



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 11 March 1998 — No. 154

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.05 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 97, on the motion by Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, it was ordered:

THAT the debate on the motion relating to business standing in the name of members in opposition be held at 4.00 o'clock p.m. this afternoon.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mrs. Harel, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, moved, —That Bill 186, An Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mrs. Harel, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, tabled the following:

A survey, requested by the Direction de la recherche, de l'évaluation et de la statistique of the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité and carried out in December 1997, on specific elements of the income security reform.

(Sessional Paper No. 1471-980311)

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

On motion by Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, the debate was adjourned.

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 2.04 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

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Mr. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

391 An Act respecting certain prohibited commercial practices when a state of emergency exists.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. President tabled the following:

The mission report, presented by Mr. Normand Poulin, the Member for Beauce-Nord, on the Deuxième forum des gens d'affaires francophones du Canada (Second Canadian Francophone business forum), which was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from 12 to 14 February 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 1472-980311)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 11 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 1473-980311)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Bordeleau (Acadie) tabled the abstracts of two petitions respecting cutbacks in the college sector:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 160 students and citizens associated with Bois-de-Boulogne College.

(Sessional Paper No. 1474-980311)

- and, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 64, the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 90 teachers and members of the non-teaching personnel at Bois-de-Boulogne College.

(Sessional Paper No. 1475-980311)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 64, Mrs. Blackburn (Chicoutimi) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting cutbacks in the education sector and signed by 10,000 Québec parents.

(Sessional Paper No. 1476-980311)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Labour and the Economy examine the draft regulation on the content and form of the report on a finalized or current pay equity or salary relativity plan, as required in section 114 of the *Pay Equity Act*, and that this examination take place on Thursday, 19 March 1998, after Routine Proceedings, until 6.00 o'clock p.m. in Louis-Hippolyte-LaFontaine Room.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.

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Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and tabled the following:

The document entitled "Propositions de modifications au Règlement et aux Règles de fonctionnement de l'Assemblée nationale" (Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and to the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly).

(Sessional Paper No. 1477-980311)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 116, Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, then moved:

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THAT the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly be amended by the provisions contained in the document entitled "Propositions de modifications au Règlement et aux Règles de fonctionnement de l'Assemblée nationale" (Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and to the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly), tabled today by the President of the National Assembly;

THAT these amendments be effective immediately the present motion is carried and remain in effect until Wednesday, 21 October 1998, notwithstanding the prorogation of the session;

THAT these amendments be included in the Votes and Proceedings as a constituent of the present motion:

20. The Assembly shall meet at 10.00 o'clock a.m. each day from Tuesday to Thursday and may continue to meet until 6.00 o'clock p.m., the proceedings being suspended from 12.00 o'clock noon until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The Assembly may also resolve, on motion without notice by the Government House leader, which motion may not be debated, to meet on a Monday from 2.00 o'clock until 6.00 o'clock p.m.

Whenever it may be expedient to do so in order to give effect to Standing Orders 271 or 278, and upon request to the President by the Government House leader, the Assembly may continue to meet past 8.00 o'clock p.m. The President shall inform the Assembly of such request at the earliest opportunity, and the proceedings shall accordingly be suspended from 6.00 o'clock until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

21. From the twenty-fifth day of May until the twenty-third day of June and from the twenty-fifth day of November until the twenty-first day of December the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting, as follows: It shall meet at 10.00 o'clock a.m. each day from Tuesday to Friday and may continue to meet until 12.00 o'clock midnight, the proceedings being suspended from 1.00 o'clock until 3.00 o'clock p.m. and from 6.00 o'clock until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

The Assembly may also resolve, on motion without notice by the Government House leader, which motion shall be moved during the Routine Proceedings when motions without notice are entered upon, to meet on a

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Monday during the hours appointed in the first paragraph of this Standing Order.

The mover of such motion and a representative of every parliamentary group in opposition may speak to the question for up to five minutes each, and the mover may thereafter speak for up to two minutes in reply.

52. The Routine Proceedings shall be taken at 2.00 o'clock p.m.: Provided that during any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting the Routine Proceedings shall be taken at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

92. The debate shall expire at not later than 6.00 o'clock p.m., without question put. If it is sooner concluded, the Assembly shall take other Orders of the Day:

Provided that during any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting the debate shall expire three hours after the time appointed by these Standing Orders for the Assembly to meet.

94. Subject to Standing Order 97, the Assembly shall, not later than fifteen days after a committee has laid upon the Table a report containing recommendations, take such report into consideration; but this Standing Order shall not apply to any report relating to a bill or to financial commitments or issuing from a deliberative meeting:

Provided that the aforementioned fifteen days shall not run during the debate on the opening speech of the session or the budget speech, or when estimates are under consideration in any committee, or on any day when business having precedence is before the Assembly.

97. On Wednesdays business standing in the name of Members in opposition shall be taken from 10.00 o'clock a.m. until not later than 12.00 o'clock noon.

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The President may decide the order in which such matters are to be raised: Provided that in so doing he shall have regard to the sequence in which the notices thereof were placed on the Order Paper and Notices, to rotation among the parliamentary groups, and to the presence of independent Members. He shall, at the sitting prior to that at which such business is to be taken, inform the Assembly of the matter that is to be debated.

This Standing Order shall not apply during any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting.

97.1. A Member wishing to move a motion under business standing in the name of Members in opposition shall, not later than three hours before the Routine Proceedings are to be entered upon on the sitting day prior to that on which such business is to be taken, hand in a notice thereof for publication in the Order Paper and Notices.

If the notice is handed in on the sitting day prior to that on which such business is to be taken, the President shall, at the time set aside for presenting papers during the Routine Proceedings on the day the said notice is handed in, lay upon the Table a copy of the notice.

Notwithstanding Standing Order 188, a motion standing in the name of a Member in opposition may be moved on the sitting day on which it first appears in the Order Paper and Notices.

97.2. The President may decide the order in which such matters are to be raised: Provided that in so doing he shall have regard to the sequence in which the notices thereof were placed on the Order Paper and Notices or received for publication therein, to rotation among the parliamentary groups, and to the presence of independent Members.

The President shall, at the sitting prior to that at which such business is to be taken, inform the Assembly of the matter that is to be debated.

105. A motion for the adjournment of the proceedings may be made only when that part of the Orders of the Day shall have been entered upon which follows the Routine Proceedings and when no other business is before the

Assembly. Such motion must be moved by the Government House leader, shall require no notice, and may not be amended.

111. If at the time appointed by these Standing Orders for the proceedings to be suspended a matter referred to the committee of the whole has not been fully considered, the chairman shall, unless any vote is in progress or any question is then being put from the chair, rise without question put and report progress to the President; and the proceedings of the committee shall thereupon be adjourned:

Provided that during any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting the chairman shall leave the chair, and the proceedings shall thereupon be suspended.

116. In addition to such other duties as may be conferred upon it by statute and in these Standing Orders, this committee shall:

- (1) draft the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the Assembly and its committees and submit them to the Assembly for its approval;
- (2) coordinate the proceedings of the other committees, in particular by naming the committee before which some public agency shall be answerable and, where necessary, by clarifying the terms of reference of each committee;
- (3) authorize committees to meet in a place other than the Parliament Building;
- (4) consider any matter not expressly referred to some other committee.

**SECTION 1.1
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

117.1. The Committee on Public Administration shall consist of:

- (1) ten permanent members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (a) six Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
 - (b) four Members sitting in opposition, not fewer than three of whom shall be Members from the Official Opposition; and
- (2) eight temporary members, who shall be apportioned as follows:
- (a) five Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
 - (b) three Members from the Official Opposition.

117.2. The permanent members of this committee shall be appointed by the Committee on the National Assembly as provided in Standing Order 127; and they shall serve on the committee for two years.

The temporary members of this committee shall be designated by the whips of their respective parliamentary groups, who shall further specify whether each such member is to serve on the committee throughout the proceedings with respect to some particular matter or for a single meeting. (See R.C.P. 1.1 and 1.2.)

117.3. The temporary members of this committee may take part in all its proceedings, but they may not vote.

117.4. Any independent Member or Member from a parliamentary group sitting in opposition other than the Official Opposition may take part in the proceedings of this committee; but he may not vote or move any motion.

117.5. The committee shall, at the opening of the first session of every Legislature and, as the necessity may arise, during the course of a Legislature, elect one of its permanent members to be chairman and another to be vice-chairman; and they shall hold office for two years:

Provided that the chairman shall be chosen among the Members from the Official Opposition, and the vice-chairman shall be chosen among those from the parliamentary group forming the Government.

117.6. This committee shall:

- (1) examine the financial commitments;
- (2) hear the auditor general every year with respect to his annual report;
- (3) hear each minister who deems it expedient to be so heard and each deputy minister or the chief executive officer of every public agency, as the case may be, at least once in every year in order to discuss their administrative management and such other administrative matters falling within the terms of reference of these ministries or agencies as shall have been noted in a report from the auditor general or the public protector, pursuant to *An Act respecting the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies*; and
- (4) examine any other matter that the Assembly may refer to it.
(See R.C.P. 17 to 31.)

117.7. Unless it is to consider some matter referred to it by the Assembly, this committee shall meet upon notice that its clerk shall send to the members thereof at the request of its chairman. Such notice shall state the purpose, the day, the time, and the place of the meeting, and copies thereof shall be sent to the President, to the chairmen of the other committees, and to the House leaders and the whips of the parliamentary groups.

117.8. The quorum of this committee shall be one third of the number of its permanent members, including its chairman.

The quorum of any subcommittee thereof shall be a majority of its permanent members, including its chairman.

118. In addition to the Committee on the National Assembly and the Committee on Public Administration, there shall be nine standing committees of the Assembly, whose names and terms of reference shall be as follows:

- (1) the Committee on Institutions:

The chairmanship of the Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, and the Constitution;

- (2) the Committee on Public Finance:
Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service, and supply and services;
- (3) the Committee on Social Affairs:
The family, health, social and community services, the status of women, and income security;
- (4) the Committee on Labour and the Economy:
Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science, technology, energy and resources, and manpower;
- (5) the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food:
Agriculture, fisheries, and food;
- (6) the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain:
Local communities, municipal planning, housing, and recreation;
- (7) the Committee on Education:
Education, vocational training, and consumer protection;
- (8) the Committee on Culture:
Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, and relations with the citizenry;
- (9) the Committee on Transportation and the Environment:
Transportation, public works, the environment, and wildlife.
(Mod. 1986.03.11 and 1994.12.01.)

120. The said committees shall have power, without special reference from the Assembly, to initiate examinations of the following matters:

- (1) draft regulations and regulations;
- (2) the orientation, activities, and management of public agencies;
- (3) any other matter that may be of public interest.

121. Every committee shall consist of ten Members, who shall be appointed for two years and be apportioned as follows:

- (1) six Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government; and
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition.

122. Notwithstanding Standing Order 121, any independent Member or Member from a parliamentary group sitting in opposition other than the Official Opposition may be appointed to serve as a member of a committee; and such committee shall accordingly consist of twelve members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (1) seven Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition; and
- (3) one Member from a parliamentary group sitting in opposition other than the Official Opposition or one independent Member.

Standing Order **123** is repealed.

126. Six committees shall be chaired by Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government and three shall be chaired by Members sitting in opposition.

128. Failing consensus on the manner in which the chairmanships of the several committees are to be allocated, the parliamentary groups shall select the committees they wish to be chaired by one of their own Members in the following sequence:

First choice: group forming the Government;

Second choice: group forming the Government;

Third choice: Official Opposition;

Fourth choice: group forming the Government;

Fifth choice: Official Opposition;

Sixth choice: group forming the Government;

Seventh choice: group sitting in opposition other than the Official Opposition, if there be any;

Eighth choice: group forming the Government;

Ninth choice: group forming the Government.

132. A Member who has not been appointed to serve on some committee of the Assembly may take part in the proceedings of any of its committees; but he may not vote therein.

A Member who has been appointed to serve on some committee of the Assembly may take part in the proceedings of any other committee, by its leave; but he may not vote or move any motion therein:

Provided that leave shall not be required when such committee is to consider estimates of expenditure.

143. Committees may meet on Mondays from 2.00 o'clock until 6.00 o'clock p.m.; on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30 o'clock a.m. until 6.00 o'clock p.m., the proceedings being suspended from 12.30 o'clock

p.m. until 2.00 o'clock p.m.; and on Fridays from 9.30 o'clock a.m. until 12.30 o'clock p.m.

143.1. From the twenty-fifth day of May until the twenty-third day of June and from the twenty-fifth day of November until the twenty-first day of December committees shall have extended hours of meeting, as follows: They may meet each day from Monday to Friday between the hours of 10.00 o'clock a.m. and 12.00 o'clock midnight, the proceedings being suspended from 1.00 o'clock until 3.00 o'clock p.m. and from 6.00 o'clock until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

146. The Assembly may refer any matter to a committee for its examination. Such reference may be ordered either on a motion made by the Government House leader, which motion cannot be amended but may be discussed in a limited debate that shall not exceed one hour; or on a motion made pursuant to Standing Order 97 by a Member in opposition at a Wednesday meeting. Such order of reference from the Assembly shall have precedence.

272. The budget speech, the comments by the Finance critics of the parliamentary groups in opposition, and the ensuing debate shall not exceed twenty-five hours, fifteen of which shall take place in the Assembly and ten of which shall take place in the Committee on Public Finance. The orders of the day for the budget speech and for the debate thereon in the Assembly shall have precedence.

275. When all Members wishing to speak have been heard, or when thirteen hours and thirty minutes have elapsed since the Minister of Finance began the budget speech, the debate thereon shall be suspended in the Assembly, and it shall be resumed by the Committee on Public Finance not later than on the next sitting day. The Minister of Finance shall be a member of the said committee during its proceedings with respect to the budget speech.

292. The Committee on Public Finance shall devote one meeting in each fiscal quarter to an examination of the Government's budgetary policy and the evolving state of the public finances.

Any meeting held by the said committee to resume the debate on the budget speech shall be deemed a quarterly meeting for the purposes of this Standing Order.

Standing Order **293** is repealed.

CHAPTER II.I
PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE ASSEMBLY

294.1. The Committee on Institutions shall examine annually the chief electoral officer and the public protector.

299. One interpellation may be held in each week during the periods in which the Assembly may ordinarily meet: Provided that no interpellation may be held during any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting or while the Assembly stands adjourned for more than five days.

307. During any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting the debate on a want of confidence motion shall conclude three hours after the time appointed by these Standing Orders for the Assembly to meet.

308. Any Member who is of the opinion that a matter he has raised during oral question period has not been sufficiently discussed may debate it further upon the adjournment of any Tuesday or Thursday sitting.

He shall give notice to the President, not later than thirty minutes after the conclusion of question period, of the matter he wishes to debate.

309. The President shall announce to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity any matter or matters that are to be debated upon adjournment. Such debates shall be held at the time appointed by these Standing Orders for the rising of the Assembly, which shall be accordingly delayed.

312. Not more than three debates may be held upon adjournment on any sitting day. The want of a quorum may not be noticed.

There shall be no debates upon adjournment during any period in which the Assembly shall have extended hours of meeting.

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

1.1. The whip of each parliamentary group, or his representative, shall notify the clerk of the Committee on Public Administration of the members he has designated to serve on this committee for the proceedings with respect to some particular matter.

The clerk shall inform the committee of the members so designated as soon as the first meeting in respect of such matter is called to order.

1.2. The whip of each parliamentary group, or his representative, shall notify the clerk of the Committee on Public Administration of the members he has designated to serve on this committee for a single meeting.

The clerk shall inform the committee of the members so designated as soon as each meeting is called to order.

4.1. There shall be a steering committee of the Committee on the National Assembly, which shall consist of the President of the National Assembly, the House leaders of the parliamentary groups, and the clerk of the committee.

Between meetings of the Committee on the National Assembly the said steering committee shall:

- (a) authorize committees or steering committees to travel or to meet in a place other than the Parliament Building;
- (b) receive accounts from committees and steering committees respecting their travel;
- (c) approve the establishment of joint committees or subcommittees and appoint their co-chairmen;

- (d) fill vacancies and make permanent substitutions in committee memberships when the Assembly stands prorogued or adjourned for more than five days;
- (e) approve changes to the list of temporary chairmen;
- (f) adjust the budgetary envelope of the committees out of the budgetary reserve of the Committee on the National Assembly;
- (g) determine whether it is appropriate to televise the proceedings of committees;
- (h) designate, on behalf of the Committee on the National Assembly, the committee to which any matter that is to be examined in pursuance of statutory provisions shall be referred;
- (i) coordinate, in respect of calendars, timetables, meeting rooms, and resources, the proceedings of any committees that are to consider matters not having priority, and plan the proceedings of the Committee on the National Assembly.

**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS
RESPECTING THE EXAMINATION OF
FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

17. The Committee on Public Administration shall examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding \$25,000 that the Conseil du trésor, the Conseil exécutif, or any ministry has authorized within a financial management system.

18. The said committee shall not have power to examine the following:

- (1) indemnities paid in respect of expropriations;
- (2) expenditures of a confidential nature made for the collection of taxes and for national security;

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- (3) expenditures incurred in the conveyance of securities and cash and in the protection of government property where the public interest is at stake;
- (4) expenditures relating to studies and inquiries undertaken to increase the efficiency of the administration where the public interest is at stake; and
- (5) expenditures relating to the appointment, remuneration, transfer, and retirement of public servants and government employees.

19. The following categories of approvals shall likewise be excluded from the examination of the financial commitments by the said committee:

- (1) transfers of appropriations;
- (2) loans from the contingency fund;
- (3) loan guarantees;
- (4) a priori approvals.

20. The said committee shall have power to select, in a deliberative meeting, such financial commitments as it may wish to examine in depth in the presence of a minister during a meeting held for this purpose.

In particular, it may choose to examine in depth those financial commitments that relate to such month or ministry as it may designate.

Any financial commitments that the committee may choose not to examine in depth shall be deemed to have been examined.

21. During a deliberative meeting the said committee may determine:

- (1) the number of additional meetings it shall devote to the examination of financial commitments;
- (2) the order in which these commitments are to be examined;

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- (3) the financial commitments it shall examine in depth in the presence of a minister;
- (4) the time it shall allot to the examination of the financial commitments envisaged in paragraph (3) of this rule and the manner in which such time is to be allocated;
- (5) the minister in whose presence it wishes to examine in depth certain financial commitments;
- (6) the order of business for any such meeting:

Provided that no motion to the above effect shall be deemed carried unless a majority of the members from each parliamentary group shall have voted in its favour.

22. The secretary of the Conseil du trésor shall, on the fifteenth day of every month, forward to the clerk of the said committee the list of the financial commitments.

23. The clerk of the said committee shall, not less than fifteen days before the committee is to hold a meeting for the examination of financial commitments, forward to the members thereof as well as to the House leaders, the whips, and the research services of the parliamentary groups the notice of convocation, the order of business for the meeting, and the financial commitments that are to be examined. He shall likewise forward to the chairmen of the other committees copies of the notice of convocation.

By leave of the committee without any dissentient voice, the notice of convocation, the order of business, and the financial commitments may be forwarded to the concerned parties upon shorter notice.

24. When the said committee wishes to examine financial commitments in depth in the presence of some minister but cannot so notify him fifteen days before his presence is required, he may forgo the fifteen days' notice to which he is entitled under Standing Order 164.

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25. A minister who is unable to attend a meeting for the examination of financial commitments may ask another minister who is a member of the Conseil du trésor to do so in his stead.

26. A minister shall have fifteen days in which to provide any information requested by the members of the said committee during the examination of financial commitments.

He shall send his replies to the clerk of the committee, who shall forward copies thereof to all committee members and to the research services of the parliamentary groups.

27. Any request for information made by a member of the said committee may give rise to the production of papers, unless the minister is of the opinion that to produce such papers would be injurious to the public interest.

28. Any member of the said committee may, during a meeting for the examination of financial commitments, ask that a minister provide supplementary information or papers relating to a financial commitment examined at an earlier such meeting.

29. The said committee may defer to a future meeting day the consideration of any financial commitments whose examination has not been concluded: Provided that no motion to that effect shall be deemed carried unless a majority of the members from each parliamentary group shall have voted in its favour.

30. During the examination of financial commitments every member of the said committee may speak as often as he likes but in any case for not longer than twenty minutes.

The said speaking time shall apply to each financial commitment that the chairman shall call during a meeting to examine financial commitments.

31. The said committee, having concluded the examination of the financial commitments, shall lay upon the Table of the Assembly a report thereon.

Such report shall consist of the minutes of the committee's deliberative meetings and of its meetings for the examination of financial commitments; and

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it may contain such observations, conclusions, and recommendations as the committee may wish to make to the Assembly.

The motion by Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- X the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 188, An Act respecting the distribution of financial products and services;
- X the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 404, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and amending various legislative provisions.

Mr. President gave the following notices:

- X the Committee on Public Administration shall hear the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the length of hospital stays and the pertinence of hospitalizations;
- X the Committee on Public Administration shall examine the financial commitments of the Director General of Elections;
- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of examining various items of business.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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Estimates of Expenditure

By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, transmitted the following Message from Her Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, which Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled:

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec submits to the National Assembly, pursuant to the provisions of Section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, a portion of the appropriations for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1999 in a sum not to exceed \$414,500,000.00, being 10.2 % of the appropriations for the "Financial Assistance Measures" programme of the "Employment, Solidarity and Status of Women" portfolio and 11 % of the appropriations for the "Family Benefits" programme of the "Child and Family Welfare" portfolio, and recommends these appropriations to the consideration of the Assembly.

Québec, 6 March 1998

Lise Thibault
(Sessional Paper No. 1478-980311)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Section 1 (Estimates) of Chapter 1 under Title V of the Standing Orders, Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, moved:

THAT Bill 408, Appropriation Act No. 1, 1998-99, be brought before the Assembly.

The motion was carried.

Mrs. Harel, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, on behalf of Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, then moved that Bill 408, Appropriation Act No. 1, 1998-99, do now pass in principle and pass.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 263 and on motion by Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, it was ordered:

THAT ten minutes be allotted to the delegate of the Official Opposition and that ten minutes be set aside for the Minister of Employment and Solidarity during the examination of this Bill.

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During her address and by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mrs. Harel, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, tabled the following:

A table indicating cutbacks in welfare expenses in 1996-97 and 1997-98.
(Sessional Paper No. 1479-980311)

The motion by Mrs. Harel was carried and, accordingly, Bill 408 was passed.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Resuming the debate on the motion by Mrs. Harel, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, —That Bill 186, An Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity, do now pass in principle;

On motion by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte) the debate was adjourned.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

At 4.00 o'clock p.m., in compliance with the order adopted this morning and pursuant to Standing Order 97, Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) moved:

That the National Assembly demand that the Parti Québécois Government formally commit itself not to increase in any way the tax burden of Québec families in its next budget.

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Before the debate began, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this motion: ten minutes shall be allotted for a reply by its mover and five minutes shall be set aside for each of the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be added to that of the other group while any time not used by the independent Members may be redistributed amongst the parliamentary groups, and individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited.

And debate arising on the motion moved by Mr. Kelley;

The debate being concluded and the question being put on the motion, a recorded division was demanded.

At the request of Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings at the next sitting.

At 5.58 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 12 March 1998, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President