



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 20 November 1996 — No. 55

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.08 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Social Affairs on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 35, Pay Equity Act.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

Government Motions

Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, on behalf of Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, moved:

THAT the National Assembly reiterate that the office of Lieutenant-Governor is fundamentally symbolic and is a heritage of the colonial past of Québec and of

Canada;

THAT the National Assembly take into account the fact that the events surrounding the recent appointment of the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec have proven that the appointment process employed until this day is of a nature to bring about controversy and to interfere with the proper functioning of institutions;

THAT the National Assembly reiterate its role as the guardian of democracy as expressed by the people of Québec;

THAT the National Assembly express the wish that the office of Lieutenant-Governor be abolished; nevertheless, given that the provisions of the Constitutional Act imposed upon Québec render impossible the abolition of this office at the current time, the National Assembly requests that the Federal Government henceforth appoint as titular of the office of Lieutenant-Governor the public figure democratically designated by the Assembly.

Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, having raised the question of the receivability of this motion, Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, heard comments from both sides on this question. He then took the matter under advisement, and, for this purpose, at 12.02 o'clock p.m., suspended the proceedings during pleasure.

The proceedings resumed at 12.47 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, rendered the following decision on the receivability of the motion moved by Mr. Brassard on behalf of the Prime Minister:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The motion is receivable on the following grounds:

If it were carried, it would modify neither the Canadian Constitution nor the *Act respecting the National Assembly*. It merely expresses a wish or desire, which is not prohibited by any rule.

Furthermore, it questions neither the conduct nor the character of the current titular of the office of Lieutenant-Governor nor those of his predecessors. Rather, it expresses an opinion of a general nature on the role and the functions of this office.

Moreover, an analysis of the motion reveals that it contains motives and arguments, which is contrary to Standing Order 191. Nonetheless, several

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precedents indicate that the Chair has been quite tolerant regarding this matter, but this question shall have to be reevaluated within the framework of the parliamentary reform.

And debate arising on the motion moved by Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, on behalf of Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister;

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried on division.

At 1.05 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 3.06 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Inspector General of Financial Institutions for the fiscal year ended

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31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 456-961120)

Mrs. Marois, Minister of Education, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Commission consultative de l'enseignement privé for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 457-961120)

The annual report of the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial for the fiscal year ended 30 June 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 458-961120)

Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Employment and Solidarity and Minister responsible for the Status of Women, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Secrétariat à la condition féminine for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 459-961120)

The draft regulation on the determining of support for children, dated 13 November 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 460-961120)

Mr. Julien, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 461-961120)

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Mr. Rochon, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

Tables indicating the follow-up and distribution of the loan authorizations granted by the regional boards to certain establishments of the health and social services network.

(Sessional Paper No. 462-961120)

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 20 November 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 463-961120)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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

An excerpt from the list of the financial commitments under the authority of the Minister for Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, for the month of October 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 464-961120)

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- X the Committee on Planning and Infrastructures, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 38, An Act to establish the road network preservation and improvement fund;
- X the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 130, An Act respecting administrative justice;
- X the Committee on Education, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 45, An Act respecting university foundations.

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- X the Committee on Institutions shall meet to hear the Police Ethics Commissioner, pursuant to the *Act respecting the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay (Saint-François) moved:

THAT the National Assembly deplore the incapability of the Parti Québécois Government to elaborate a consistent and efficient policy to stimulate the economy and job creation.

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Before the debate began, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this motion: ten minutes shall be allotted for a reply by its mover and five minutes shall be set aside for each of the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate; and individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited.

And debate arising on the motion moved by Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay;

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 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 21 November 1996, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President