



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Monday, 10 June 1996 — No. 34

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau**

QUÉBEC

Monday, 10 June 1996

No. 34

The Assembly was called to order at 10.03 o'clock a.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Ministers

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of Culture and Communications, made a statement about the application of the Charter of the French language.

Introduction of Bills

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of Culture and Communications and Minister responsible for the administration of the Charter of the French language, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

40 An Act to amend the Charter of the French language.

The motion was carried.

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Presenting Papers

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

A consultation paper entitled "Le Français langue commune: Promouvoir l'usage et la qualité du français, langue officielle et langue commune du Québec" (French, our common language: Promoting the use and the quality of French, the official and common language of Québec).
(Sessional Paper No. 162-960610)

Mr. President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 28 May 1996, he had received from Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, informing him of the appointment of Mr. François Gendron, the Member for Abitibi-Ouest, as caucus chairman of the Parti Québécois, effective 15 March 1996.
(Sessional Paper No. 163-960610)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Baril (Arthabaska) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on the Budget and Administration, which met on 7 June 1996 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 19 An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act as regards Québec savings products — Reported with an amendment.
(Sessional Paper No. 164-960610)
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Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) tabled the following:

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A report from the Committee on Planning and Infrastructures, which met on 6 June 1996 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 24 An Act to amend the Cities and Towns Act, the Municipal Code of Québec and other legislative provisions – Reported with certain amendments.
(Sessional Paper No. 165-960610)

Mr. Vallières (Richmond) tabled the following:

The reports from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which held working meetings on 14 December 1995, 13 February, 27 March and 30 May 1996 and heard, pursuant to the *Act respecting the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies*, the chief executive officers of the following bodies:

On 13 February 1996:

- X the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec, containing one recommendation;
(Sessional Paper No. 166-960610)
- X the Tribunal d'appel en matière de protection du territoire agricole;
(Sessional Paper No. 167-960610)
- X the Société de financement agricole;
(Sessional Paper No. 168-960610)
- X the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 169-960610)

On 14 February 1996:

- X the Régie des assurances agricoles du Québec, and carried out an order of surveillance with regard to the Régie; the report contains one recommendation;
(Sessional Paper No. 170-960610)

On 27 March 1996:

- X the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, containing recommendations.

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(Sessional Paper No. 171-960610)

Mr. Beaulne (Marguerite-D'Youville) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which met on 7 June 1996 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 21 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de récupération, d'exploitation et de développement forestiers du Québec — Reported without amendment.

(Sessional Paper No. 172-960610)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Williams (Nelligan) tabled the following:

A document containing information on Hebdo Mag inc., particularly with regard to the administrators of this company.

(Sessional Paper No. 173-960610)

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 27, An Act to amend the Labour Code;
- X the Committee on Institutions, to hold special consultations on Bill 130, An Act respecting administrative justice, and to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 20, An Act to amend the Legal Aid Act;
- X the Committee on Planning and Infrastructures, to continue its clause-by-clause

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consideration of Bill 22, An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development;

- X the Committee on the Budget and Administration, to hold special consultations and to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 32, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President took under advisement a request for a directive from the Government and Opposition Leaders regarding the lapsing of the motion at Item 65 of today's *Order Paper and Notices*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage

Mr. Cliche, Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, moved the passage of Bill 132, An Act to amend the Act respecting beer and soft drink distributors' permits.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 132 was passed.

Mrs. Carrier-Perreault, Minister for Mines, Lands and Forests, moved the passage of Bill 5,

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An Act to amend the Mining Duties Act.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 5 was passed.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Léonard, Minister for Administration and the Public Service, Chairman of the Conseil du Trésor, moved, —That Bill 128, An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment in the public sector and the municipal sector, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

On motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, the debate was adjourned.

At 12.55 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.02 o'clock p.m.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Rochon, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved, —That Bill 33, An Act respecting prescription drug insurance and amending various legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

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Before the debate began, Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, raised a point of order on the grounds that Bill 33, in its present form, cannot be brought before the Assembly for its passage in principle since the Minister of Health and Social Services has allegedly announced major amendments to the said Bill.

After having heard comments from both sides on the receivability of this point of order, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, took the matter under advisement and suspended the proceedings at 3.55 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 5.51 o'clock p.m. and were again suspended by Mr. Pinard until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 8.11 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, gave the following ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, earlier in the sitting:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The purpose of the introduction stage of a bill is to refer it to the Assembly for consideration. At this stage, the Members do not express an opinion with regard to the contents of the bill; at most, they accept to read the text which they will be examining subsequently.

On the other hand, a minister may inform the population of government decisions which could later take the form of amendments to the bill that is introduced.

Nonetheless, within the framework of the legislative process, it is during clause-by-clause consideration in parliamentary committee that a minister may officially propose these amendments. Subject to their being received, these may be carried or negated by the committee.

In the interim, nothing prevents the Assembly from undertaking and completing the passage in principle of the bill, regardless of government initiatives

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taken outside the Assembly.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, tabled the following:

Advertising inserts, published on 1 June 1996 in the *La Presse* and *The Gazette* newspapers, concerning the new drug insurance plan proposed by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

(Sessional Paper No. 174-960610)

Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, raised a point of privilege concerning the publication on 1 June 1996 of advertisement relating to the new drug insurance plan proposed by the Minister of Health and Social Services while the enabling bill is still before the Assembly for its consideration, which action allegedly constitutes a contempt of Parliament.

After having heard comments from both sides on the receivability of this point of privilege, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, took the matter under advisement and suspended the proceedings at 8.43 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 9.33 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Pinard gave the following ruling on the receivability of this point of privilege raised by Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Since the point of order was not raised immediately following the facts complained of, which date from 1 June 1996, a written request relating to the said matter should be addressed to the President in compliance with Standing Order 69, paragraph 2.

Notwithstanding the fact that the aforementioned procedure has not been followed, already, the Chair is able to assert that the facts complained of do not constitute a *prima facie* matter of privilege. Although the Minister of Health and Social Services is allowed to inform the population of government decisions, the Chair deplores the fact that the advertisement published in the newspapers fails to mention the role of the Assembly and of its Members in the legislative process.

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The Assembly then began the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Rochon, Minister of Health and Social Services, —That Bill 33, An Act respecting prescription drug insurance and amending various legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

Tuesday, 11 June 1996

At the end of his address, Mr. Bordeleau (Acadie) moved the following hoist motion:

THAT the motion under debate be amended by striking out the word "now" and by adding at the end thereof the words "this day six months hence".

Having suspended the proceedings to meet with the House Leaders, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the limited debate on this motion: the two parliamentary groups shall equally share the time allotted for this debate; any time not used by a parliamentary group may be redistributed and individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited.

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the hoist motion moved by Mr. Bordeleau.

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

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

At 4.50 o'clock a.m., on the motion by Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned until 10.00 o'clock a.m., on Tuesday, 11 June 1996.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

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President