



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 1 November 2006 — No. 52

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

QUÉBEC

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Bouchard (Vachon) moved:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Liberal Government desist from imposing undue school tax increases on Québec taxpayers.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of 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 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 will be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members may be redistributed equally amongst the parliamentary groups, it having been agreed that this apportionment may not be carried out before the time allotted to both parliamentary groups has entirely expired; and individual addresses shall not be limited.

And debate arising on the motion moved by Mr. Bouchard (Vachon);

At the request of Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, moved:

THAT the motion under discussion be amended as follows: By replacing, in the first line, the word "demand" by the word "ask" and by adding, in the third line, after the word "taxpayers", the words "and that, to this end, it enable school boards to implement a mechanism to apportion the tax increase, such as is proposed in Bill 43 and such as was requested by the former Member for Taillon on 19 May 2005".

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly ask that the Liberal Government desist from imposing undue school tax increases on Québec taxpayers and that, to this end, it enable school boards to implement a mechanism to apportion the tax increase, such as is proposed in Bill 43 and such as was requested by the former Member for Taillon on 19 May 2005.

After comments from both sides on the receivability of the motion to amend, the debate continued on the main motion by Mr. Bouchard (Vachon) and on the motion to amend it by Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, subject to the receivability of the latter, which Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, took under advisement.

Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, rendered her decision on the receivability of the motion to amend moved by Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The motion to amend is unreceivable. The principle of the main motion is that the Liberal Government desist from imposing undue school tax increases, whereas the amendment proposes to spread the tax increase over a period of time, which is contrary to the principle.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this motion; 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 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.07 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:

208 An Act respecting the demutualization of Sherbrooke-Vie,
 société de secours mutuels

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. 602-20061101)

Mr. Reid (Orford) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 208, An Act respecting the demutualization of Sherbrooke-Vie, société de secours mutuels.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 208 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.

Presenting Papers

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

The five-year university investment plan for the period of 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2011.

(Sessional Paper No. 603-20061101)

Mr. Marcoux, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The annual activity report of the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail concerning the application of the *Crime Victims Compensation Act* and the *Act to promote good citizenship*, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2005.

(Sessional Paper No. 604-20061101)

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

The annual report of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 605-20061101)

The annual report of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 606-20061101)

The annual report of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 607-20061101)

The annual report of the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 608-20061101)

The annual management report of the Centre de conservation du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006;

(Sessional Paper No. 609-20061101)

The annual report of the Musée de la civilisation, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 610-20061101)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Administration, which, on 5 September 2006, heard the Auditor General on his 2005-2006 annual management report and examined his financial commitments for the months of April 2005 to March 2006. The Committee also held two deliberative meetings on 5 September 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 611-20061101)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. St-André (L'Assomption) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the application of the *Act to combat poverty and social exclusion*, and signed by 1240 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 612-20061101)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting a request for financial assistance made to Aide aux travailleurs accidentés, of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, and signed by 601 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 613-20061101)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Charest, Premier, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Charest, Premier, 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, on the motion moved by Mr. Bouchard (Vachon). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Liberal Government desist from imposing undue school tax increases on Québec taxpayers.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. 67 in Appendix)

Yeas: **46** Nays: **62** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly immediately took Notices of Proceedings in Committees.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 145, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 30, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, particularly with respect to the funding and administration of pension plans;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its special consultations with reference to the policy statement entitled "Modernizing the Governance of Government Corporations";
- the Committee on Culture, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the paper entitled "Toward a government policy to combat racism and discrimination".

Motions Without Notice

Mr. President handed down the following directive regarding motions without notice:

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

When a Member moves a motion under the heading "Motions without Notice," the Chair must inquire whether all Members present in the Assembly consent unanimously to its being debated. If even a single Member signifies that he does not consent to the holding of the debate, it may not be held.

When the Chair asks whether there is consent to debate a motion, certain distinctions must be made according to the situation. First, Members may consent to the debate, purely and simply. The motion is then debated pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Standing Orders. Second, Members may give their consent under certain conditions. The President must then inquire whether all Members agree to such conditions. If they do, the debate takes place in accordance with these conditions; if they do not, the debate cannot be held. Finally, the House leaders may agree among themselves on the conditions surrounding the holding of a debate without the Assembly's having been informed of their agreement. In such a context the Chair cannot impose these conditions on the other Members; the proposed conditions must be known to all Members present, each of whom must have consented thereto in order to bind the Assembly.

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Furthermore, it is important to remember that it is the Members, not the parliamentary groups, who give their consent. Thus, a Member belonging to the same parliamentary group as the mover of a motion may consent or not to a debate on that motion and, if he so wishes, attach conditions to his consent.

Mr. Després, Minister of Transport, moved a motion concerning the completion of Highway 25; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. L'Écuyer (Pontiac) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Adoption Awareness Month.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Hemophilia Month.

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. Béchar, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

- the Committee on Institutions, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 25, An Act to amend the Crime Victims Compensation Act and other legislative provisions.
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Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy shall hold a deliberative meeting to determine the follow-up to be given with regard to the consultations with the Bureau d'évaluation médicale.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 31 October 2006, on the motion by Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, —That Bill 33, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mr. Côté (Dubuc).

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At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 2 November 2006, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Bouchard (Vachon) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, concerning school tax increases:

(Division No. 67)

YEAS - 46

Arseneau	Côté	Légaré	Picard
Beaudoin	Cousineau	Legault	Pinard
Bédard	Deslières	<i>[Rousseau]</i>	Robert
Bergeron	Dion	Lemay	Roy
Boisclair	Dionne-Marsolais	Lemieux	Simard
Bouchard	Doyer	Létourneau	St-André
<i>[Vachon]</i>	Dufour	Lelièvre	Thériault
Boucher	Dumont	Malavoy	<i>[Masson]</i>
Bourdeau	Girard	Maltais	Tremblay
Caron	Grondin	Morin	Turp
Champagne	Harel	<i>[Nicolet-Yamaska]</i>	Valois
Charest	Jutras	Pagé	Vermette
<i>[Rimouski]</i>	Lefebvre	Papineau	

NAYS - 62

Auclair	Charest	Hamad	Paquet
Audet	<i>[Sherbrooke]</i>	Hamel	Paquin
Bachand	Charlebois	Houda-Pepin	Pelletier
<i>[Outremont]</i>	Chenail	James	Perreault
Bachand	Clermont	Jérôme-Forget	Reid
<i>[Arthabaska]</i>	Copeman	Kelley	Rioux
Beauchamp	Corbeil	Lamquin-Éthier	Soucy
Béchar	Couillard	L'Écuyer	Théberge
Bergman	Courchesne	Lessard	Thériault
Bernard	Descoteaux	Loiselle	<i>[Anjou]</i>
Bernier	Després	MacMillan	Tomassi
Blackburn	Dubuc	Marcoux	Vallières
Bordeleau	Dupuis	Marsan	Vien
Boulet	Fournier	Morin	Whissell
Brodeur	Gabias	<i>[Montmagny-L'Islet]</i>	
Chagnon	Gagnon-Tremblay	Mulcair	
Charest	Gauthier	Normandeau	
<i>[Matane]</i>	Gautrin	Ouimet	