



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 1 April 2004 — No. 57

**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 entered upon the debate on the motion by Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, —That this Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Legault (Rousseau) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the
Liberal Party Government for having presented a 2004-2005
budget that does not honour its main election commitments.

Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that, following a meeting with the House leaders, the allocation of speaking time for the thirteen hours and thirty minutes provided for in the first part of this debate had been determined as follows:

The group forming the Government may speak for up to six hours and thirty-five minutes, including the Budget Speech.

The group forming the Official Opposition may also speak for up to six hours and thirty-five minutes, including the comments made by the representative of the Official Opposition last Tuesday, 30 March 2004, and his address today.

The independent Members as a group may speak for up to twenty minutes, and any time not used by these Members may be redistributed equally amongst both parliamentary groups.

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Finally, individual addresses shall not be limited, and any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be added to that of the other group.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Legault (Rousseau);

At the end of his speech, Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec condemn the Liberal Government for its laissez-faire economic policy which sanctions the abandonment of Québec's regions.

At 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.08 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, as well as an explanatory note on the contents and effects thereof.

(Sessional Paper No. 783-20040401)

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She then tabled the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly examine and approve, within the delay stipulated in the Act, the Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

(Sessional Paper No. 784-20040401)

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, On the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, as well as an explanatory note on the contents and effects thereof.

(Sessional Paper No. 785-20040401)

She then tabled the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly examine and approve, within the delay stipulated in the Act, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, On the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

(Sessional Paper No. 786-20040401)

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The agreement on social security between the Government of Québec and the Government of the French Republic, as well as an explanatory note on the contents and effects thereof.

(Sessional Paper No. 787-20040401)

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She then tabled the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly examine and approve, within the delay stipulated in the Act, the agreement on social security between the Government of Québec and the Government of the French Republic.

(Sessional Paper No. 788-20040401)

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The amendment to the protocol of agreement between the Government of Québec and the Government of the French Republic relating to the social protection of pupils and students and participants in the cooperation held on 19 December 1998, as well as an explanatory note on its content and effects.

(Sessional Paper No. 789-20040401)

She then tabled the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly examine and approve, within the delay stipulated in the Act, the amendment to the protocol of agreement between the Government of Québec and the Government of the French Republic relating to the social protection of pupils and students and participants in the cooperation held on 19 December 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 790-20040401)

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

The annual management report of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 791-20040401)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

The 2004-2005 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2003-2004 financial statement of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 792-20040401)

The 2004-2005 budgetary estimates and the preliminary 2003-2004 financial statement of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 793-20040401)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Finance, which, on 18, 20, 25 November and 2 December 2003 and on 24, 25, 30 and 31 March 2004, held public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 20, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions, and gave clause-by-clause consideration thereto.

The report contains certain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 794-20040401)

Mr. President tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on the National Assembly, which, on 31 March 2004, examined the amendments to the election regulations, pursuant to section 550 of the *Election Act*.

(Sessional Paper No. 795-20040401)

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

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A report from the Committee on Public Administration, which, on 31 March 2004, elected its vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 796-20040401)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting accessibility to day care services for children aged 0 to 12 years, and signed by 202 citizens of the riding of Saint-Hyacinthe.

(Sessional Paper No. 797-20040401)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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 Committee:

- 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.

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Culture and Communications, moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Centre de conservation du Québec.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Cancer Awareness Month and particularly Daffodil Day, which is being celebrated this very day at the Assembly.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Turp (Mercier) moved a motion concerning the appointment of the President of Haiti, Mr. Gérard Latortue; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Vallières, Chief Government Whip, and Mr. Lessard (Frontenac) jointly moved:

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.

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

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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 at the sitting of Tuesday, 6 April 2004.

Mr. Bachand (Arthabaska) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the feat accomplished by Québec hockey player Luc Robitaille, who, on Monday, 22 March 2004, became the most prolific left winger in the history of hockey.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 39, An Act to amend the Forest Act.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 9 April 2004, Mr. Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean) would question Mr. Mulcair, Minister of the Environment, during an interpellation on "the implementation of the National Water Policy".

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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) and Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for having failed to keep its commitment to diversify the revenues of the municipalities and for its responsibility regarding a possible increase in services costs and municipal taxation.

And debate continuing;

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 6.00 o'clock p.m.

At 6.06 o'clock p.m., Mr. Sirros, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 6 April 2004, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President