318)

The annual report of the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 173-19990318)

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Office des professions du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 174-19990318)

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Mr. Bégin, Minister of the Environment, tabled the following:

The annual report of the James Bay Environmental Advisory Committee for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 175-19990318)

Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais, Minister of Revenue, tabled the following:

The 1997-98 statistical summary regarding the waiver of interest, penalty or charge, pursuant to section 94.1 of the *Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu*.

(Sessional Paper No. 176-19990318)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The mission report on the requirements analysis of the National Assembly of Benin, presented by Mr. Yves Beaumier, the Member for Champlain, within the framework of the Programme intégré d'appui à la démocratie et aux droits de la personne (PIAD), which was carried in Benin, from 4 to 14 February 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 177-19990318)

The mission report, presented by Mr. Roger Bertrand, the Member for Portneuf, on his meetings with members of the State Council of the Tartarstan Republic, Russia, and of the Bavarian Landtag, Germany, from 10 to 18 February 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 178-19990318)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 64, Mr. Després (Limoilou) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the establishment of an international training centre and the survival of the Petit Séminaire de Québec college sector, and signed by 333 parents, friends and alumni of the Petit Séminaire de Québec.

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(Sessional Paper No. 179-19990318)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the intensification of efforts to prevent suicides committed by young people at the elementary and secondary levels and signed by 7419 citizens from the Bas-Saint-Laurent region.

(Sessional Paper No. 180-19990318)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Perreault, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which will be held next 21 March.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Williams (Nelligan) moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark Québec Mental Retardation Week, held from 14 to 20 March, and whose theme is "A trusting look, a different look".

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Pelletier (Chapleau) moved: _____

THAT this Assembly, on the International Day of French-speaking Peoples, take the opportunity to once again acknowledge the ties of friendship and brotherhood that bring French-speaking communities throughout Canada together, ties that stem from both a shared history and a will to develop and grow stronger in the future. This Assembly also wishes to mark the importance of the French-speaking countries and communities of the world and the significance of their human and governmental exchanges.

The question was put on this motion; a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- X the Committee on Public Finance shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of forming its steering committee and of discussing the organization of its proceedings.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 26 March 1999,

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Mr. Béchar (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) would question Mr. Legault, Minister of State for Education and Youth, during an interpellation on "the lack of financing in Québec's education system".

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Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held four debates upon adjournment:

- the first, pursuant to the order adopted on Thursday, 11 March 1999, on a question by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) to Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, about the municipal taxation agreement;

Before the debate began, Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, requested that Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, give a directive on the following questions: 1) Can a Minister be replaced in a debate upon adjournment; 2) Can the Chair influence the Government House Leader to play a role in this matter; 3) Is it possible to raise a point of order during an end of sitting debate?

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, gave the following directive with regard to the first aspect of the request:

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DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

As regards a debate upon adjournment, it is ultimately the Government that decides which Minister will participate in the debate. The Chair has no authority with respect to which Minister will represent the Government.

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, took the two remaining aspects of the request under advisement.

At the request of Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

The Assembly held the debate on a question by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) to Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, on behalf of Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, about the municipal taxation agreement.

The Assembly then held the remaining debates upon adjournment:

- the second, on a question by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) to Mr. Perreault, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, on behalf of Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, about Montréal-International;
- the third, on a question addressed last Wednesday, 17 March 1999, by Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) to Mr. J. Baril, Minister for Transport, on behalf of Mr. G. Baril, Minister for Health, Social Services and Youth Protection, about certain Montérégie youth centres;
- the fourth, on a question by Mr. Poulin (Beauce-Nord) to Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, on behalf of Mr. Julien, Minister for Industry and Trade, about the abolishment of the small businesses deduction.

At 6.56 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 23 March 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

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JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President