

Date: Thursday, 6 May 1999 – No. 27

Heure: Ten o'clock

Président: Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

The Assembly was called to order at 10.04 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mrs. Marois, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved, —That Bill 27, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards access to users= records, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division and Bill 27 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Bill 27 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Social Affairs.

Government Motions

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, informed the Assembly that Her Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommended to its consideration the following motion and then moved:

THAT the National Assembly:

- CONCUR in the position and justifications given by the Government and stipulated in the document tabled on 5 May 1999 by the Minister of Justice; and

- 1) Concerning the Court of Québec judges and the Laval, Montréal and Québec municipal court judges:
 - APPROVE Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 of the Report from the Comité de la rémunération des juges which was tabled in the National Assembly on 21 October 1998 and whose sessional paper number is 1880-981021;
 - AMEND Recommendation 1 of the Comité so as to set the annual salary at \$118,032 as from 1 July 1998, at \$120,393 as from 1 July 1999, and at \$122,801 as from 1 July 2000;
 - APPROVE Recommendation 4 of the Comité on the basis of the annual salaries provided for in this motion;
 - APPROVE Recommendation 9 of the Comité by increasing from \$800 to \$1000 the amount of the allowance as of 1 July 1998;
- 2) Concerning the municipal court judges who come under the *Act respecting municipal courts*:
 - APPROVE Recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Report from the said Comité, which was tabled in the National Assembly on 21 October 1998 and whose sessional paper number is 1880-981021;
 - AMEND Recommendation 1 of the Comité with regard to remuneration per sitting and per day in order that, beginning on 1 January 1999, their remuneration be set as follows:
 - \$260 per sitting of less than 2 hours;
 - \$520 per sitting of no less than 2 hours and of no more than 5 hours;
 - \$1040 per sitting extending beyond 5 hours;
 - \$1040 as a daily maximum remuneration;
 - REJECT Recommendation 2 of the Comité with regard to the maximum annual remuneration so as to maintain the current rule stipulated in paragraph (3), section 1, of Order-in-Council No. 747-89 of 17 May 1989.

And debate arising on the motion by Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice;

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the debate was adjourned.

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At 11.32 o'clock a.m., by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

32 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning de facto spouses.

The motion was carried.

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

42 An Act concerning the construction of infrastructures and equipment by Hydro-Québec on account of the ice storm of 5 to 9 January 1998.

The question was put on this motion; a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

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(Division No. 19 in Appendix)

Yeas: **60** Nays: **32** Abstentions: **0**

Presenting Papers

Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, tabled the following:

The plans (French and English versions) indicating the layout of the infrastructures and equipment referred to in Part I of the Schedule of Bill 42, An Act concerning the construction of infrastructures and equipment by Hydro-Québec on account of the ice storm of 5 to 9 January 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 284-19990506)

Mr. Léonard, Minister of State for Administration and the Public Service, Chairman of the Conseil du Trésor, tabled the following:

The agreement concerning the exchange of personal information between the Conseil du trésor and the Régie des rentes du Québec, as well as the favorable opinion from the Commission d'accès à l'information.

(Sessional Paper No. 285-19990506)

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

A letter he sent today to Mr. Pierre S. Pettigrew, Federal Minister of Human Resources Development, regarding the Millennium Scholarship Endowment Fund.

(Sessional Paper No. 286-19990506)

Presenting Petitions

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 62 and 63, Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition signed by 14,850 citizens from the Regional County Municipality of Abitibi-Ouest respecting the recruiting and retaining of an adequate number of physicians to ensure that the complete medical services required by the population of this region are available.

(Sessional Paper No. 287-19990506)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred during Government Motions at the sitting of 5 May 1999, on the motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader. This motion reads as follows:

THAT the Committee on Labour and the Economy hold special consultations and public hearings on the securement of Hydro-Québec's transmission and distribution network in the regions affected by the January 1998 ice storm, beginning on 18 May 1999, and, for this purpose, hear the following groups:

- Chambre de commerce de Québec;
- Coalition des citoyens et citoyennes du Val St-François;
- Coalition patronale syndicale en faveur de la reprise rapide des travaux de renforcement électrique du Québec;
- Commission scientifique et technique chargée d'analyser les événements relatifs à la tempête de verglas survenue du 5 au 9 janvier 1998;
- Communauté urbaine de Montréal (CUM);
- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ);
- Hydro-Québec;

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- Laurentides Regional County Municipality;
- Vallée de Gatineau, Pontiac, Papineau and Collines de l'Outaouais regional county municipalities, and Communauté urbaine de l'Outaouais;
- Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec;
- Table des préfets de la Montérégie;
- Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA).

THAT a period of thirty minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

THAT a period of thirty minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

THAT the Minister of Natural Resources shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 20 in Appendix)

Yeas: **60** Nays: **32** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Williams (Nelligan) moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly mark the multiple sclerosis Carnation Day Campaign, held from 6 to 8 May, that it congratulate the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada for its initiative in holding this important fund-raising activity and specifically thank the hundreds of volunteers involved in this cause.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa) moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly mark Cystic Fibrosis Month, which is held in May.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 29th edition of the Marche 2/3, which will be held on 8 May in Montréal, that it congratulate the organizers of the Club 2/3 as well as the young Quebecers who participate in this march for the benefit of less fortunate societies, and that it reaffirm its solidarity and commitment to these societies who depend on the values conveyed by Québec society in order to continue building a more just and more equitable global society.

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 Committee:

- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 25, An Act to amend various legislative provisions relating to building and the construction industry.
- _____

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

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- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings regarding the special consultations on the securement of Hydro-Québec's transmission and distribution network in the regions affected by the January 1998 ice storm;
- X the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of preparing the accountability sittings.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 14 May 1999, Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) would question Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, during an interpellation on "municipal taxation".

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Motions

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion by Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, which reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly:

- CONCUR in the position and justifications given by the Government and stipulated in the document tabled on 5 May 1999 by the Minister of Justice; and
- 1) Concerning the Court of Québec judges and the Laval, Montréal and Québec municipal court judges:
- APPROVE Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 of the Report from the Comité de la rémunération des juges which was tabled in the National Assembly on 21 October 1998 and whose sessional paper number is 1880-981021;

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- AMEND Recommendation 1 of the Comité so as to set the annual salary at \$118,032 as from 1 July 1998, at \$120,393 as from 1 July 1999, and at \$122,801 as from 1 July 2000;
 - APPROVE Recommendation 4 of the Comité on the basis of the annual salaries provided for in this motion;
 - APPROVE Recommendation 9 of the Comité by increasing from \$800 to \$1000 the amount of the allowance as of 1 July 1998;
- 2) Concerning the municipal court judges who come under the *Act respecting municipal courts*:
- APPROVE Recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Report from the aid Comité, which was tabled in the National Assembly on 21 October 1998 and whose sessional paper number is 1880-981021;
 - AMEND Recommendation 1 of the Comité with regard to remuneration per sitting and per day in order that, beginning on 1 January 1999, their remuneration be set as follows:
 - \$260 per sitting of less than 2 hours;
 - \$520 per sitting of no less than 2 hours and of no more than 5 hours;
 - \$1040 per sitting extending beyond 5 hours;
 - \$1040 as a daily maximum remuneration;
 - REJECT Recommendation 2 of the Comité with regard to the maximum annual remuneration so as to maintain the current rule stipulated in paragraph (3), section 1, of Order-in-Council No. 747-89 of 17 May 1989.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this motion; a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

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Mrs. Maltais, Minister of Culture and Communications, moved, —That Bill 6, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal and the Act respecting the Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division and Bill 6 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 6 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Culture.

Debates Upon Adjournment

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the Assembly immediately held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first on a question raised on Wednesday, 5 May 1999, by Mr. Gobé (LaFontaine) to Mrs. Lemieux, Minister of State for Labour and Employment, on behalf of Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, about the Bell telephone operators;
- the second on a question raised on Wednesday, 5 May 1999, by Mrs. Leblanc (Beauce-Sud) to Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Social Solidarity, on behalf of Mr. Landry, Minister of Revenue, about the Ministère's procedure regarding the faxing of information.
- the third on a question by Mr. Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) to Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, on behalf of Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, about the presence of the Attorney General of Québec at the Landry committee, which is to hold an inquiry on certain practices at the Ministère du Revenu.

At 5.31 o'clock p.m., on motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned until Tuesday, 11 May 1999, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion by Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, for the introduction of Bill 42, An Act concerning the construction of infrastructures and equipment by Hydro-Québec on account of the ice storm of 5 to 9 January 1998:

(Division No. 19)

YEAS - 60

Arseneau	Boulerice	Duguay	Paquin
Barbeau	Boulianne	Gendron	Paré
Baril	Brassard	Geoffrion	Payne
(<i>Arthabaska</i>)	Caron	Goupil	Perreault
Baril	Carrier-Perreault	Julien	Rioux
(<i>Berthier</i>)	Charest	Kieffer	Robert
Beaudoin	(<i>Rimouski</i>)	Labbé	Rochon
Beaumier	Chevrette	Lachance	Signori
Bédard	Cliche	Laprise	Simard
Bégin	Côté	Legault	(<i>Montmorency</i>)
Bergeron	(<i>Dubuc</i>)	Léger	Simard
Bertrand	Côté	Lelièvre	(<i>Richelieu</i>)
(<i>Charlevoix</i>)	(<i>La Peltrie</i>)	Lemieux	St-André
Bertrand	Cousineau	Léonard	Trudel
(<i>Portneuf</i>)	Désilets	Létourneau	Vermette
Blanchet	Deslières	Maltais	
Boisclair	Dionne-Marsolais	Marois	
Bouchard	Doyer	Papineau	

NAYS - 32

Beauchamp	Charest	Delisle	Gobé
Béchar	(<i>Sherbrooke</i>)	Després	Houda-Pepin
Bélanger	Cholette	Dupuis	Jérôme-Forget
Bergman	Copeman	Fournier	Kelley
Brodeur	Cusano	Gagnon-Tremblay	Lamoureux

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Lamquin-Éthier	Marsan	Pelletier	Whissell
Laporte	Mulcair	(<i>Chapleau</i>)	Williams
Leblanc	Normandeau	Tranchemontagne	
Marcoux	Paradis	Vallières	

ABSTENTIONS - 0

On the motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, for the Committee on Labour and the Economy to hold special consultations:

(Division No. 20)

YEAS - 60

Arseneau	Boulerice	Duguay	Paquin
Barbeau	Boulianne	Geoffrion	Paré
Baril	Brassard	Goupil	Payne
(<i>Arthabaska</i>)	Caron	Julien	Perreault
Baril	Carrier-Perreault	Jutras	Rioux
(<i>Berthier</i>)	Charest	Kieffer	Robert
Beaudoin	(<i>Rimouski</i>)	Labbé	Rochon
Beaumier	Chevrette	Lachance	Signori
Bédard	Cliche	Laprise	Simard
Bégin	Côté	Legault	(<i>Montmorency</i>)
Bergeron	(<i>Dubuc</i>)	Léger	Simard
Bertrand	Côté	Lelièvre	(<i>Richelieu</i>)
(<i>Charlevoix</i>)	(<i>La Peltrie</i>)	Lemieux	St-André
Bertrand	Cousineau	Léonard	Trudel
(<i>Portneuf</i>)	Désilets	Létourneau	Vermette
Blanchet	Deslières	Maltais	
Boisclair	Dionne-Marsolais	Marois	
Bouchard	Doyer	Papineau	

NAYS - 32

Beauchamp	Bélanger	Charest	Cusano
Béchar	Brodeur	(<i>Sherbrooke</i>)	
		Cholette	

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Delisle	Jérôme-Forget	Marsan	Poulin
Després	Kelley	Mulcair	Tranchemontagne
Dupuis	Lamoureux	Normandeau	Vallières
Fournier	Lamquin-Éthier	Ouimet	Whissell
Gagnon-Tremblay	Laporte	Paradis	Williams
Gobé	Leblanc	Pelletier	
Houda-Pepin	Marcoux	(Chapleau)	

ABSTENTIONS - 0