Date: Tuesday, 23 March 1999 – No. 10
Heure: Ten o=clock
Président: Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

The Assembly was called to order at 10.05 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 motions moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mr. Williams (Nelligan).

Thirteen hours and thirty minutes having elapsed since Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, began the Budget Speech, the debate thereon was suspended in the Assembly to be resumed in the Committee on Public Finance, in compliance with the provisions of Standing Order 275.

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

– the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech.

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly resumed 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).

At 11.56 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 2.02 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

202 An Act to replace the Charter of the city of Sainte-Foy X This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-third day of June 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 181-19990323)

Mr. Côté (La Peltrie) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 202, An Act to replace the Charter of the city of Sainte-Foy.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 202 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, of which the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

201 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec X This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-third day of June.

(Sessional Paper No. 182-19990323)

Mr. Bertrand (Portneuf) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 201, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 201 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Education, of which the Minister of Education shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

200 An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté du Bas-Richelieu X This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-third day of June 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 183-19990323)

Mr. Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 200, An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté du Bas-Richelieu.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 200 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, of which the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

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 1999, and recommends the said Estimates to the consideration of this Assembly.

Québec City, 12 March 1999 Lise Thibault

Mr. Landry laid upon the Table the Supplementary Estimates # 1 for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 184-19990323)

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the Supplementary Estimates # 1 for 1998-1999 were referred to a Committee of the Whole.

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Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, on behalf of Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Ministère des Relations internationales for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 185-19990323)

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Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais, Minister of Revenue, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Ministère du Revenu for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 186-19990323)

The update, dated July 1998, of the Ministère du Revenu information banks utilization plan, accompanied by the opinion of the Commission d=accès à l=information.
(Sessional Paper No. 187-19990323)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The mission report, presented by Mr. André Boulerice, the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques, on the XVth session of the Assemblée régionale Amérique of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), which was held in Alymer, Québec, from 18 to 23 August 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 188-19990323)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received, in compliance with the Standing Orders, two requests to rise on a breach of privilege: a first from Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) and a second from Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière).

Mr. President rendered the following decision on both points of privilege and on the request for a directive that had been addressed to him on Thursday, 18 March 1999, by the Official Opposition House Leader:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

> In compliance with the constitutional principle of collective Cabinet responsibility, a Minister may speak on behalf of another Minister within the framework of a debate upon adjournment. On these grounds, the fact that a Minister is replaced by another for a debate upon adjournment does not constitute a contempt of Parliament. It is for this reason that both questions of privilege raised by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) and by Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) are not receivable.

Furthermore, it is not the responsibility of the President of the Assembly to verify whether the Government House Leader has confirmed a Minister=s participation in a debate upon adjournment.

Finally, the current Standing Orders have not included the provisions of the previous Standing Orders stipulating that the Chair was to rule on all questions of privilege or points of order during a debate upon adjournment. Thus, according to Standing Order 39, a Member may rise at any time to speak to a point of order. Occasional referral to the previous Standing Orders in order to complete the current rules of procedure is necessary only if the current Standing Orders cannot answer the question raised. In this case, the provisions of the Standing Orders respecting points of order clearly indicate that the intent was not to at any time restrict a Member=s right to raise a point of order, and more particularly during an end of sitting debate.

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 18 March 1999, on the Motion Without Notice moved by Mr. Pelletier (Chapleau). This motion reads as follows:

THAT this Assembly, on the International Day of French-speaking Peoples, take the opportunity to once again acknowledge the ties of friendship and brotherhood that bring French-speaking communities throughout Canada together, ties that stem from both a shared history and a will to develop and grow stronger in the future. This Assembly also wishes to mark the importance of the French-speaking countries and communities of the world and the significance of their human and governmental exchanges.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 2 in Appendix)

Yeas: **110** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

X the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech, pursuant to Standing Order 275.

Mr. President gave the following notices:

X the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings;

X the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of organizing its proceedings.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President rendered the following decision on the receivability of the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) at the sitting of Thursday, 11 March 1999, within the framework of the debate on the Budget Speech:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Jérôme-Forget (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) is not receivable on the grounds that it contains recitals, which is contrary to Standing Order 191.

On behalf of the Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys, Mr. President requested the Assembly=s leave to replace the motion ruled out of order by a new motion that would comply with the Standing Orders. This motion 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.

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).

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 87, the debate was suspended in order to allow the introduction of a bill.

Government Bills

Introduction of Bills

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 232, Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, on behalf of Mr. Brassard, Minister responsible for Parliamentary Reform, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

11 An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly and the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried.

Passage in Principle

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 237, Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, on behalf of Mr. Brassard, Minister responsible for Parliamentary Reform, moved, –That Bill 11, An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly and the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly, do now pass in principle and then informed the Assembly that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor recommended this bill to its consideration.
The motion was carried and Bill 11 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 11 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee of the Whole.

Committee of the Whole

On motion by Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, the Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly and the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly.

Bill 11 was considered in Committee of the Whole, adopted and thereupon reported.

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The report was concurred in.

Passage

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 230, Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, on behalf of Mr. Brassard, Minister responsible for

Parliamentary Reform, moved the passage of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly and the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 11 was passed.

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).

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first on a question by Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa) to Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for Health and Social Services, about the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Montréal (CHUM);

- the second on a question by Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) to Mr. Legault, Minister of Education, about the lack of financing in the education system;

- the third on a question by Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) to Mr. Chevrette, Minister for Native Affairs, about the Northern Québec health services negotiations.

At 6.33 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 24 March 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the Motion Without Notice moved by Mr. Pelletier (Chapleau):

(Division No. 2)

YEAS - 110

Arseneau	Brouillet	Dupuis	Lemieux
Barbeau	Caron	Facal	Léonard
Baril	Carrier-Perreault	Fournier	Létourneau
(Arthabaska)	Chagnon	Gagnon	Loiselle
Baril	Charest	Gautrin	Maciocia
(Berthier)	*(Rimouski)*	Gauvin	MacMillan
Beaumier	Charest	Geoffrion	Maltais
Béchard	*(Sherbrooke)*	Gobé	Marois
Bédard	Chenail	Goupil	Marsan
Bégin	Chevrette	Harel	Middlemiss
Bélanger	Cholette	Jérôme-Forget	Morin
Benoit	Cliche	Jolivet	Mulcair
Bergeron	Copeman	Julien	Normandeau
Bergman	Côté	Jutras	Ouimet
Bertrand	*(Dubuc)*	Kelley	Papineau
(Charlevoix)	Côté	Kieffer	Paquin
Bertrand	*(La Peltrie)*	Labbé	Paradis
(Portneuf)	Cousineau	Lachance	Paré
Bissonnet	Cusano	Lafrenière	Payne
Blanchet	Delisle	Lamoureux	Pelletier
Boisclair	Désilets	Lamquin-Éthier	*(Abitibi-Est)*
Bordeleau	Deslières	Landry	Pelletier
Bouchard	Després	Laprise	*(Chapleau)*
Boucher	Dion	Leblanc	Perreault
Boulianne	Dionne-Marsolais	Legault	Pinard
Brassard	Doyer	Léger	Rioux
Brodeur	Dumont	Lelièvre	Robert

Rochon	Signori	Simard *(Montmorency)*	
Simard *(Richelieu)*	St-André Tranchemontagne	Vallières Vermette	Williams
Sirros	Trudel	Whissell	

NAYS - 0

ABSTENTIONS - 0