NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Votes and Proceedings
Tuesday, 21 March 2000 - No. 85

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 10.01 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 Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, –That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Laporte (Outremont), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) and Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière).

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

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for having once more passed a bill on to the new generation of taxpayers by not providing for a debt repayment plan in its 2000-2001 budget.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Laporte (Outremont), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) and Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup);

At 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.04 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

100 An Act to amend the Act respecting university foundations.

The motion was carried.

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

105 An Act to regulate the forest management activities of holders of timber supply and forest management agreements for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, transmitted the following Message from the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, which Mr. President communicated to the Assembly:

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec transmits to the Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the Supplementary Estimates # 1 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2000, and recommends the said Estimates to the consideration of this Assembly.

Québec City, 17 March 2000 Lise Thibault

Mr. Landry laid upon the Table the Supplementary Estimates # 1 for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 986-20000321)

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the Supplementary Estimates # 1 for 1999-2000 were referred to a Committee of the Whole.

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

The agreement between the Innu Council, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Québec, concerning the establishment and maintenance of a police force in the Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam reserves.

(Sessional Paper No. 987-20000321)

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The answer by the Government of Québec to the Committee on the remuneration of the judges of the Court of Québec and the municipal courts concerning the pension plan of the judges of the Court of Québec and the municipal courts in Laval, Montréal and Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 988-20000321)

The annual reports of the Ordre professionnel des conseillers en relations industrielles du Québec (CRI):

- for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1997;

(Sessional Paper No. 989-20000321)

- for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998;

(Sessional Paper No. 990-20000321)

- for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999;

(Sessional Paper No. 991-20000321)

The annual report of the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 992-20000321)

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

Copy of the notice of motion by Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 22 March 2000, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 993-20000321)

He then tabled the following:

The report of the National Assembly delegation at the annual meeting of the Council of State Governments (CSG), held in Québec City, from 3 to 7 December 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 994-20000321)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received a letter from Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Premier, dated 21 March 2000, requesting that he take the necessary measures for the National Assembly to meet as a matter of urgency beginning at 8.30 o=clock p.m. today, Tuesday, 21 March 2000, in order to propose, discuss and carry a motion, pursuant to section 246.44 of the *Courts of Justice Act*, on the report of the Committee on the remuneration of the judges of the Court of Québec and the municipal courts, a judicial education report respecting the judges of the Court of Québec and the municipal courts of Laval, Montréal and Québec (Pension plan and social benefits related to this plan and to the group insurance plans) and which was tabled in the National Assembly on 28 October 1999 (Sessional Paper No. 639-19991028), in order to concur in certain of its recommendations and to amend others.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Perreault, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

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. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

— the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 99, An Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Québec people and of the Québec State;

— the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the report on the assessment of the prescription drug insurance plan;

— the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the green paper entitled "La sécurité routière au Québec: un défi collectif".

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

— the Committee on Culture shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of preparing its final report within the framework of the order of surveillance of agencies respecting the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles du Québec (SODEC);

— the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing the sitting during which the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services shall be heard.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that, if no other Members wish to speak and the debate on the budget speech delivered by the Minister of Finance is suspended in the Assembly, on Wednesday, 22 March 2000, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure). This motion reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly demand that the Parti Québécois Government cease to take advantage of Québec consumers by maintaining the highest gasoline taxes in Canada and North America.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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The Assembly continued the debate on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, –That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Laporte (Outremont), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) and Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup).

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

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

– the first, on a question by Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) to Mrs. Marois, Minister of Health and Social Services, about an investigation on the living conditions of residents at the Maison Chez Lise;

– the second, on a question by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) to Mrs. Léger, Minister for Child and Family Welfare, about the Government's plan to help itself to the increases in family allowances granted by the Federal Government;

– the third, on a question by Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) to Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, about the Québec education reform mess.

At 6.42 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until 8.30 o'clock p.m., in order that, at the request of the Premier, an extraordinary sitting may be held.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Friday, 17 March 2000, at 4.10 o'clock p.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Bédard, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly, the Honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bill:

101 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2000-2001.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President