



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Friday, 26 November 2004 — No. 109

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.06 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Audet, Minister of Economic and Regional Development and Research, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Conseil de la science et de la technologie for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1426-20041126)

The annual activity report of the Conseil de la science et de la technologie for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1427-20041126)

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

The annual management report of the Office des professions du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1428-20041126)

The annual report of the Ordre des évaluateurs agréés du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1429-20041126)

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The annual management report of the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1430-20041126)

Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Conseil des relations interculturelles for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1431-20041126)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 5, 12, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 October 2004 as well as on 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 November 2004, held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 57, Individual and Family Assistance Act.

(Sessional Paper No. 1432-20041126)

Mr. Jutras (Drummond), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which met on 25 November 2004 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 79 An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act as regards the establishment of separate programs.

The report does not contain any amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 1433-20030311)

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Presenting Petitions

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the closing of the Les Explorateurs school annex, and signed by 1527 citizens from the riding of Vimont.

(Sessional Paper No. 1434-20041126)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President rendered his decision on the point of privilege raised by the Member for Beauharnois. According to the latter, the Minister of Finance allegedly was in contempt of Parliament by releasing, on 18 November 2004, the summary of financial operations for the second trimester of the current fiscal year. In his opinion, the breach of the Assembly's privileges stems from the fact that, in one of the passages contained in the summary, the Minister allegedly took for granted the adoption of Bill 55, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and other legislative provisions, irrespective of the role of the Assembly and of its Members.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Nothing in the facts brought to the attention of the Chair enables one to conclude that the Minister of Finance was, at first glance, in contempt of Parliament.

Notwithstanding that, in the summary of financial operations, the Minister gives information stemming from Bill 55, he specifically mentions that this bill has reached clause-by-clause consideration in parliamentary committee. There is therefore acknowledgment of the role played by the Assembly and its Members in the consideration and passage of Bill 55.

Furthermore, the summary of financial operations content cannot have an effect on that of Bill 55. Members maintain all the necessary latitude to examine, amend and pass or negative the Bill.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) tabled the following:

The conclusions reached in the analysis carried out by the Montréal Local Health and Social Services Network Development Agency, following a mandate given by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Juan Roberto Iglesias, concerning the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal.

(Sessional Paper No. 1435-20041126)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget) tabled the following:

Copy of a letter, dated 29 October 2004, addressed to Mr. Pierre Cantin, president of Médi-Source inc., by Mr. Michel A. Bureau, director general of the health and academic medicine services at the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, concerning the recruitment of foreign medical doctors.

(Sessional Paper No. 1436-20041126)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Marois (Taillon) tabled the following:

Copy of the report from the Committee on Education, tabled on 16 June 2004, relating to the general consultation on the issues surrounding the quality, accessibility and financing of universities.

(Sessional Paper No. 1437-20041126)

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) moved:

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THAT the National Assembly of Québec denounce the massacres of the civil populations of Darfour, a tragedy that to this day has left more than 70,000 dead and over one million and a half refugees and displaced persons.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Crémazie), Mrs. Caron (Terrebonne) and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec mark the work carried out by the AFEAS, an association promoting non-violent behaviour, particularly towards young people, women and the elderly, through its annual awareness campaign called Opération Tendre la main, whose 8th edition is being held this year from 21 November to 5 December.

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

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

At the request of Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 56, An Act to amend the Act to secure the handicapped in the exercise of their rights and other legislative provisions;

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- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 68, An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Société de développement de la Zone de commerce international de Montréal à Mirabel.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Reid, Minister of Education, moved, —That Bill 73, An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

At 12.59 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.04 o'clock p.m.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. Reid, Minister of Education, —That Bill 73, An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education, do now pass in principle;

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The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 73 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Mulcair, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 73 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Education.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 25 November 2004, on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister responsible for Government Administration, Chair of the Conseil du trésor, —That Bill 61, An Act respecting the Agence des partenariats public-privé du Québec, do now pass in principle.

At the request of Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, Mrs. Lefebvre (Laurier-Dorion) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 8.04 o'clock p.m.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Minister responsible for Government Administration, Chair of the Conseil du trésor, —That Bill 61, An Act respecting the Agence des partenariats public-privé du Québec, do now pass in principle;

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The debate was adjourned in the name of Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau).

At 12.00 o'clock a.m., Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 30 November 2004, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President