NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Votes and Proceedings
Tuesday, 24 October 2000 - No. 128

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 10.04 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Culture, which held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the triennial immigration plan for 2001-2003. This report contains recommendations.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: five minutes shall be set aside for the independent Member; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the period 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 speeches will not otherwise be limited.

And debate arising;

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

Commentaire : Si ajournement du débat, remplacer la ligne suivante par ce qui suit:
∗Sur la motion de [macro pour le nom du député], le débat est ajourné.+

At 12.04 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.05 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Inspector General of Financial Institutions for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1391-20001024)

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Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Conseil médical du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1392-20001024)

The annual report of the Conseil de la santé et du bien-être for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1393-20001024)

The annual report of the Corporation d'hébergement du Québec (CHQ) for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1394-20001024)

The annual report of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1395-20001024)

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Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, tabled the following:

The report on the technical causes of the collapse of concrete beams during the construction of the tiered bridge on Boulevard du Souvenir, over Highway 15 in Laval, Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1396-20001024)

Requests for opinions as well as opinions received from the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse and the Commission d'accès à l'information on the conditions for the implementation and issuance of an electoral card.

(Sessional Paper No. 1397-20001024)

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Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Commission de la protection de la langue française for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1398-20001024)

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Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice and Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions, tabled the annual reports, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000, of the following professional orders:

— Ordre des chimistes du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 1399-20001024)

— Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec
(Sessional Paper No. 1400-20001024)

— Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec
(Sessional Paper No. 1401-20001024)

— Ordre professionnel des physiothérapeutes du Québec
(Sessional Paper No. 1402-20001024)

— Ordre des urbanistes du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 1403-20001024)

The activity report of the Tribunal administratif du Québec for the period from 1 April 1998 to 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 1404-20001024)

Mr. Bégin, Minister of the Environment, tabled the following:

The annual report of Recyc-Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 1405-20001024)

Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Social Solidarity, tabled the following:

Fifty-five commitments of solidarity signed by 1200 partners of Solidarité Jeunesse.
(Sessional Paper No. 1406-20001024)

Mr. Julien, Minister for Industry and Trade, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société du parc industriel et portuaire de Bécancour for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 1407-20001024)

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

Answer to a written question by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) concerning the pension plan of judges of the Court of Québec and of the Laval, Montréal and Québec municipal courts – Question No. 23, *Order Paper and Notices* of 28 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 1408-20001024)

Mr. President tabled three legislative acts adopted by the members of the 1st Legislature of the Seniors' Parliament, held at the National Assembly last 11 to 13 September:

Bill 1, An Act concerning the implementation of a citizenship income.
(Sessional Paper No. 1409-20001024)

Bill 2, An Act respecting the economic recognition of the social commitment of citizens.
(Sessional Paper No. 1410-20001024)

Bill 3, An Act respecting the transfer of knowledge and know-how in the workplace.

(Sessional Paper No. 1411-20001024)

Pursuant to Standing Order 97.1, Mr. President then tabled the following:

Copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) which will be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 25 October 2000, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 1412-20001024)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. President rendered the following decision on the exercise of the right to petition the Assembly:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Despite the fact that, in Québec, the right to petition the Assembly was given force of law in the *Charter of human rights and freedoms*, for want of specific provisions in the Charter on the manner in which this right is to be exercised, the procedural framework of its exercise remains that which is stipulated in the Standing Orders of the Assembly, which, under its constitutional parliamentary privileges, has the exclusive authority to govern its proceedings without outside interference.

Furthermore, the President deems that he was justified in preventing a Member from tabling a petition impugning the conduct of a Member. Title VI of the Standing Orders prohibits the impuging of a Member's conduct without resorting to a specific procedure. It is for this reason that the President cannot accept the tabling of a petition that impugns the conduct of a Member, nor can he allow, under these circumstances, that leave be requested to set aside the Standing Orders.

Moreover, no person may directly petition the Assembly since, according to the current rules of procedure, it is through a Member that a petition may be presented to the National Assembly.

Also, the Assembly is not obliged, within the framework of a debate, to rule on the content of the petitions it has received. The rules of procedure of the Assembly in no way state that the Assembly must hold debates on and put the question to petitions.

Finally, despite the fact that the President deems it preferable that citizens receive replies to their petitions, there is nothing in the Standing Orders at the present time that provides for the possibility of responding to petitions sent to the Assembly.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred during Business Having Precedence at the sitting of 19 October 2000, on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition. This motion reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly of Québec severely blame the Parti Québécois Government, which is proceeding without having the mandate to do so as regards forced municipal fusions.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

(Division No. 99 in Appendix)

Yeas: **43** Nays: **66** Abstentions: **0**

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

— the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 136, An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions.

Motions Without Notice

Pursuant to Standing Order 129, Mr. Fournier, Chief Opposition Whip, moved:

THAT the Member for Robert-Baldwin, Mr. Pierre Marsan, replace the Member for Vaudreuil, Mr. Yvon Marcoux, and that the Member for Limoilou, Mr. Michel Després, replace the Member for Mont-Royal, Mr. André Tranchemontagne, as members of the Standing Committee on Public Administration;

THAT the Member for Bourassa, Mrs. Michèle Lamquin-Éthier, replace the Member for Marquette, Mr. François Ouimet, as member of the Standing Committee on Institutions;

THAT the Member for Châteauguay, Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, replace the Member for Bourassa, Mrs. Michèle Lamquin-Éthier, as member of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs;

THAT the Member for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, Mr. Claude Béchard, replace the Member for Bonaventure, Mrs. Nathalie Normandeau; that the Member for Mont-Royal, Mr. André Tranchemontagne, replace the Member for LaFontaine, Mr. Jean-Claude Gobé; that the Member for Beauce-Nord, Mr. Normand Poulin, replace the Member for Robert-Baldwin, Mr. Pierre Marsan, as members of the Standing Committee on Labour and the Economy;

THAT the Member for Argenteuil, Mr. David Whissell, replace the Member for Beauce-Nord, Mr. Normand Poulin, as member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;

THAT the Member for Marquette, Mr. François Ouimet, replace the Member for Limoilou, Mr. Michel Després, as member of the Standing Committee on Planning and the Public Domain;

THAT the Member for LaFontaine, Mr. Jean-Claude Gobé, replace the Member for Argenteuil, Mr. David Whissell,

as member of the Standing Committee on Transportation and the Environment;

THAT the Member for Vaudreuil, Mr. Yvon Marcoux, replace the Member for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, Mr. Claude Béchard, as member of the Standing Committee on Education.

THAT these modifications be effective immediately.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Williams (Nelligan) moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize and congratulate the members of the first "Provincial committee on the dispensing of health and social services in the English language", namely Eric Maldoff, President, Ron Creary, Vice-president, Archie Deskin, Darlene Johnstone, Marylee Kelley, Sheilagh Murphy, Marisa Tessier and Jim Carter, Secretary. Their leadership commitment and respect of the rights and needs of the English-speaking community have been remarkable over the last seven years.

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. Pinard, Vice-President, gave the following notices:

— the Committee on Public Administration shall examine the financial commitments of the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance contained in the lists for the months of April 1997 to March 2000, and shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of preparing the sitting in which it shall hear the Deputy Minister of Revenue on the management of the Québec Sales Tax and Goods and Services Tax, as well as corporate taxation;

— the Committee on Culture shall examine the annual report of the Commission d'accès à l'information;

— the Committee on Social Affairs shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 25 October 2000, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun). This motion reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly recognize, by statute, the right of existing and future pensioners and that of non-unionized persons to a mechanism allowing them to take part in the decisions concerning the use of the excess of assets of the supplemental pension plans.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Social Affairs on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 102, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, together with the amendments handed in by Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Social Solidarity, and by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun).

The amendments by Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Social Solidarity, were declared receivable.

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, then declared the amendments by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) receivable, after having corrected the form of one of these amendments, pursuant to Standing Order 193.

And debate arising;

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., the debate was adjourned.

Debates Upon Adjournment

In compliance with the order adopted on 18 October 2000, the Assembly held the following debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Williams (Nelligan) to Mr. G. Baril, Minister for Health, Social Services and Youth Protection, about the budget cutbacks in the Centres jeunesse du Québec;

- the second, on a question by Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) to Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, about the student evaluation included in his school reform.

The Assembly then held the following three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Després (Limoilou) to Mrs. Harel, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, about the increase in municipal taxes following the amalgamations;

- the second, on a question by Mr. Cholette (Hull) to Mrs. Harel, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, about what the proposed municpal structures in the reform will cost the citizens;

- the third, on a question by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) to Mrs. Léger, Minister for Child and Family Welfare, about the management costs of the family allowances plan.

At 7.01 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 25 October 2000, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the want of confidence motion by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition:

(Division No. 99)

YEAS - 43

Béchard	Després	Lamoureux	Paradis
Bélanger	Dumont	Laporte	Pelletier
Benoit	Dupuis	Leblanc	*(Chapleau)*
Bergman	Fournier	Loiselle	Poulin
Bordeleau	Gagnon-Tremblay	Maciocia	Sirros
Brodeur	Gautrin	MacMillan	Tranchemontagne
Charest	Gauvin	Marcoux	Vallières
(Sherbrooke)	Gobé	Marsan	Whissell
Chenail	Houda-Pepin	Middlemiss	Williams
Cholette	Jérôme-Forget	Mulcair	
Copeman	Kelley	Normandeau	
Delisle	Lafrenière	Ouimet	

NAYS - 66

Arseneau	Boucher	Facal	Létourneau
Barbeau	Boulerice	Gagnon	Marois
Baril	Boulianne	Gendron	Ménard
(Arthabaska)	Brassard	Geoffrion	Morin
Baril	Caron	Goupil	Papineau
(Berthier)	Charest	Harel	Paquin
Beaudoin	*(Rimouski)*	Jolivet	Paré
Beaulne	Chevrette	Julien	Payne
Beaumier	Cliche	Jutras	Pelletier
Bédard	Côté	Kieffer	*(Abitibi-Est)*
Bégin	*(Dubuc)*	Labbé	Rioux
Bergeron	Côté	Lachance	Robert
Bertrand	*(La Peltrie)*	Landry	Rochon
(Portneuf)	Cousineau	Laprise	Signori
Bertrand	Désilets	Legault	Simard
(Charlevoix)	Dion	Léger	*(Richelieu)*
Blanchet	Dionne-Marsolais	Lelièvre	St-André
Boisclair	Doyer	Lemieux	Vermette
Bouchard	Duguay	Léonard	