



*Votes and Proceedings*  
*Thursday, 24 May 2001 - No. 26*

*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.*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

The Assembly was called to order at 10.03 o'clock a.m.

---

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Business Having Precedence**

*Want of Confidence Motion*

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec severely blame the Parti Québécois Government, which has more than doubled the tax disparity between Québec and Ontario and which causes Québec taxpayers to remain the most highly-taxed citizens in North America.

Before the debate began, Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this want of confidence motion: twenty minutes shall be allotted for a reply by its mover and twenty minutes shall be set aside for the independent Member; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group or by the independent Member may be redistributed, and individual addresses shall not be limited.

And debate arising on the motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys);

---

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

**24 May 2001**

---

The proceedings resumed at 2.03 o'clock p.m.

---

Moment of reflection

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. Bertrand (Portneuf), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which met on 24 May 2001 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 23 An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly — Reported without amendment.

(Sessional Paper No. 286-20010524)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) tabled the following:

An attendance form model, accompanied by a memorandum, dated 3 May 2001, issued by the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance that is addressed to the permit holders of early childhood centres and daycare services and contains instructions regarding the use of this form.

(Sessional Paper No. 287-20010524)

**24 May 2001**

---

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

Copy of a letter, dated 24 May 2001, she had received from Mrs. Suzanne Paquin, secretary general and vice-chairman of legal services at the Société des alcools du Québec, concerning the rental of a garage for the storage of a promotional motor vehicle as well as the rental of a space in Pointe-aux-Trembles for the storage of construction material.

(Sessional Paper No. 288-20010524)

### **Deferred Divisions**

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred at the sitting of Wednesday, 23 May 2001, on the motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, for the Committee on Labour and the Economy to hold special consultations and public hearings on Bill 31, An Act to amend the Labour Code, to establish the Commission des relations du travail and to amend other legislative provisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 27 in Appendix)

Yeas: **50**    Nays: **35**    Abstentions: **0**

### **Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Bertrand (Portneuf) moved a motion to again place on the *Order Paper and Notices* the report from the Committee on Institutions entitled "The socioeconomic and political effects of the Free Trade Area of the Americas; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Beaulne (Marguerite-D'Youville) moved a motion concerning the inter-lacrosse team of Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

\_\_\_\_\_

**24 May 2001**

---

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of State for Child and Family Welfare and Minister responsible for Seniors, moved a motion concerning Senior Citizens' Week; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

---

Mr. J. Baril, Minister for Transport and Maritime Policy, moved:

THAT on the occasion of the death of Mr. Omer Poiré, bodyguard, who, during his twenty-nine years with the Government of Québec, devotedly served more than fifteen Ministers, the National Assembly express its condolences to his wife, Mrs. Line Vachon, as well as to both his daughters, Geneviève and Catherine.

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. Brassard, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Institutions, to give clause-by-clause consideration to 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;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to continue 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.

---

Mr. President gave the following notice:

**24 May 2001**

---

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain shall hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on the problem of violence in minor league hockey.

### **Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, gave the following directive regarding certain aspects of the operational framework of the Committee of the Whole. This directive aims to support the decision rendered on 30 March 2001, at which time the Committee of the Whole of the whole was sitting for the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates # 2 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2001. In this decision, the Chair had ruled on the place that Members must occupy in Committee of the Whole as well as on the possibility, for Members, to be accompanied by non-Members during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

#### **DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Standing Orders provide very few indications as to the operational framework of the Committee of the Whole. Hence, it is permitted to refer to precedents and established practice in order to determine this framework.

The proceedings in Committee of the Whole consist mainly in exchanges, most often between the Minister and the Official Opposition critic concerned by the subject under discussion. It is without a doubt for the purpose of simplifying and fostering exchanges between these individuals that a physical proximity exists between the key speakers. The Minister generally occupies the place reserved for the Government House Leader, while the Official Opposition critic usually occupies the place of the Official Opposition House Leader. In fact, the operational framework and the nature of the debates that take place in Committee of the Whole are inconsistent with the integral application of the second paragraph of Standing Order 32, under which the Members must occupy the place that the President assigned them.

According to well-established practice, public servants and Ministers' advisors are allowed to be present in Committee of the Whole. This is the same for Opposition Members' advisors, according to more recent practice.

24 May 2001

---

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### **Business Having Precedence**

#### *Want of Confidence Motion*

Resuming the debate on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys);

---

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, interrupted the debate and informed the Assembly that, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 309 and 312, the end of sitting debate that was to be held between Mrs. Loïselle (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne) and Mr. Trudel, Minister of Health and Social Services, was deferred until Tuesday, 29 May 2001, at 6.00 o'clock p.m.

---

And debate continuing on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys);

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

At the request of Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings at the sitting of Friday, 25 May 2001.

---

At 5.46 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, suspend the proceedings.

---

**24 May 2001**

---

The sitting resumed at 5.59 o'clock p.m.

---

### **Debates Upon Adjournment**

The Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Benoit (Orford) to Mr. Boisclair, Minister of the Environment, about the lack of drinking water regulations (Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, replaced the Minister for this debate);
  - the second, on a question by Mr. Brodeur (Shefford) to Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, about photographic speed-measuring devices;
- 

At 6.23 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Friday, 25 May 2001, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU**

*President*

24 May 2001

---

**APPENDIX**

**Recorded Divisions**

On the motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, for the Committee on Labour and the Economy to hold special consultations and public hearings on Bill 31, An Act to amend the Labour Code, to establish the Commission des relations du travail and to amend other legislative provisions:

**(Division No. 27)**

**YEAS - 50**

Arseneau	Boulianne	Goupil	Marois
Baril	Brassard	Harel	Ménard
( <i>Arthabaska</i> )	Caron	Julien	Morin
Beaulne	Carrier-Perreault	Jutras	Papineau
Beumier	Chevrette	Kieffer	Paré
Bédard	Côté	Labbé	Pelletier
Bégin	( <i>La Peltrie</i> )	Lachance	( <i>Abitibi-Est</i> )
Bergeron	Cousineau	Landry	Robert
Bertrand	Désilets	Laprise	Rochon
( <i>Charlevoix</i> )	Deslières	Leduc	Signori
Bertrand	Dion	Legault	Simard
( <i>Portneuf</i> )	Duguay	Léger	( <i>Richelieu</i> )
Blanchet	Gendron	Lelièvre	Trudel
Boisclair	Geoffrion	Maltais	Vermette

**NAYS - 35**

Beauchamp	Dumont	Maciocia	Rocheffort
Bélanger	Fournier	MacMillan	Sirros
Benoit	Gautrin	Marcoux	Tranchemontagne
Bergman	Gobé	Marsan	Whissell
Bordeleau	Jérôme-Forget	Middlemiss	Williams
Brodeur	Kelley	Mulcair	
Chagnon	Lafrenière	Normandeau	
Copeman	Lamquin-Éthier	Ouimet	
Delisle	Laporte	Paradis	
Després	Loiselle	Poulin	

**24 May 2001**

---