



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 6 April 2004 — No. 58

**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 Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion by Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget).

At 11.58 o'clock a.m., Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.06 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

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

An agreement regarding the exchange of information between the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, for the assessment of the annual cost of health services owing to automobile accidents, as well as an opinion by the Commission d'accès à l'information.

(Sessional Paper No. 798-20040406)

Mr. President tabled the following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 1 April 2004:

- Decision 1197 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting Members' allowances (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations aux députés).

(Sessional Paper No. 799-20040406)

- Decision 1198 concerning the regulation amending the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment which apply to a Member's personnel and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel d'un député et sur le paiement des services professionnels).

(Sessional Paper No. 800-20040406)

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- Decision 1199 concerning the regulation amending the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of ministerial staff at the National Assembly and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale et sur le paiement des services professionnels).

(Sessional Paper No. 801-20040406)

- Decision 1200 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial management (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative).

(Sessional Paper No. 802-20040406)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting claims made in relation to the status of women, and signed by 940 citizens of the riding of Matapédia.

(Sessional Paper No. 803-20040406)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the increase in Hydro-Québec rates, and signed by 318 citizens of the riding of Rousseau.

(Sessional Paper No. 804-20040406)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Charest, Premier, tabled the following:

An excerpt from an interview he had granted to a journalist from *Le Devoir* newspaper, concerning energy development.

(Sessional Paper No. 805-20040406)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont) tabled the following:

A letter, dated 31 March 2004, from Mrs. Stella Leney, director of Hydro-Québec's corporate affairs, to Mrs. Stéphanie Gareau, political advisor to the Chief Opposition Whip, concerning the hydroelectric development projects submitted by Hydro-Québec to the Government between 1994 and 2002.

(Sessional Paper No. 806-20040406)

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred at the sitting of Thursday, 1 April 2004, on the motion jointly moved by Mr. Vallières, Chief Government Whip, and Mr. Lessard (Frontenac). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government of Canada to strongly object to the inclusion of chrysotile in the Prior Informed Consent procedure (PIC procedure) of the Rotterdam Convention.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 62 in Appendix)

Yeas: **101** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

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Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Charest, Premier, and Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly denounce and condemn the criminal acts of an anti-Semitic nature carried out yesterday at the United Talmud Torah of Montreal and that it reiterate that Québec is a land of welcome, marked by openness and tolerance.

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.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 63 in Appendix)

Yeas: **98** Nays: **0** 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

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

- the Committee on Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the quality, accessibility and funding of Québec universities;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 39, An Act to amend the Forest Act.

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Motions Without Notice

Mr. Boisclair, Official Opposition House Leader, requested the Assembly's leave to jointly move a motion with Mr. Picard (Les Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) concerning the Federal Government's Sponsorship Programme; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) moved:

 THAT the National Assembly, on the occasion of Tartan Day, recognize the significant contribution made by Quebecers of Scottish origin to the economical, political, social and cultural development of Quebec and salute, on this day, all Scots.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Gabias (Trois-Rivières) moved:

 THAT the National Assembly mark the success obtained by Cardinal-Roy School on the occasion of the Semaine nationale de la Francophonie, which was held last 7 to 21 March.

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. Sirros, First Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of hearing the interim Auditor General on the examination of the Government's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2003;
- the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to make a progress report on the general consultation on universities and to organize the Committee's proceedings.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President rendered his directive following a request made by the Member for Rivière-du-Loup concerning the speaking time allocated to the independent Members the debate on the Budget Speech.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

The speaking time allocated to the independent Members for the debate on the Budget Speech remains the same, that is 20 minutes. However, this speaking time does not constitute a precedent. In the present case, it is the speaking time of 40 minutes granted to the independent Members during the debate on the Budget Speech in June 2003 that must be considered as a precedent regarding this debate.

Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received two requests for debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mrs. Papineau (Prévost) to Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, about the cutbacks in the immigration programmes;

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- the second, on a question by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) to Mr. Audet, Minister of Economic and Regional Development and Research, about the shutdown of the Gaspésia plant.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 308, these debates were deferred until the end of the sitting on Wednesday, 7 April 2004.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion by Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec denounce the Liberal Government for its incapacity to defend and promote the French language in Québec.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau), Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget) and Mr. Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe);

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At 5.59 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 7 April 2004, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Tuesday, 6 April 2004, at 10.40 o'clock a.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President of the National Assembly, of Mr. Soucy (Portneuf), the Delegate of the Premier, and of Mrs. Giguère, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly, Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bill:

- 29 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved jointly by Mr. Vallières, Chief Government Whip, and Mr. Lessard (Frontenac):

(Division No. 62)

YEAS – 101

Arseneau	Chenail	Lafrenière	Perreault
Auclair	Cholette	Lamquin-Éthier	Picard
Audet	Clermont	Landry	Reid
Bachand	Corbeil	L'Écuyer	Richard
Beauchamp	Côté	Legault	Rioux
Beaudoin	Courchesne	[Rousseau]	Robert
Béchar	Cousineau	Legault	Séguin
Bédard	Delisle	[Chambly]	Simard
Bellemare	Descoteaux	Léger	Soucy
Bernard	Deslières	Lemieux	St-André
Bernier	Després	Lessard	Théberge
Blackburn	Dion	Létourneau	Thériault
Boisclair	Dionne-Marsolais	MacMillan	[Masson]
Bordeleau	Doyer	Maltais	Thériault
Bouchard	Dubuc	Marcoux	[Anjou]
[Vachon]	Dumont	Marois	Tomassi
Boucher	Dupuis	Marsan	Tremblay
Boulerice	Gabias	Mercier	Turp
Boulet	Gagnon-Tremblay	Moreau	Vallières
Brodeur	Gaudet	Morin	Valois
Caron	Gauthier	[Montmagny-L'Islet]	Vermette
Chagnon	Gautrin	Mulcair	Vien
Charest	Grondin	Normandeau	Whissell
[Matane]	Hamel	Ouimet	
Charest	Harel	Pagé	
[Rimouski]	Houda-Pepin	Papineau	
Charest	Jérôme-Forget	Paquet	
[Sherbrooke]	Jutras	Paquin	
Charlebois	Kelley	Pelletier	

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On the motion moved jointly by Mr. Charest, Premier, and Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition:

(Division No. 63)

YEAS – 98

Arseneau	Chenail	Jutras	Papineau
Auclair	Cholette	Kelley	Paquet
Audet	Clermont	Lafrenière	Paquin
Bachand	Corbeil	Lamquin-Éthier	Pelletier
Beauchamp	Côté	Landry	Perreault
Beaudoin	Courchesne	L'Écuyer	Picard
Béchar	Cousineau	Legault	Reid
Bédard	Delisle	[Chambly]	Richard
Bellemare	Descoteaux	Legault	Rioux
Bernard	Deslières	[Rousseau]	Robert
Bernier	Dion	Léger	Séguin
Blackburn	Dionne-Marsolais	Lemieux	Simard
Boisclair	Doyer	Lessard	Soucy
Bordeleau	Dubuc	Létourneau	St-André
Bouchard	Dumont	MacMillan	Théberge
[Vachon]	Dupuis	Maltais	Thériault
Boucher	Gabias	Marcoux	[Anjou]
Boulerice	Gagnon-Tremblay	Marois	Thériault
Boulet	Gaudet	Marsan	[Masson]
Brodeur	Gauthier	Mercier	Tomassi
Caron	Gautrin	Moreau	Tremblay
Chagnon	Gendron	Morin	Turp
Charest	Grondin	[Montmagny-L'Islet]	Vallières
[Rimouski]	Hamel	Mulcair	Vien
Charest	Harel	Normandeau	Whissell
[Sherbrooke]	Houda-Pepin	Ouimet	
Charlebois	Jérôme-Forget	Pagé	