



Votes and Proceedings
Wednesday, 8 December 1999 - No. 75

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 10.11 o'clock a.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. President rendered the following decision on his analysis of the constitutional principle of the Crown's financial initiative with respect to Bill 390, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu with regard to the recovery of an amount under a fiscal law, which was introduced yesterday by Mrs. Leblanc (Beauce-Sud).

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The Member for Beauce-Sud was granted leave to introduce Bill 390 since this is not a bill which, in pursuance of the constitutional principle of the Crown's financial initiative, may be introduced only by a Minister on the grounds that it has a financial impact.

Pursuant to section 30 of the *Act respecting the National Assembly*, a bill has a financial impact when its object is to commit public funds, create a charge on the taxpayers, remit a debt owing to the Province or alienate property owned by the Province. Therefore, notwithstanding that Bill 390 may eventually have an indirect financial impact on the Province's revenues, it does not commit public funds. Moreover, the bill's object is not to remit a debt owing to the Province, as it does not aim to relieve a debtor of his debt to the Province. Finally, the bill does not aim to create a charge to the taxpayers, nor to alienate property owned by the Province.

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

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62 An Act to delimit the high water mark of the St. Lawrence River in the territory of Municipalité régionale de comté de La Côte-de-Beaupré.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

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

The maps (in French and English) indicating the location of the high water mark of the St. Lawrence River in the territory of Municipalité régionale de comté de La Côte-de-Beaupré referred to in section 1 of Bill 62.

(Sessional Paper No. 787-19991208)

Mrs. Léger, Minister for Child and Family Welfare, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 788-19991208)

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

Answer to a written question by Mr. Gauthier (Verdun) concerning an agreement between Québec and the Arab Republic of Egypt – Question No. 17, *Order Paper and Notices* of 9 November 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 789-19991208)

Mr. Bertrand (Charlevoix) tabled the following:

The mission report on the XIth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was held in La Valette, Malta, from 28 May to 2 June 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 790-19991208)

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Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Simard (Richelieu), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Finance, which met on 7 December 1999 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

85 An Act to amend the Savings and Credit Unions Act — Reported without amendment.

(Sessional Paper No. 791-19991208)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 62 to 64, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting pay equity and signed by 3513 teachers from various regions of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 792-19991208)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received a notice from Mr. Cholette (Hull) indicating his intention to rise on a matter of privilege involving Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, with regard to the approval of a loan by-law of the municipality of Mont-Tremblant.

Mr. President took the matter under advisement.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Loiselle (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne) tabled copies of two letters sent to Dr. Jean Cusson, chairman of the Conseil consultatif de pharmacologie, concerning the addition of "Evista", a new product for the prevention of osteoporosis, to the regular list of the prescription drug insurance plan:

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The first, dated 30 November 1999, sent by Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis), caucus chairman of the Liberal Members.

(Sessional Paper No. 793-19991208)

The second, dated 29 November 1999, sent by Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest), caucus chairman of the Government.

(Sessional Paper No. 794-19991208)

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Payne (Vachon) moved:

THAT the National Assembly...

CONDEMN the continual violations of human rights in Burma, committed against the country's numerous ethnic minorities by the military junta in power, violations which include mass arrests, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions, torture, forced labour, forced deportations of populations, and the denial of fundamental freedoms of expression and association;

URGE the Burmese military regime to free all prisoners immediately and unconditionally, to revoke all repressive Acts, to cease all violations of human rights, especially those of which the members of the National League for Democracy are victims, and to immediately begin constructive political discussions with the Committee Representing the People's Parliament before any further acts of violence occur in Burma;

URGE the Government of Canada to acknowledge that the Committee Representing the People's Parliament, which stems from the Parliament democratically elected by the people on 27 May 1990, legitimately represents the Burmese people, that it take any necessary measures to ensure the implementation of coordinated international action for the respect of human rights in Burma, and that it call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to continue discussions with the heads of the Burmese military junta and the country's other major political figures in order to move towards the democratization of Burma.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Boucher (Johnson) moved a motion concerning the contribution of certain Members of Parliament to the success of the conference of the Council of State Governments; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) moved a motion concerning an extended public hearing on the management and administration of Emploi-Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to hold public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 90, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislation as regards the management of residual materials;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 67, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards as regards differences in treatment;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 83, An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 82, Public Administration Act;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 81, An Act respecting the amalgamation of Municipalité de Mont-Tremblant, Ville de Saint-Jovite, Municipalité de Lac-Tremblant-Nord and Paroisse de Saint-Jovite;

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And, on Wednesday, 15 December 1999:

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 220, An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Joachim, and to Private Bill 221, An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval.

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Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of discussing its order of initiative on the millennium scholarship endowment fund.

Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, raised the matter of the receivability of the notice to convene the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 81, since a question of privilege in relation to the said bill had been raised and taken under advisement by the President.

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, stated that the Chair would render its decision on this matter and on the question of privilege before 6.00 o'clock p.m. today, therefore before 9.00 o'clock p.m., which is the time at which the Committee is scheduled to convene.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Institutions on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 80, An Act to amend the Act respecting the class action.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Culture on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 88, An Act to amend the Act respecting immigration to Québec.

The report was concurred in.

Private Bills

Passage in Principle

Mrs. Barbeau (Vanier) moved the passage in principle of Private Bill 210, An Act to amend the charter of the city of Québec.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Private Bill 210 was accordingly passed in principle.

Passage

Mrs. Barbeau (Vanier) moved the passage of Private Bill 210, An Act to amend the charter of the city of Québec.

The motion was carried, and Private Bill 210 was accordingly passed.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Beaumier (Champlain) moved the passage in principle of Private Bill 206, An Act to again amend the charter of Les Filles de Jésus (Trois-Rivières).

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Private Bill 206 was accordingly passed in principle.

Passage

Mr. Beaumier (Champlain) moved the passage of Private Bill 206, An Act to again amend the charter of Les Filles de Jésus (Trois-Rivières).

The motion was carried, and Private Bill 206 was accordingly passed.

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At 12.30 o'clock p.m., by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.07 o'clock p.m.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, made a correction to the notice he gave this morning and thus convened the following Committee:

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 90, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislation as regards the management of residual materials, upon conclusion of its special consultations on the said Bill.

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 76, An Act to amend the Act respecting the energy efficiency of electrical or hydrocarbon-fuelled appliances.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 78, An Act to again amend the James Bay Region Development Act.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 58, An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, moved, —That Bill 89, An Act to amend the Transport Act as regards bulk trucking, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

Mr. President interrupted the debate and gave the following ruling on the question of privilege raised by Mr. Cholette (Hull) concerning the approval of a loan by-law by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The facts adduced by the Member do not constitute a prima facie contempt of Parliament, since they have no effect on the process by which Bill 81 will be considered by the National Assembly. The Minister's approval of by-law 99-11 of the Municipalité de Mont-Tremblant in no way hinders the work of the Members. In approving this by-law, the Minister did not avail herself of legislative provisions that have yet to be passed by the Assembly.

Furthermore, the fact that the Chair took under advisement a matter of privilege concerning Bill 81 does not prevent the Government House leader from convening the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain for the consideration of this Bill. Even if the Chair had, at first sight, come to the conclusion that the Minister was in contempt of Parliament, such a conclusion would in no way prevent the legislative process with respect to Bill 81 from pursuing its course.

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On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the debate on the motion by Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, was adjourned.

At 6.18 o'clock p.m., on motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned until Thursday, 9 December 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President