



Votes and Proceedings
Wednesday, 13 June 2001 - No. 37

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 10.02 o'clock a.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Simard, Minister of State for Administration and the Public Service, tabled the following:

The financial statements of the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 332-20010613)

The report from the Conseil du trésor to the National Assembly on the casual employment in the public service that is excluded from certain provisions of the *Act respecting the public service* in pursuance of the directive from the Conseil concerning these jobs, the motives having justified these measures as well as the opinion of the Commission de la fonction publique regarding this directive, pursuant to section 84 of the *Act respecting the public service*.

(Sessional Paper No. 333-20010613)

Mr. G. Baril, Minister of State for Regions and Minister of Industry and Trade, tabled the following:

A document published by the Ministère des Régions and entitled "Politique de développement du Nord-du-Québec" (Northern Québec development policy).

(Sessional Paper No. 334-20010613)

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Mr. Rochon, Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Commission de la construction du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 335-20010613)

Mr. Ménard, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles for the fiscal years ended 31 March 2000 and 31 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 336-20010613)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The annual report of the Auditor General on the administrative expenses of the Commission de la fonction publique, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 337-20010613)

The annual report of the Commission de la fonction publique, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 338-20010613)

Mr. Bertrand (Charlevoix), president of the Québec section of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, tabled the following:

The report on the activities of the Québec section of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for 2000-2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 339-20010613)

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Presenting Reports from Committees

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

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 8 and 12 June 2001, held public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 27, An Act respecting the Health and Social Services Ombudsman and amending various legislative provisions.

(Sessional Paper No. 340-20010613)

Presenting Petitions

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

The abstract of a petition respecting medical services provided to the population of the RCM of Bonaventure, and signed by 10,860 citizens from the RCM of Bonaventure.

(Sessional Paper No. 341-20010613)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the economic situation and the living conditions in the municipality of Natashquan, and signed by 243 citizens of Natashquan and Baie-Johan-Beetz.

(Sessional Paper No. 342-20010613)

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

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The abstract of a petition respecting their assignment to the new City of Montreal, and signed by 57 petitioners working for the Service de l'environnement, Assainissement de l'air et de l'eau et inspection des aliments of the Montreal Urban Community.

(Sessional Paper No. 343-20010613)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President rendered his decision regarding the receivability of the points of privilege raised, on Tuesday, 12 June 2001, by the Members for Vachon, Champlain, Drummond, Bertrand, Saguenay, Nicolet-Yamaska, Iberville, Dubuc, Marie-Victorin and Vimont. According to these Members, the Official Opposition House Leader, through his behaviour during the sitting of Friday, 8 June 2001, was allegedly in contempt of Parliament by disturbing the proceedings in his attack on the Chair.

Mr. President also rendered his decision on the point of privilege raised today by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, in which he contended that Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, was allegedly in contempt of Parliament. The Government House Leader based his point on the fact that a letter questioning the conduct of the second vice-president of the National Assembly was allegedly sent to the journalists of the Press Gallery, after the statement made by the Chair, on Tuesday, 12 June 2001, on the events that took place at the sitting of Friday, 8 June 2001.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Since all of the questions raised deal with the same subject, the Chair has decided to consider them as if they were one question.

By taking into consideration the state of parliamentary law concerning the questioning of the conduct of a Member representing the Chair and by taking into account the facts submitted, which are sufficiently serious, the point of privilege is considered, at first glance, to be receivable.

Mr. President then asked one of the Members who raised the point of privilege to address the Assembly, pursuant to Standing Order 68.

At 10.50 o'clock a.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings during pleasure.

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The sitting resumed at 11.29 o'clock a.m.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) moved:

THAT the Members of the National Assembly join me in extending our deepest sympathy to the parents and friends of Marie-France Morin, sixteen years old, Carl Benoît, sixteen years old, Steeve Gravel, eighteen years old, Sébastien Poulin, seventeen years old, as well as Patricia Strauss, fifteen years old, who lost their lives in a tragic accident that occurred last 10 June, in Scotstown.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.

The Assembly then observed a minute of silence.

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, moved a motion concerning Convention No. 29 on forced labour of the Organisation internationale du travail; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the speed and competence demonstrated by officers Yannick Dufour, Patrick Leclair, François Lemay, Jean-François Simon and William White and firefighter Paul Durand during their exemplary intervention in an unusual emergency situation in Châteauguay on 24 October 2000, thus showing superior mastery of the techniques required to exercise their profession in order to rescue one of their fellow citizens.

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By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the order to refer Private Bill 200, An Act respecting Associates Mortgage Corporation and Avco Financial Services Québec Limited, for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance be rescinded.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, then moved:

THAT Private Bill 200, An Act respecting Associates Mortgage Corporation and Avco Financial Services Québec Limited, be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

This motion was carried.

Mr. Whissell (Argenteuil) moved a motion concerning the holding of special consultations on Bill 184, An Act to amend the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities and other legislative provisions; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mrs. Carrier-Perreault, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

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- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 33, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 15, An Act to amend the Public Health Protection Act and the Animal Health Protection Act;
- the Committee on Culture, to continue its special consultations on Bill 122, An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information, the Act respecting the protection of personal information in the private sector, the Professional Code and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 163, An Act respecting transportation services by taxi, to hold special consultations on Bill 13, An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles, and to give clause-by-clause consideration thereto;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 159, An Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel, and to hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 241, An Act to amend the Act respecting the fabrique of the parish of Notre-Dame de Montréal;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 200, An Act respecting Associates Mortgage Corporation and Avco Financial Services Québec Limited, and to Private Bill 201, An Act respecting an immovable of the cadastre of the city of Montréal (Saint-Antoine ward).

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of planning the Committee's upcoming activities regarding the examination of financial commitments as well as regarding accountability;

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- the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of disposing of an order of initiative on the Régime pédagogique de l'éducation préscolaire, de l'enseignement primaire et de l'enseignement secondaire and to organize its proceedings;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of discussing the Committee's orders of initiative.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. G. Baril, Minister of Industry and Trade, moved, —That Bill 8, An Act to amend the Act respecting Société Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

At 1.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.17 o'clock p.m.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. G. Baril, Minister of Industry and Trade, —That Bill 8, An Act to amend the Act respecting Société Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches, do now pass in principle;

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 8 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mrs. Carrier-Perreault, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 8 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Education on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 12, An Act to again amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Institutions on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 169, An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions as regards the carrying on of professional activities within a partnership or company, together with the amendments handed in by Mr. Bégin, Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions.

The amendments were declared in order.

After debate thereon, the amendments were carried.

The report, as amended, was concurred in.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 154, An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit Act, the Restauration Merit Act and the Fishermen's Merit Act.

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 8.08 o'clock p.m.

And consideration continuing of the report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 154, An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit Act, the Restauration Merit Act and the Fishermen's Merit Act;

On motion by Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, the debate was adjourned.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, moved,—That Bill 22, An Act to amend the Election Act as regards the work of the Commission de la représentation, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 22 was passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, Bill 22 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee of the Whole.

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Committee of the Whole

On motion by Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, the Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 22.

Bill 22 was considered in Committee of the Whole, amended, and thereupon reported.

The report was concurred in.

Passage

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 22 and 230, Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, moved the passage of Bill 22, An Act to amend the Election Act as regards the work of the Commission de la représentation.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 22 was passed.

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 7, An Act to amend the Act respecting roads.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Social Affairs on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 165, An Act to amend the Act respecting the terms of the directors of certain public health and social service institutions.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in on division.

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Institutions on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly.

The report was concurred in.

The Assembly resumed consideration of the report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 154, An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit Act, the Restauration Merit Act and the Fishermen's Merit Act.

The debate concluded, the report was concurred in.

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 57, An Act to amend the Securities Act.

The report was concurred in.

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 167, An Act to amend certain

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legislative provisions concerning the conclusion and signing of borrowing transactions and financial instruments.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

Passage in Principle

Resuming the debate, which had been adjourned at the sitting of 12 June 2001, on the motion by Mr. Arseneau, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, —That Bill 184, An Act to amend the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities and other legislative provisions, do now pass in principle;

At 11.59 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 14 June 2001, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President