



Votes and Proceedings
Thursday, 5 April 2001 - No. 8

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 10.04 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 Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, —That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions by Mr. Williams (Nelligan), Mr. Marsan (Robert-Baldwin), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) and Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière).

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

THAT the National Assembly condemn the Parti Québécois Government for having presented a budget that indicates an obvious lack of transparency in the management of public funds and that causes Québec taxpayers to unfortunately remain the most highly-taxed citizens in North America.

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

At 11.59 o'clock a.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

5 April 2001

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

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

5 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Legault, Minister of State for Education and Youth, tabled the following:

The Strategic Plan, 2001-2003, of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation.
(Sessional Paper No. 136-20010405)

The Strategic Plan, 2000-2003, of the Ministère de l'Éducation.
(Sessional Paper No. 137-20010405)

The Strategic Planning, January 2001 to March 2002, of the Conseil permanent de la jeunesse.
(Sessional Paper No. 138-20010405)

The university investments plan from 1 June 2000 to 30 May 2005: Government order and terms of reference.
(Sessional Paper No. 139-20010405)

5 April 2001

The annual report of the Université du Québec and its academic institutions for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 140-20010405)

The 1999-2000 report of the Comité d'accréditation des associations d'élèves ou d'étudiants.

(Sessional Paper No. 141-20010405)

The annual report of the Comité d'orientation de la formation du personnel enseignant for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 142-20010405)

The annual report of the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 143-20010405)

The financial statements of the Fondation universitaire of the Institution royale pour l'avancement des sciences (Université McGill) for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 144-20010405)

The financial statements of the Fondation universitaire of the École des hautes études commerciales de Montréal for the fiscal year ended 31 May 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 145-20010405)

The financial statements of the Fondation universitaire of the Université du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 146-20010405)

Mrs. Lemieux, Minister of Culture and Communications, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal for the fiscal year ended 31 August 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 147-20010405)

Mr. Facal, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration and Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, tabled the following:

5 April 2001

The Strategic Plan, 2001-2003, of the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 148-20010405)

The Strategic Plan, 2001-2004, of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

(Sessional Paper No. 149-20010405)

The Strategic Plan, 2001-2004, of the Conseil des relations interculturelles.

(Sessional Paper No. 150-20010405)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The Declaration of Services to Citizens of the Commission de la fonction publique.

(Sessional Paper No. 151-20010405)

The following Decision from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 28 March 2001:

- X Decision 1022 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting Members' allowances (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations aux députés).

(Sessional Paper No. 152-20010405)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President rendered the following decision regarding the request to rise on a point of privilege raised by Mr. Brodeur (Shefford) on 27 March 2001. According to the Member, the Minister of Transport allegedly was in contempt of Parliament by issuing, on 23 February 2001, a press release announcing that the Cabinet had adopted, on 21 February 2001, Order-in-Council No. 142-2001. The contempt resides in the fact that, in his press release, the Minister admits that the Order-in-Council follows the introduction of Bill 163, An Act respecting transportation services by taxi, and that he is taking immediate measures in order to facilitate the dissolution of the taxi owners' leagues.

5 April 2001

The questions to be considered are the following: Does the adoption of Order-in-Council No. 142-2001 by the Government constitute, at first glance, a contempt of Parliament? Does the issuing of the press release by the Minister constitute, at first glance, a contempt of Parliament?

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The adoption of Order-in-Council No. 142-2001 by the Government does not constitute, at first glance, a contempt of Parliament. The Order-in-Council was adopted pursuant to a provision that already existed in the *Act respecting transportation services by taxi*. It can thus exist irrespectively of the provisions of Bill 163.

In the same manner, the issuing of the press release by the Minister does not constitute, at first glance, a contempt of Parliament, since the Minister did not go through with any action stemming directly from the application of a provision contained in Bill 163.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 48, the consideration of each of the following Bills, introduced before the First Session of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature was prorogued, be allowed to continue during the Second Session of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature at the stage at which it was interrupted:

General Consultations:

Bill 173, Civil Protection Act.

Special Consultations:

Bill 184, An Act to amend the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities and other legislative provisions.

Passage in Principle:

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;

Bill 165, An Act to amend the Act respecting the terms of the directors of certain public health and social service institutions;

Bill 166, An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act;

Bill 174, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux and other legislative provisions;

Bill 175, An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions;

Bill 180, An Act to amend various legislative provisions as regards the disclosure of confidential information to protect individuals.

Committee Stage:

Bill 136, An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions;

Bill 140, An Act respecting parental insurance;

Bill 149, An Act respecting nature reserves on private land;

Bill 154, An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit Act, the Restauration Merit Act and the Fishermen's Merit Act;

Bill 159, An Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel.

5 April 2001

Bill 160, An Act respecting the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec and amending various legislative provisions;

Bill 161, An Act to establish a legal framework for information technology;

Bill 162, An Act to amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses;

Bill 163, An Act respecting transportation services by taxi;

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;

Bill 177, Geologists Act.

Passage:

Bill 138, An Act to again amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions.

Consultation and Clause-by-clause Consideration in Committee:

Private Bill 230, An Act respecting the Régie intermunicipale d'assainissement des eaux de Sainte-Thérèse et Blainville;

Private Bill 241, An Act to amend the Act respecting the fabrique of the parish of Notre-Dame de Montréal.

This motion was carried, subject to the agreement reached between House leaders as regards the follow-up to be given in relation to Bills 173 and 184.

Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Daffodil Days on 5, 6 and 7 April, as well as World Health Day, held next 7 April.

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

5 April 2001

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 continue its special consultations on the reorganization of Québec police departments: "Vers une nouvelle carte policière" (Towards a new police organization);
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech.

Mr. President gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Institutions shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of examining the documents pertaining to negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed 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, and on the want of confidence motions by Mr. Williams (Nelligan), Mr. Marsan (Robert-Baldwin), Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun), Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) and Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition.

5 April 2001

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

THAT the National Assembly condemn the Parti Québécois Government for its budget policy, which does not provide for an amortization plan with regard to the debt inherited from the Liberal and Parti Québécois Governments of the past thirty years.

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

Thirteen hours and thirty minutes having elapsed since the beginning of the speech delivered by Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, the debate thereon was suspended in the Assembly to be resumed in the Committee on Public Finance, in compliance with the provisions of Standing Order 275.

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Landry, Premier, at the sitting of Monday, 22 March 2001, and on the want of confidence motions by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure), Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Béchar (Kamouraska-Témiscouata).

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure) to Mr. G. Baril, Minister of Regions, about regional development and job creation;
- the second, on a question by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) to Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Child and Family Welfare, about tax credits granted to racehorse breeders;

5 April 2001

- the third, on a question by Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) to Mr. Trudel, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the dignity of our seniors.

At 6.37 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 10 April 2001, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President