



Votes and Proceedings
Wednesday, 7 November 2001 - No. 53

Ten o'clock
President : Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

The paper version of the Votes and Proceedings takes precedence over its electronic equivalent. The headings under the table of contents are neither all-inclusive nor restrictive.

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The Assembly was called to order at 10.05 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 Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, —That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeois) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly condemn the Parti Québécois Government for having increased the debt by \$5.3 billion since 1998.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance;

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

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The proceedings resumed at 2.07 o'clock p.m.

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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:

205 An Act respecting Ville de Coaticook — This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-first day of December 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 679-20011107)

Mr. Benoit (Orford) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 205, An Act respecting Ville de Coaticook.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 205 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, of which the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay (Saint-François), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which met on 6 November 2001 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

45 An Act to amend the Tobacco Act — Reported with an amendment.
(Sessional Paper No. 680-20011107)

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Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay (Saint-François) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the establishment of a pig farm in Bromptonville and signed by 223 citizens from the riding of Johnson.
(Sessional Paper No. 681-20011107)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) tabled the following:

Copy of a letter, dated 31 October 2001, that Mr. Cadieux, chairman of the board of directors of the Québec Hospital Association, sent to Mr. Trudel, Minister of Health and Social Services, concerning the fiscal position of the member establishments of the Association.
(Sessional Paper No. 682-20011107)

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Vocational and Technical Training Week, which will be held from 5 to 9 November 2001, and that it mark the outstanding contribution of those who work in this field of training, more specifically in our objective of qualifying our young Quebeckers on the basis of their interests.

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. President gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its hearing with the Deputy Minister of Transport concerning the management of information technologies;
- the Committee on Public Finance shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its hearing of the Commission des valeurs mobilières du Québec;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President rendered his decision on the point of order raised at the sitting of 6 November by Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, concerning the procedure used by the Government for the pronouncement of the Budget Speech on Thursday, 1 November 2001. In his point of order, the Official Opposition House Leader had indicated that the speech by the Minister contained a statement on the 2001-2002 fiscal position and on its impact on public finances as well as on the 2002-2003 budget. According to the Official Opposition House Leader, this statement on the state of the economy for 2001-2002 should have given rise to a supplementary statement and a debate, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 278.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

In a British-style parliamentary system such as ours, the Crown has complete initiative in financial matters. Consequently, it is not for the President to determine whether a part of the content of the 2002-2003 Budget Speech should have given rise to a supplementary statement.

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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 Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, —That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, as well as on the want of confidence motion by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys).

Mr. President convened the House Leaders in order to organize the debate on the Budget Speech and, for this purpose, suspended the proceedings at 3.26 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.40 o'clock p.m.

Mr. President informed the Assembly of the following allocation of speaking time for the thirteen hours and thirty minutes that are provided for the first part of this debate: 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 ten minutes of comments made by the representative of the Official Opposition; the independent Member may speak for up to twenty minutes and any time not used by the latter may be redistributed equally amongst both parliamentary groups; individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited. Finally, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be added to that of the other group.

And debate continuing;

At the end of his speech, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) moved the following want of confidence motion:

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THAT the National Assembly condemn the Parti Québécois Government for having put Québec back on the road to indebtedness.

And debate continuing:

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that he had received two requests for debates upon adjournment to be held on Thursday, 8 November 2001:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) to Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, about the professors' strike at Laval University;
 - the second, on a question by Mr. Mulcair (Chomedey) to Mr. Simard, Chair of the Conseil du trésor, about the call for tenders for the Palais des Congrès de Montréal.
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And debate continuing;

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

THAT the National Assembly condemn the Parti Québécois Government for its inability to guarantee accessibility to health and social services to the population of Québec.

And debate continuing:

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that, by leave of the Assembly, the debate that was to be held at the end of today's sitting between Mr. Marcoux (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, concerning the pressure tactics used by teachers, will be held at a later sitting.

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At 5.57 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 8 November 2001, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President