



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings
Wednesday, 5 November 2003 - No. 21

Ten o'clock

President : Mr. Michel Bissonnet

The paper version of the Votes and Proceedings takes precedence over its electronic equivalent.

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The Assembly was called to order at 10.01 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. St-André (L'Assomption) moved:

THAT the National Assembly set up a special parliamentary committee for the purpose of examining the overall consequences of the demographic shock with which Québec is confronted.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Sirros, First Vice-President, announced that he had apportioned the speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this motion as follows: ten minutes shall be allotted for a reply by its mover and ten minutes shall be set aside for 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 may be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members shall be redistributed amongst the parliamentary groups, and individual addresses shall not be limited.

And debate arising on the motion moved by Mr. St-André (L'Assomption);

At the end of his speech, Mr. Béchard, Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Welfare, moved the following amendment motion:

THAT the motion by the Member for L'Assomption be amended by replacing, in the first and second lines, the words "set up a special parliamentary committee for the purpose of examining" by the words "recommend that the Standing Committee on Social Affairs examine".

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly recommend that the Standing Committee on Social Affairs examine the overall consequences of the demographic shock with which Québec is confronted.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 198 and 199, the debate continued on the main motion by Mr. St-André (L'Assomption) and on the amendment by Mr. Béchar, Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Welfare, subject to the receivability of the latter, which Mr. Sirros, First Vice-President, took under advisement.

The debate being concluded, Mr. Sirros, First Vice-President, rendered his decision on the receivability of the amendment motion moved by the Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Welfare.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The amendment motion is not receivable, since its effect is to negate the main motion of the Member for L'Assomption. The main motion aims to create a special committee, therefore a specific structure, with a specific mandate and a specific membership to examine the overall consequences of the demographic shock with which Québec is confronted, whereas the amendment motion only aims to recommend to an existing committee, whose membership and terms of reference are already known, that it examine the question.

Futhermore, if the motion by the Member for L'Assomption were to be carried, no executory order would be given to any committee. To give effect to the motion, the Assembly would be required to carry a motion to establish a select committee in pursuance of the provisions of Standing Order 178.

The question was put on the motion by Mr. St-André (L'Assomption); a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the present sitting day.

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At 11.57 o'clock a.m., Mr. Sirros, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings 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. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

202 An Act respecting Hillcrest Protestant Cemetery of Deux-Montagnes.

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. 330-20031105)

Mr. Descoteaux (Groulx) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 202, An Act respecting Hillcrest Protestant Cemetery of Deux-Montagnes.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 202 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.

This 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:

203 An Act respecting Ville de Victoriaville.

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. 331-20031105)

Mr. Bachand (Arthabaska) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 203, An Act respecting Ville de Victoriaville.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 203 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation, be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

This motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Institut de la statistique du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 332-20031105)

Mr. Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Secrétariat au loisir et au sport for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 333-20031105)

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The annual management report of the Commission municipale du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 334-20031105)

The annual report of the Société d'habitation du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2002.

(Sessional Paper No. 335-20031105)

Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Culture and Communications, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 336-20031105)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The annual report of the Public Protector, entitled "Going the extra mile", for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 337-20031105)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Bourdeau (Berthier) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the maintaining and development of non profit community-owned housing and signed by 25 tenants of non profit community-owned housing in the riding of Berthier.

(Sessional Paper No. 338-20031105)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, the abstracts of two petitions respecting the maintaining and development of non profit community-owned housing were laid upon the Table:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 281 tenants of non profit community-owned housing in the riding of Abitibi-Ouest, by Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest);

(Sessional Paper No. 339-20031105)

- the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 176 tenants of non profit community-owned housing in the riding of Bertrand, by Mr. Cousineau (Bertrand).

(Sessional Paper No. 340-20031105)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the expeditious completion of work and the reduction of speed on Highway 329, and signed by 401 citizens of the municipality of Lantier.

(Sessional Paper No. 341-20031105)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received, within the prescribed time, a request from Mr. Boulerice (Sainte-Marie—Saint-Jacques) to give personal explanations with regard to a *La Presse* newspaper article published on 5 November 2003.

He ruled that the request was receivable and, consequently, allowed the Member for Sainte-Marie—Saint-Jacques to give explanations.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Legault (Rousseau) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition earlier in today's sitting, on the motion moved by Mr. St-André (L'Assomption). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly set up a special parliamentary committee for the purpose of examining the overall consequences of the demographic shock with which Québec is confronted.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. 29 in Appendix)

Yeas: **41** Nays: **67** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Gauthier, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay tribute to Mr. Paul Massicotte, who was decorated Special Commander in the Order of Agricultural Merit with the distinction of Very High Special Merit, that it congratulate the 2003 edition award winners and that it mark the major role played by farmers in the economic development of Québec and its regions.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Act respecting childcare centres and childcare services;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 10, An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 1 November 2001, to the supplementary statement of 19 March 2002 and to certain other budget statements.

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

- the Committee on Social Affairs shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that the Assembly adjourn its proceedings until Thursday, 6 November 2003, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

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At 3.19 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 6 November 2003, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. St-André (L'Assomption) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition:

(Division No. 29)

YEAS - 41

Arseneau	Charest	Landry	Papineau
Beaudoin	(<i>Rimouski</i>)	Legault	Picard
Bédard	Côté	(<i>Rousseau</i>)	Robert
Bertrand	Cousineau	Legendre	Roy
Boisclair	Deslières	Léger	Simard
Bouchard	Dion	Lelièvre	St-André
(<i>Vachon</i>)	Dionne-Marsolais	Lemieux	Turp
Boulerice	Dufour	Létourneau	Valois
Bourdeau	Dumont	Maltais	Vermette
Caron	Grondin	Morin	
Champagne	Harel	(<i>Nicolet-Yamaska</i>)	
Charbonneau	Jutras	Pagé	

NAYS - 67

Auclair	Charlebois	Gautrin	Ouimet
Audet	Chenail	Hamad	Paquet
Bachand	Cholette	Hamel	Paquin
Beauchamp	Clermont	Houda-Pepin	Pelletier
Béchar	Copeman	Jérôme-Forget	Perreault
Bellemare	Corbeil	Kelley	Reid
Bergman	Couillard	L'Ecuyer	Rioux
Bernard	Courchesne	Lamquin-Éthier	Séguin
Bernier	Cusano	Legault	Soucy
Bordeleau	Delisle	(<i>Chambly</i>)	Théberge
Bouchard	Descoteaux	Lessard	Thériault
(<i>Mégantic-Compton</i>)	Després	Loiselle	(<i>Anjou</i>)
Boulet	Dubuc	MacMillan	Tomassi
Brodeur	Dupuis	Marsan	Vallières
Chagnon	Fournier	Mercier	Vien
Charest	Gabias	Moreau	Williams
(<i>Sherbrooke</i>)	Gagnon-Tremblay	Morin	
Charest	Gaudet	(<i>Montmagny-L'Islet</i>)	

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(Matane)

Gauthier

Mulcair