Date: Wednesday, 31 March 1999 – No. 14
Heure: Ten o=clock
Président: Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

The Assembly was called to order at 10.02 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been suspended on Tuesday, 23 March 1999, 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 motions moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Williams (Nelligan).

The debate on the Budget Speech expired.

This debate being concluded, recorded divisions were demanded on the want of confidence motions and on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance.

At the request of Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, the divisions were deferred until Routine Proceedings on the present sitting day.

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly resumed the debate, suspended on Wednesday, 24 March 1999, on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr.

Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) and Mr. Williams (Nelligan).

At 11.57 o'clock a.m., Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 2.00 o'clock p.m.
The proceedings resumed at 2.01 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Ministers

Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, made a statement about the role played by religion in school (Proulx report).

Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Introduction of Bills

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

15 An Act to amend the Watercourses Act.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, tabled the following:

The report from the working group on the role played by religion in schools (Proulx report), entitled "Laïcité et religions - Perspective nouvelle pour l=école québécoise" (Secularism and religions - New perspective for Québec schools).

(Sessional Paper No. 203-19990331)

_____

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

The annual report of Hydro-Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 204-19990331)

_____

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

A briefing note from the Tribunal administratif du Québec, dated 31 March 1999, concerning its membership and requirements.

(Sessional Paper No. 205-19990331)

_____

Mr. President tabled the following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 25 March 1999:

Decision 901 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting casual employment or positions and their titulars at the National Assembly (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les emplois ou fonctions d=un caractère occasionnel et leurs titulaires à l=Assemblée nationale).

(Sessional Paper No. 206-19990331)

Decision 902 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the sharing and transfer of the sums accumulated under the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur le partage et la cession des droits accumulés au titre du régime de retraite des membres de l'Assemblée nationale);

(Sessional Paper No. 207-19990331)

Decision 903 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting Members'

allowances (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations aux députés);

(Sessional Paper No. 208-19990331)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Benoit (Orford) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the corrective action to be taken in order to make Highway 143 safer and signed by 750 citizens of the municipalities of Stanstead-East, Hatley, Canton de Hatley and Compton Station.

(Sessional Paper No. 209-19990331)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Brodeur (Shefford) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the withdrawal of the wage ceiling of oncohematologist medical specialists at Granby medical centre and signed by 11,280 residents of the Granby region.

(Sessional Paper No. 210-19990331)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred at the sitting of 30 March 1999, on the motion moved by Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Social Solidarity, on behalf of Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, for the introduction, passage in principle and passage of Bill 14, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1999-2000.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 4 in Appendix)

Yeas: **71** Nays: **43** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 14 was passed.

Mr. Brassard, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that the Estimates of Expenditure for the 1999-2000 fiscal year, save those for the National Assembly, be referred to the Standing Committees for consideration.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then took the divisions, which had been deferred earlier in today=s sitting, on the want of confidence motions moved during the debate on the Budget Speech.

The first question to be put was on the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), which reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government, which, in its 1999-2000 budget, has failed to reduce the tax burden on Québec families and has not acknowledged the pressure exerted by the overwhelming debt burden on future generations.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

(Division No. 5 in Appendix)

Yeas: **43** Nays: **71** Abstentions: **0**

_____

The second question to be put was on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), which reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Government for its lack of consistency with regard to the implementation of measures to support the knowledge economy.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

(Division No. 6 in Appendix)

Yeas: **43** Nays: **71** Abstentions: **0**

_____

The third question to be put was on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup), which reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for having once again let down the new generation by omitting to include a debt repayment plan in its 1999-2000 budget.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

(Division No. 7 in Appendix)

Yeas: **43** Nays: **71** Abstentions: **0**

_____

The fourth question to be put was on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Williams (Nelligan), which reads as follows:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its failure to act, particularly regarding support measures to facilitate services and care to disabled persons, as well as for its lack of leadership with regard to young people experiencing problems.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

(Division No. 8 in Appendix)

Yeas: **43** Nays: **71** Abstentions: **0**

_____

Finally, the Assembly took the division on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, –That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government:

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 9 in Appendix)

Yeas: **71** Nays: **43** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, moved:

> THAT the National Assembly extend its sympathy and support to Mr. Pascal Hudon, to his family and friends, request that the Canadian Government ensure that the Mexican authorities handle his case fairly, equitably and rapidly, and insist that, if applicable, transfer procedures be undertaken in order that he may serve his sentence in Québec, in compliance with the treaty between Canada and Mexico on the transfer of offenders that has been in force since 29 March 1979.

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

Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) moved:

> THAT the National Assembly mark the 20th anniversary of the Comité de logement social de Châteauguay, which, through its hard work and tenacity, has been instrumental in the completion of several projects and the promotion of greater social awareness regarding the needs of the most disadvantaged members of our society with respect to housing.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly continued the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) and Mr. Williams (Nelligan).
Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, interrupted the debate and informed the Assembly that he had received two requests for debates upon adjournment to be held on Thursday, 1 April 1999:

X the first, between Mr. Bordeleau (Acadie) and Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, about the Malouin report;

X the second, between Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) and Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, about the agreements between the Québec Government and the Kahnawake Mohawks.

_____

And debate continuing;

_____

At 5.54 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 1 April 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

_____

ROYAL ASSENT

On Wednesday, 31 March 1999, at 3.46 o'clock p.m., in his office at the Québec Justice Building, in the presence of Mr. Bédard, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly, the

Honourable Louis Lebel, Administrator of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bill:

14 Appropriation Act No. 2, 1999-2000.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Social Solidarity, on behalf of Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, for the introduction, passage in principle and passage of Bill 14, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1999-2000:

(Division No. 4)

YEAS - 71

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

NAYS - 43

Beauchamp	Bordeleau	Charest	Delisle
Béchard	Bourbeau	*(Sherbrooke)*	Després
Bélanger	Brodeur	Cholette	Dumont
Benoit	Chagnon	Cusano	Dupuis

Fournier	Lamquin-Éthier	Middlemiss	Sirros
Gagnon-Tremblay	Laporte	Mulcair	Tranchemontagne
Gautrin	Leblanc	Normandeau	Vallières
Gauvin	Loiselle	Ouimet	Whissell
Gobé	Maciocia	Paradis	Williams
Jérôme-Forget	MacMillan	Pelletier	
Kelley	Marcoux	*(Chapleau)*	
Lamoureux	Marsan	Poulin	

ABSTENTIONS - 0

_____

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys):

(Division No. 5)

YEAS - 43

Beauchamp	Delisle	Lamquin-Éthier	Paradis
Béchard	Després	Laporte	Pelletier
Bélanger	Dumont	Leblanc	(*Chapleau)*
Benoit	Dupuis	Loiselle	Poulin
Bordeleau	Fournier	Maciocia	Sirros
Bourbeau	Gagnon-Tremblay	MacMillan	Tranchemontagne
Brodeur	Gautrin	Marcoux	Vallières
Chagnon	Gauvin	Marsan	Whissell
Charest	Gobé	Middlemiss	Williams
(*Sherbrooke)*	Jérôme-Forget	Mulcair	
Cholette	Kelley	Normandeau	
Cusano	Lamoureux	Ouimet	

NAYS - 71

Arseneau	Baril	Beaumier	Bertrand
Barbeau	(*Berthier)*	Bédard	(*Charlevoix)*
Baril	Beaudoin	Bégin	Bertrand
(*Arthabaska)*	Beaulne	Bergeron	(*Portneuf)*
Blanchet	Boisclair	Boucher	Boulerice

Boulianne	Désilets	Landry	Pelletier
Brassard	Deslières	Laprise	(*Abitibi-Est)*
Caron	Dion	Leduc	Perreault
Carrier-Perreault	Doyer	Legault	Rioux
Charest	Duguay	Léger	Robert
(*Rimouski)*	Facal	Lelièvre	Rochon
Chevrette	Gagnon	Lemieux	Signori
Cliche	Gendron	Léonard	Simard
Côté	Geoffrion	Létourneau	(*Montmorency)*
(*Dubuc)*	Goupil	Maltais	Simard
Côté	Harel	Marois	(*Richelieu)*
(*La Peltrie)*	Jolivet	Ménard	St-André
Cousineau	Julien	Morin	Trudel
	Jutras	Papineau	Vermette
	Kieffer	Paquin	
	Labbé	Paré	
	Lachance	Payne	

ABSTENTIONS - 0

_____

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Gautrin (Verdun):

(Division No. 6)

(Identical to Division No. 5)

_____

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup):

(Division No. 7)

(Identical to Division No. 5)

_____

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Williams (Nelligan):

(Division No. 8)

(Identical to Division No. 5)

On the motion moved by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, –That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government:

(Division No. 9)

(Identical to Division No. 4)