



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 2 April 2009 — No. 15

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Yvon Vallières**

QUÉBEC

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Charest, Premier, at the sitting of Tuesday, 10 March 2009, and on the want of confidence motions by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Ferland (Ungava), Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin), Mr. Simard (Richelieu), Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean), Mr. Curzi (Borduas), Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville), Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) and Mr. Kotto (Bourget).

The debate being concluded, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, rendered the following ruling on the receivability of the want of confidence motion by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères):

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) within the framework of the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session is out of order on the grounds that this motion contains recitals, which is contrary to Standing Order 191.

On behalf of the Member concerned, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, requested leave of the Assembly to replace the aforementioned motion ruled out of order by a new motion in compliance with the Standing Orders.

By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, tabled the motion by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), which now reads as follows:

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THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Premier and his Government for their lack of vision for the future of Québec, more particularly for the total silence of the opening speech regarding possible measures concerning mass transit and for an economic recovery plan that is essentially based on relatively modest investments in road infrastructures and that does not provide for any additional mass transit measures.

Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, then proceeded to put the question on the want of confidence motions presented during the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session.

First, the question was put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition. This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Premier for his inability to exercise the leadership that Quebecers expect with regard to the historic losses of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, and for his refusal to allow the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the Caisse, to appear in committee.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded and, at the request of Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, the vote was deferred until Routine Proceedings later in today's sitting. Accordingly, the putting of the question on the want of confidence motions presented during the debate on the Opening Speech was deferred until Routine Proceedings later in today's sitting.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, moved, —That Bill 25, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

At 11.58 o'clock a.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.08 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, tabled the following:

The Strategic Plan, 2008-2011, of the Conseil des services essentiels.
(Sessional Paper No. 148-20090402)

Presenting Petitions

Mrs. Champagne (Champlain) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the creation of a public-private partnership establishing the Early Childhood Development Fund, and signed by 21 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 149-20090402)

Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting financial support to community projects in non profit community-owned housing, and signed by 39 citizens from the riding of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

(Sessional Paper No. 150-20090402)

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Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the creation of a public-private partnership establishing the Early Childhood Development Fund, and signed by 203 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 151-20090402)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Beaudoin (Mirabel) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting an increase in the budgets of rehabilitation centres to reduce waiting periods for the treatment of children, and signed by 1263 citizens from the riding of Mirabel and its vicinity.

(Sessional Paper No. 152-20090402)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the request for a commission of inquiry on the historic losses incurred by the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, and signed by 1002 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 153-20090402)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Turcotte (Saint-Jean) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting financial support to community projects in non profit community-owned housing, and signed by 67 citizens from the riding of Saint-Jean.

(Sessional Paper No. 154-20090402)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the divisions on the want of confidence motions presented during the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session.

First, the question was put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition. This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Premier for his inability to exercise the leadership that Quebecers expect with regard to the historic losses of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, and for his refusal to allow the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the Caisse, to appear in committee.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. 6 in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for its lack of vision and absence of strategy enabling Quebecers to emerge stronger from the economic crisis that is currently prevailing.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. 7 in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

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The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Khadir (Mercier). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for its stubborn pursuit of public-private partnership projects that are ineffective and more costly to taxpayers, more particularly the CHUM, the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, the OSM concert hall and the Turcot interchange projects.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **8** in Appendix)

Yeas: **46** Nays: **68** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Ferland (Ungava). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly blame the Liberal Government, which is improvising with regard to the establishment of a Northern Québec development plan without involving the Northern Québec communities in its preparation.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **9** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec severely blame the Liberal Party Government for having abandoned the objectives aiming to eliminate emergency room waiting time.

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A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **10** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Simard (Richelieu). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for its ideological stubbornness in pursuing the building of CHUM in PPP mode rather than in a conventional mode.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **11** in Appendix)

Yeas: **46** Nays: **68** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for its inability to resolve its multiple disputes with the Federal Government, such as the funding of postsecondary education, the reaching of agreements within the framework of the Building Canada Fund, the jurisdictional conflict regarding oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the funding of measures for persons who are not eligible for employment insurance and the financial compensation for the ice storm crisis.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **12** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

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The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Curzi (Borduas). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for its lack of a true desire to reduce the drop-out rate and its failure to meet the commitment made during the opening speech of 2003.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **13** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for its chaotic management of the listeriosis crisis and for the lack of concrete assistance measures for artisan producers to remedy this situation in the opening address of the Premier.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **14** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères). This motion reads as follows:

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THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Premier and his Government for their lack of vision for the future of Québec, more particularly for the total silence of the opening speech regarding possible measures concerning mass transit and for an economic recovery plan that is essentially based on relatively modest investments in road infrastructures and that does not provide for any additional mass transit measures..

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **15** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

Finally, the question was put on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Kotto (Bourget). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government, its Premier as well as its Minister of Culture and Communications for not having been able to obtain from the Federal Government the management of culture and communications nor the reinstatement of cultural funding for Québec organizations.

A recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **16** in Appendix)

Yeas: **52** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Beaudoin (Rosemont), Mr. Arcand, Minister of International Relations, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly, following the Canadian International Development Agency's withdrawal of bilateral development assistance in Francophone Africa announced on 23 February 2009, considering the privileged relations Québec has with Francophone Africa and the importance of the Francophonie in Québec's international policy, ask the Government of Canada to review this decision and recognize the important needs of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Niger and Rwanda as recipients of Canadian bilateral development assistance.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Rebello (La Prairie), Mr. Pelletier (Rimouski), Mr. Dutil, Minister of Revenue, Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Federal Government that it ratify the bilateral double taxation agreements with the jurisdictions that have committed to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to improve transparency and to establish effective tax information sharing, and this, as a further means of enabling the Government of Québec to fight fraud and tax evasion.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Beaudoin (Rosemont), Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly express its strong disapproval of the Afghan bill that would make it illegal for Shiite minority women to refuse to have sex with their husbands;

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THAT it ask the Afghan Government to honour its human rights obligations, particularly as regards women's rights, and reconsider its family code which interferes with their fundamental freedoms.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin), Mr. Bolduc, Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Caire (La Peltre) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Daffodil Month and particularly pay tribute to the foundation's volunteers who since 1938, through their devotion and involvement, have made the fight against cancer more tolerable for persons suffering from this disease as well as for their loved ones;

THAT their mission to eradicate cancer materialize as rapidly as possible.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia), Mrs. Thériault, Minister for Social Services, Mr. Caire (La Peltre) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark World Autism Awareness Day;

THAT on this occasion, it express our attachment and solidarity with respect to the men, women and children who, in our society, suffer from a pervasive developmental disorder.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment hold special consultations and public hearings on 9 April 2009 and that, for this purpose, it hear the following groups:

- Messrs. Pierre Arnold and Richard Nault of the Club VTT Vagabond du Bas-Richelieu
- Fédération Québécoise des Clubs Quads

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in opposition;

The presentation by each group shall not last more than 10 minutes and the exchange with the members of the Committee shall not last more than 50 minutes, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in opposition;

A period of 15 minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in opposition;

The Minister for Transport shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville), Mr. Lessard, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. Grondin (Beauce-Nord) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:

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THAT the National Assembly congratulate Aliments du Québec, an organization dedicated to promoting Québec's agri-food products via the "Aliments du Québec" seal of approval;

THAT it mark the efficiency of this seal of approval which, through its use, increases market shares of agri-food products made and sold in Québec, an increase that is advantageous for small businesses whose market shares are limited.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Gautrin, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 7, An Act to establish an early childhood development fund;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 4, An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act.

Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion by Mr. Whissell, Minister of Labour, for the passage in principle of Bill 25, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 25 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 25 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Arcand, Minister of International Relations, informed the Assembly that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor recommended to its consideration Bill 17, An Act to establish the Office Québec-Monde pour la jeunesse and to amend various legislative provisions, and then moved, —That this Bill do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 17 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 17 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Institutions.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Dutil, Minister of Revenue, moved, —That Bill 2, An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 24 May 2007, to the 1 June 2007 Ministerial Statement Concerning the Government's 2007-2008 Budgetary Policy and to certain other budget statements, do now pass in principle.

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After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division and Bill 2 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 2 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance.

The motion was carried.

Debates Upon Adjournment

At 5.39 o'clock p.m., by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question by Mr. Trottier (Roberval) addressed to Mr. Simard, Minister for Natural Resources and Wildlife, in replacement of Mr. Béchar, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, about the mining industry operations as described in the report from the Auditor General of Québec.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the second debate was deferred until the sitting of Tuesday, 7 April 2009, at 6.00 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Tuesday, 7 April 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 5.51 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Houda-Pepin, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 7 April 2009, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

YVON VALLIÈRES

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Marois, Leader of the Official Opposition during the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 6)

YEAS - 52

Aussant	Cousineau	Legault	Richard
Beaudoin	Curzi	Léger	<i>[Duplessis]</i>
<i>[Mirabel]</i>	Deltell	Lemay	Richard
Beaudoin	Doyer	Malavoy	<i>[Marguerite-D'Youville]</i>
<i>[Rosemont]</i>	Drainville	Maltais	Robert
Bédard	Dufour	Marois	Roy
Bérubé	Ferland	Pelletier	Simard
Blanchet	Gauvreau	<i>[Rimouski]</i>	<i>[Richelieu]</i>
Bonnardel	Girard	Pelletier	St-Arnaud
Boucher	Grondin	<i>[Saint-Hyacinthe]</i>	Traversy
Bouillé	Hivon	Picard	Tremblay
Caire	Khadir	Pinard	Trottier
Champagne	Kotto	Poirier	Turcotte
Charette	Lapointe	Ratthé	Villeneuve
Cloutier	Leclair	Rebello	

NAYS - 62

Arcand	Charest	Jérôme-Forget	Paradis
Auclair	Charlebois	Kelley	Pigeon
Bachand	Chevarie	L'Écuyer	Reid
<i>[Outremont]</i>	Corbeil	Lehouillier	Rotiroti
Bachand	Diamond	Lessard	Simard
<i>[Arthabaska]</i>	Drolet	MacMillan	<i>[Dubuc]</i>
Beauchamp	Dubourg	Mamelonet	Sklavounos
Béchar	Dupuis	Marcoux	St-Amand
Bergman	Dutil	Marsan	St-Pierre
Bernard	Gagnon-Tremblay	Matte	Thériault
Bernier	Gaudreault	Ménard	Tomassi
Billette	<i>[Hull]</i>	Moreau	Vallée
Blais	Gautrin	Morin	Vien
Bolduc	Gonthier	Normandeau	Weil
Boulet	Hamad	Ouellette	Whissell
Carrière	Huot	Ouimet	
Charbonneau	James	Paquet	

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On the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 7)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

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On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Khadir (Mercier) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 8)

YEAS - 46

Aussant	Curzi	Lemay	Richard
Beaudoin	Doyer	Malavoy	<i>[Marguerite-D'Youville]</i>
<i>[Mirabel]</i>	Drainville	Maltais	Robert
Beaudoin	Dufour	Marois	Simard
<i>[Rosemont]</i>	Ferland	Pelletier	<i>[Richelieu]</i>
Bédard	Gauvreau	<i>[Saint-Hyacinthe]</i>	St-Arnaud
Bérubé	Girard	Pelletier	Traversy
Blanchet	Hivon	<i>[Rimouski]</i>	Tremblay
Boucher	Khadir	Pinard	Trottier
Bouillé	Kotto	Poirier	Turcotte
Champagne	Lapointe	Rathé	Villeneuve
Charette	Leclair	Rebello	
Cloutier	Legault	Richard	
Cousineau	Léger	<i>[Duplessis]</i>	

NAYS - 68

Arcand	Charbonneau	Huot	Paquet
Auclair	Charest	James	Paradis
Bachand	Charlebois	Jérôme-Forget	Picard
<i>[Outremont]</i>	Chevarie	Kelley	Pigeon
Bachand	Corbeil	L'Écuyer	Reid
<i>[Arthabaska]</i>	Deltell	Lehouillier	Rotiroti
Beauchamp	Diamond	Lessard	Roy
Béchar	Drolet	MacMillan	Simard
Bergman	Dubourg	Mamelonet	<i>[Dubuc]</i>
Bernard	Dupuis	Marcoux	Sklavounos
Bernier	Dutil	Marsan	St-Amand
Billette	Gagnon-Tremblay	Matte	St-Pierre
Blais	Gaudreault	Ménard	Thériault
Bolduc	<i>[Hull]</i>	Moreau	Tomassi
Bonnardel	Gautrin	Morin	Vallée
Boulet	Gonthier	Normandeau	Vien
Caire	Grondin	Ouellette	Weil
Carrière	Hamad	Ouimet	Whissell

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On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Ferland (Ungava) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 9)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Drainville (Marie-Victorin) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 10)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Simard (Richelieu) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 11)

(Identical to Division No. 8)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 12)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

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On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Curzi (Borduas) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 13)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 14)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 15)

(Identical to Division No. 6)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Kotto (Bourget) within the framework of the debate on Opening Speech of the Session:

(Division No. 16)

(Identical to Division No. 6)