NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Votes and Proceedings
Thursday, 16 March 2000 - No. 84

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 10.06 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, –That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) moved the following want of confidence motion:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its 2000-2001 budget, which maintains the tax burden of Québec taxpayers at a level that condemns them to remain the most heavily taxed citizens in North America.

Mr. President interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that, following a meeting with the House leaders, the allocation of speaking time for the thirteen hours and thirty minutes that are provided for the first part of this debate was established as follows:

The group forming the Government may speak for up to six hours and thirty-five minutes, including the Budget Speech.

The group forming the Official Opposition may also speak for up to six hours and thirty-five minutes, including the speech previously delivered by the Finance critic of the Offical Opposition and the comments she made last Tuesday immediately after the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance.

The independent Member may speak for up to twenty minutes, and any time not used shall be redistributed equally amongst the two parliamentary groups.

Members of the Government and of the Official Opposition may each speak for up to twenty minutes, provided that the Prime Minister or his representative and the Leader of the Official Opposition or his representative may each speak for up to sixty minutes.

Finally, any time not used by a parliamentary group may be redistributed to the other group.

And debate continuing on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, and on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys);

At 11.55 o'clock a.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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

Moment of reflection

Mr. Bouchard, Premier, and Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, took the floor to express their sympathy to the families stricken by the tragic road accident that happened this morning in St-Jean-Baptiste-de-Nicolet.

Mr. President then invited the Members of the Assembly to observe a minute of silence.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

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

103 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de récupération et de recyclage.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Social Solidarity, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

102 An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, tabled the following annual reports, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999, of the following professional corporations:

- Ordre des chiropraticiens du Québec (OCQ) (Sessional Paper No. 965-20000316)

- Ordre des administrateurs agréés du Québec (ADMA) (Sessional Paper No. 966-20000316)

- Ordre des évaluateurs agréés du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 967-20000316)

- Ordre des technologues professionnels du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 968-20000316)

- Collège des médecins (Sessional Paper No. 969-20000316)

- Barreau du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 970-20000316)

- Ordre professionnel des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec (OPCCOQ) (Sessional Paper No. 971-20000316)

- Ordre des techniciennes et techniciens dentaires du Québec (OTDQ) (Sessional Paper No. 972-20000316)

- Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec (OOAQ) (Sessional Paper No. 973-20000316)

- Ordre des agronomes du Québec (OAQ) (Sessional Paper No. 974-20000316)

- Ordre des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 975-20000316)

- Ordre des opticiens d'ordonnance du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 976-20000316)

- Ordre des architectes du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 977-20000316)

- Ordre des urbanistes du Québec (Sessional Paper No. 978-20000316)

- Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec (OEQ) (Sessional Paper No. 979-20000316)

- Ordre des acupuncteurs du Québec (AC) (Sessional Paper No. 980-20000316)

The annual report of the Commission des services juridiques, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.
(Sessional Paper No. 981-20000316)

The annual report of the Secrétariat à la Condition féminine, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.
(Sessional Paper No. 982-20000316)

The annual report of the Fonds d'aide aux recours collectifs, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.
(Sessional Paper No. 983-20000316)

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

The annual report of the James Bay Environmental Advisory Committee for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.
(Sessional Paper No. 984-20000316)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 62 and 63, Mr. Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the place of religion in school, and signed by 1192 citizens from the riding of Brome-Missisquoi.

(Sessional Paper No. 985-20000316)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred during Motions Without Notice at the sitting of 15 March 2000, on the motion moved by Mrs. Beauchamp (Sauvé). This motion reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly ask the CRTC to proceed, as soon as possible, to the revision and general examination of the Broadcasting Distribution Regulations, as stipulated in Whereas clause 124 of the public notice attached to the said Regulations adopted in 1998, and that the Commission in turn ask Vidéotron to postpone its corporate plan regarding its agreements with independent community televisions until it has examined its Regulations.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 64 in Appendix)

Yeas: **95** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved:

> THAT the National Assembly mark St. Patrick=s Day and reiterate its gratitude for the outstanding contribution of the Irish community to the development of Québec.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Facal, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, moved:

> THAT the National Assembly mark the holding, in Québec, of the Forum des partenaires de la francophonie, and welcome the participants, particularly the members of French-speaking and Acadian communities from outside of Québec.

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

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

— 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 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.

———————

Mr. President gave the following notices:

— the Committee on Culture shall hold public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the report on the implementation of the *Act respecting the Conseil des aînés*;

— the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall hold public hearings within the framework of the examination of the enforcement of the *Act to amend the Act to preserve agricultural land*.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 24 March 2000, Mr. Gauvin (Montmagny-L'Islet) would question Mr. Jolivet, Minister of Regions, during an interpellation on "governmental coordination regarding regional policy".

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

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).

At the end of his speech, Mr. Laporte (Outremont) moved the following want of confidence motion:

> THAT the National Assembly express its disapproval regarding the careless performance displayed in the budget of our national State as regards the social evil that poverty represents.

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) and Mr. Laporte (Outremont);

At the end of his speech, Mr. Gautrin (Verdun) moved the following want of confidence motion:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for the lack of coherence in the announcements contained in the budget regarding innovation policy.

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) and Mr. Gautrin (Verdun);

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) moved the following want of confidence motion:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its lack of vision as regards electronic commerce policy.

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) and Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière);

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the debate continued beyond 6.00 o=clock p.m.

At 6.04 o=clock p.m., the debate on these motions was adjourned.

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

– the first, requested at the sitting of 15 March, on a question by Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure) to Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, about a decrease in the gasoline tax;

– the second, on a question by Mr. Marcoux (Vaudreuil) to Mrs. Marois, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the coercive measures encouraged by the Minister as regards hospitals and other health establishments in the health network;

– the third, on a question by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) to Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, about the recreational political travel agency established by the Minister.

At 6.44 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 21 March 2000, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mrs. Beauchamp (Sauvé) during Motions Without Notice at the sitting of 15 March 2000:

(Division No. 64)

YEAS - 95

Arseneau	Chagnon	Geoffrion	Marsan
Barbeau	Charest	Goupil	Ménard
Baril	*(Sherbrooke)*	Harel	Morin
(Arthabaska)	Charest	Houda-Pepin	Mulcair
Baril	*(Rimouski)*	Jérôme-Forget	Normandeau
(Berthier)	Chenail	Jolivet	Ouimet
Beaudoin	Chevrette	Julien	Papineau
Béchard	Cholette	Jutras	Paquin
Bédard	Côté	Kelley	Paradis
Bégin	*(Dubuc)*	Kieffer	Paré
Bélanger	Côté	Labbé	Payne
Benoit	*(La Peltrie)*	Lachance	Poulin
Bergeron	Cousineau	Lamoureux	Rioux
Bertrand	Delisle	Laporte	Robert
(Charlevoix)	Désilets	Laprise	Rochon
Blanchet	Deslières	Leblanc	Signori
Boisclair	Després	Legault	Simard
Bordeleau	Dion	Léger	*(Montmorency)*
Bouchard	Duguay	Lelièvre	Simard
Boucher	Dumont	Lemieux	*(Richelieu)*
Boulerice	Dupuis	Léonard	Sirros
Boulianne	Facal	Létourneau	St-André
Brassard	Fournier	Loiselle	Tranchemontagne
Brodeur	Gagnon	Maltais	Trudel
Caron	Gautrin	Marcoux	Vallières
Carrier-Perreault	Gendron	Marois	Williams