Date: Thursday, 4 March 1999 – No. 3
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

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, commenced the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, at the sitting of Wednesday, 3 March 1999.

At the conclusion of his speech, by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Charest tabled the following:

A report on Québec=s overcrowded emergency wards, prepared by Mrs. Michèle Lamquin-Éthier, the Member for Bourassa and Official Opposition critic on health matters, following a tour of health establishments.

(Sessional Paper No. 5-19990304)

He then moved the following want of confidence motion:

> THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its failure to act, particularly with regard to health, education, economy and the safeguard and promotion of Québec=s true interests.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. President gave the following notice:

X the Committee on the National Assembly shall meet immediately in order to select the chairmen and members of the Standing Committees, pursuant to Standing Order 127 et seq.

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The debate on the Opening Speech of the session continued.

At 12.02 o'clock p.m., Mr. Pinard, 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

Mr. President tabled copies of letters he had received from Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, informing him of the following appointments:

Mr. Jacques Brassard, the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean, as Government House Leader, effective 9 December 1998;

Mr. André Boisclair, the Member for Gouin, as Deputy Government House Leader, effective 9 December 1998;

Mr. André Boulerice, the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques, as Deputy Government House Leader, effective 9 December 1998;

Mrs. Jocelyne Caron, the Member for Terrebonne, as Chief Government Whip, effective 9 December 1998;

Mr. François Gendron, the Member for Abitibi-Ouest, as caucus chairman of the Parti Québécois, effective 9 December 1998;

(Sessional Paper No. 6-19990304)

He then tabled copies of letters he had received from Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, informing him of the following appointments:

Mrs. Lucie Papineau, the Member for Prévost, as Deputy Government Whip, thus replacing Mrs. Diane Barbeau, the Member for Vanier, effective 27 January 1999;

Mr. Benoît Laprise, the Member for Roberval, as Deputy Government Whip, thus replacing Mrs. Solange Charest, the Member for Rimouski, effective 2 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 7-19990304)

Finally, he tabled a copy of the letter he had received from Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, informing him of the following appointments:

Mr. Pierre Paradis, the Member for Brome-Missisquoi, as Official Opposition House Leader, effective 9 December 1998;

Mr. Thomas Mulcair, the Member for Chomedey, as Deputy Opposition House Leader, effective 9 December 1998;

Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, the Member for Châteauguay, as Chief Opposition Whip, effective 9 December 1998;

Mr. Norman MacMillan, the Member for Papineau, as Deputy Opposition Whip, effective 9 December 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 8-19990304)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Ministers

Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, made a statement about the Duplessis orphans.

Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

190 An Act to amend the Labour Code and the Act respecting labour standards.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Ministère du Conseil exécutif for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 9-19990304)

Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 10-19990304)

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

The annual report of the Comité d=évaluation des ressources didactiques (CERD) for the

fiscal year ended 30 June 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 11-19990304)

The annual report of the Ministère de l'Éducation for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 12-19990304)

The annual report of the Conseil supérieur de l=éducation for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 13-19990304)

The annual report of the Conseil supérieur de l=éducation on the state and needs of education for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 14-19990304)

The annual report of the Comité d=orientation de la formation du personnel enseignant (COFPE) for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 15-19990304)

The annual report of the Comité d=agrément des programmes de formation à l=enseignement (CAPFE) for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 16-19990304)

The annual report of the Commission consultative de l=enseignement privé for the fiscal year ended 3 July 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 17-19990304)

The annual report of the Commission des programmes d=études (CPE) for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 18-19990304)

The annual report of the Institut de tourisme et d=hôtellerie du Québec (ITHQ) for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 19-19990304)

The annual report of the Commission d=évaluation de l=enseignement collégial for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 20-19990304)

The 1996-97 and 1997-98 annual reports of the Comité d=accréditation des associations étudiantes.

(Sessional Paper No. 21-19990304)

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, on behalf of Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Commission des services juridiques for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 22-19990304)

The annual report of the Fonds d=aide aux recours collectifs for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 23-19990304)

The annual report of the Société québécoise d=information juridique (SOQUIJ) for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 24-19990304)

Mrs. Maltais, Minister of Culture and Communications, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, with an appendix, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 25-19990304)

The annual report of the Grand Théâtre de Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 August 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 26-19990304)

The annual report of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 27-19990304)

The annual report of the Musée de la civilisation for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 28-19990304)

The annual report of the Musée du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 29-19990304)

The activities report of the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), with three appendices, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 30-19990304)

The annual report of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec) for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 31-19990304)

Mr. Facal, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 32-19990304)

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and tabled the following:

The report from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec on the official results of the general election held on 30 November 1998 and on the election held on 14 December 1998 in the Electoral Division of Masson, pursuant to section 381 of the *Election Act* (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3).
(Sessional Paper No. 33-19990304)

The report from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec on the implementation of section 490 of the *Election Act* (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3) within the framework of the general election held on 30 November 1998 and of the election held on 14 December 1998 in the Electoral Division of Masson.
(Sessional Paper No. 34-19990304)

A modification in the agreement reached between the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada and the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec regarding the exchange of personal information, as well as a favorable opinion by the Commission d=accès à l=information.
(Sessional Paper No. 35-19990304)

The report on the fact-finding mission of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) presented by Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the APF, which was held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 9 to 11 February 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 36-19990304)

The list of papers required by law to be tabled in the Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 37-19990304)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 4 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 38-19990304)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. President tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on the National Assembly, which met today, 4 March 1999, to determine the membership of the Standing Committees, pursuant to Standing Order 127 et seq.

(Sessional Paper No. 39-19990304)

On the motion by Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, this report was concurred in.

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Leblanc (Beauce-Sud) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the public lodging role of La Maison Paternelle de Saint-Ludger reception centre and signed by 879 citizens of Saint-Ludger and the surrounding regions.

(Sessional Paper No. 40-19990304)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

At the request of Mr. President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Yves Blais, former Member for Masson.

Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal and Minister responsible for Seniors, moved:

> THAT the National Assembly mark the essential contribution made by seniors to the collective life of Québec this year, 1999, which has been declared the international year of seniors by the United Nations (U.N.) and whose theme celebrated in Québec is "Vers une société pour tous les âges: une question de solidarité" (Toward a society for all ages: a matter of solidarity).

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, moved a motion concerning the convening of the Committee on Social Affairs with regard to the health system; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

In pursuance of Standing Order 134 and by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 137, Mr. President convened the following Standing Committees in order to elect their chairmen and vice-chairmen:

X the Committee on Labour and the Economy;

X the Committee on Institutions;
X the Committee on Public Finance;

X the Committee on Social Affairs;

X the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;

X the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain;

X the Committee on Transportation and the Environment;

X the Committee on Education;

X the Committee on Culture;

X the Committee on Public Administration.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President informed the Assembly that on Friday, 12 March 1999, Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa) would question Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for Health and Social Services, during an interpellation on "the lack of financing in Quéhec=s health system".

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 delivered by Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, and on the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session: sixty minutes shall be allotted for a reply by the representative of the Government and twenty minutes shall be set aside for the independent Member; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, Members may speak for up to twenty minutes each.

And debate continuing;

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 concrete measures fostering the emergence of knowledge economy and the new information technologies.

At 6.00 o=clock p.m., the debate was adjourned.

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

– the first, on a question by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) to Mrs. Marois, Minister of Child and Family Welfare, about day care workers;

– the second, on a question by Mr. Dupuis (Saint-Laurent) to Mr. Ménard, Minister of Public Security, about the follow-up to the Poitras report;

– the third, on a question by Mr. Mulcair (Chomedey) to Mr. Perreault, Minister of

Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, about the Commission d=accès à l=information.

At 6.37 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 9 March 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President