



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 14 May 2008 — No. 83

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Michel Bissonnet**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.10 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) moved:

THAT the National Assembly direct the Committee on Institutions to examine and make a report, no later than 10 October 2008, on the nature and context of the signing of the contract granted to Attractions Hippiques by the Government of Québec and hear all persons that it shall deem necessary.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this motion: 10 minutes shall be allotted for a reply by its mover; the remaining time will be distributed among the parliamentary groups, who will have a time envelope that corresponds to the proportion of seats they respectively have in the Assembly; any time not used by a group will be transferred to the two other groups, in accordance with the proportion of seats they hold; and individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose on the motion by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières).

At the end of his address, Mr. Gauthier (Verdun) moved the following amendment:

THAT the motion by the Member for Trois-Rivières be amended as follows: By adding, in the fifth line, after the word "and", the words "that, for this purpose, the Committee hear the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Auditor General of Québec, Mr. Florent Gagné, chairman of the board of directors of the Société nationale du cheval de course, as well as Senator Paul J. Massicotte, owner of Attractions Hippiques" and by removing, in the fifth line, after the word "and", the words "hear all persons that it shall deem necessary".

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The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly direct the Committee on Institutions to examine and make a report, no later than 10 October 2008, on the nature and context of the signing of the contract granted to Attractions Hippiques by the Government of Québec and that, for this purpose, the Committee hear the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Auditor General of Québec, Mr. Florent Gagné, chairman of the board of directors of the Société nationale du cheval de course, as well as Senator Paul J. Massicotte, owner of Attractions Hippiques.

The debate continued on the main motion by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) and on the amendment motion by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), subject to the receivability of the latter, which Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, took under advisement.

Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the ruling on the receivability of the amendment motion moved by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) would be rendered before the recorded division.

The debate being concluded, Mr. Gautrin, Deputy Government House Leader, indicated his intention to defer the division on the amendment motion that he moved, subject to its receivability, and the division on the motion by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) until Routine Proceedings.

Accordingly, at 11.54 o'clock a.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the sitting until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.04 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Lessard, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

81 An Act to modernize the governance of La Financière agricole du Québec

The motion was carried.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

219 An Act respecting Investia Services Financiers inc.

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 972-20080514)

Mr. Arcand (Mont-Royal) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 219, An Act respecting Investia Services Financiers inc.

This motion was carried.

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Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 219 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance and that the Minister of Finance be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mrs. Boulet, Minister of Transport, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Agence métropolitaine de transport, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 973-20080514)

Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, tabled the following:

The actuarial report amending the actuarial analysis of the Québec Pension Plan as at 31 December 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 974-20080514)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the revision of the *Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan* concerning orphan's pensions, and signed by 302 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 975-20080514)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Simard (Richelieu) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, rendered the following decision regarding the receivability of the motion by Mr. Gauthier (Verdun) to amend the main motion moved by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The motion to amend is receivable, as it does not contradict, repudiate or detract from the principle of the main motion. The amendment modifies a term of the motion in which the Committee is given a mandate, which jurisprudence allows.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the divisions, which had been deferred during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, on the motion by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) and on the amendment motion by Mr. Gauthier (Verdun).

First, the question was put on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Gauthier (Verdun).

This motion reads as follows:

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THAT the motion by the Member for Trois-Rivières be amended as follows: By adding, in the fifth line, after the word "and", the words "that, for this purpose, the Committee hear the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Auditor General of Québec, Mr. Florent Gagné, chairman of the board of directors of the Société nationale du cheval de course, as well as Senator Paul J. Massicotte, owner of Attractions Hippiques" and by removing, in the fifth line, after the word "and", the words "hear all persons that it shall deem necessary".

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **55** in Appendix)

Yeas: **40** Nays: **66** Abstentions: **0**

The question was then put on the motion by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly direct the Committee on Institutions to examine and make a report, no later than 10 October 2008, on the nature and context of the signing of the contract granted to Attractions Hippiques by the Government of Québec and hear all persons that it shall deem necessary.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **56** in Appendix)

Yeas: **66** Nays: **40** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Riedl (Iberville), Mr. Pelletier, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information, and Mr. Turp (Mercier) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly regret the attitude of the Burmese military junta which, following the passage of Cyclone Nargis, refuses to open the country's borders to international aid, thus depriving the numerous victims of this human catastrophe of the help that is essential for their survival;

THAT it recall that the number of victims of this disaster, currently estimated by the United Nations at more than 60,000 dead, 220,000 missing and over 1,200,000 persons stricken, could worsen considerably if no help is given to this population in need.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Morissette (Charlesbourg), Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Cochlear Implant Day, which is held on 17 May each year, and this, since its adoption in 2002.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Gosselin (Jean-Lesage), Mr. Bachand, Minister of Tourism, and Mr. Pagé (Labelle) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the award winners of the 23rd edition of the Grands Prix du tourisme québécois, and that it underline the efforts of all of Québec's tourist industry businesses that, thanks to their activities, contribute to Québec's economy and outreach.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières), Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, and Mr. Bérubé (Matane) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the victory of the Caron & Guay hockey team of Trois-Rivières, which, for the first time in its history, won the North American hockey league's Futura Cup.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84 and 185, Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Families, Mr. Bonnardel (Shefford) and Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 13th edition of Québec Family Week, which is being held this year from 12 to 18 May 2008 under the theme "Au fil du temps...Parent et fier de l'être!".

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Public Finance, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 73, Real Estate Brokerage Act, and to Bill 37, 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;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services, the Health Insurance Act and the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec;
- the Committee on Institutions, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 60, An Act to amend the Police Act.

Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall hold a deliberative meeting to adopt the Committee's report on residual waste management in Québec and to discuss the organization of its press conference.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, moved, —That Bill 68, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, interrupted the debate and informed the Assembly that he had received a request for a debate upon adjournment to be held on Thursday, 15 May 2008, on a question by Mr. Roux (Arthabaska) to Mr. Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, about orphan's pensions paid by the Régie des rentes du Québec.

The debate continued.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 68 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 68 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Social Affairs.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Gauthrin, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 15 May 2008, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 4.42 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 15 May 2008, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) to amend the motion moved by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, concerning the contract granted to Attractions Hippiques by the Government of Québec:

(Division No. 55)

YEAS - 40

Arcand	Copeman	Kelley	Paradis
Auclair	Couillard	L'Écuyer	Pelletier
Bachand	Courchesne	<i>[Pontiac]</i>	<i>[Chapleau]</i>
Beauchamp	Dubourg	Lessard	Reid
Béchar	Dupuis	MacMillan	St-Pierre
Bergman	Fournier	Marcoux	Thériault
Blais	Gautrin	Marsan	Tomassi
Boulet	Gonthier	Ménard	Vallée
Charest	Hamad	Normandeau	Whissell
Charlebois	James	Ouellette	
Clermont	Jérôme-Forget	Paquet	

NAYS - 66

Arseneau	Deschamps	Lapointe	Pelletier
Auger	Deslières	<i>[Crémazie]</i>	<i>[Rimouski]</i>
Beaupré	Desrochers	Laporte	Proulx
Bédard	Diamond	Leblanc	Riedl
Benjamin	Dionne-Marsolais	L'Écuyer	Roux
Benoit	Domingue	<i>[Saint-Hyacinthe]</i>	Roy
Bergeron	Dorion	Légaré	<i>[Lotbinière]</i>
Bérubé	Dufour	Legault	Roy
Bonnardel	Dumont	Lelièvre	<i>[Montmagny-L'Islet]</i>
Bouchard	Francoeur	Lemay	Roy Verville
Caire	Gaudreault	Lévesque	Schneeberger
Camirand	Gendron	Malavoy	Simard
Charbonneau	Gingras	Maltais	Taillon
Cloutier	Gosselin	Merlini	Therrien
Côté	Grandmont	Méthé	Trottier
Cousineau	Grondin	Morasse	Turp
Curzi	Harel	Morin	
De Martin	Lapointe	Morissette	
	<i>[Groulx]</i>	Pagé	

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On the motion moved by Mr. Proulx (Trois-Rivières) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, concerning the contract granted to Attractions Hippiques by the Government of Québec:

(Division No. 56)

YEAS - 66

Arseneau	Deschamps	Lapointe	Pelletier
Auger	Deslières	<i>[Crémazie]</i>	<i>[Rimouski]</i>
Beaupré	Desrochers	Laporte	Proulx
Bédard	Diamond	Leblanc	Riedl
Benjamin	Dionne-Marsolais	L'Écuyer	Roux
Benoit	Domingue	<i>[Saint-Hyacinthe]</i>	Roy
Bergeron	Dorion	Légaré	<i>[Lotbinière]</i>
Bérubé	Dufour	Legault	Roy
Bonnardel	Dumont	Lelièvre	<i>[Montmagny-L'Islet]</i>
Bouchard	Francoeur	Lemay	Roy Verville
Caire	Gaudreault	Lévesque	Schneeberger
Camirand	Gendron	Malavoy	Simard
Charbonneau	Gingras	Maltais	Taillon
Cloutier	Gosselin	Merlini	Therrien
Côté	Grandmont	Méthé	Trottier
Cousineau	Grondin	Morasse	Turp
Curzi	Harel	Morin	
De Martin	Lapointe	Morissette	
	<i>[Groulx]</i>	Pagé	

NAYS - 40

Arcand	Copeman	Kelley	Paradis
Auclair	Couillard	L'Écuyer	Pelletier
Bachand	Courchesne	<i>[Pontiac]</i>	<i>[Chapleau]</i>
Beauchamp	Dubourg	Lessard	Reid
Béchar	Dupuis	MacMillan	St-Pierre
Bergman	Fournier	Marcoux	Thériault
Blais	Gautrin	Marsan	Tomassi
Boulet	Gonthier	Ménard	Vallée
Charest	Hamad	Normandeau	Whissell
Charlebois	James	Ouellette	
Clermont	Jérôme-Forget	Paquet	