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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 26 November 1996 — No. 57**

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

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**QUÉBEC**



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The Assembly was called to order at 2.07 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Chevrette, Minister of State for Natural Resources, made a statement about Québec's new energy policy.

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Mr. Landry, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, made a statement about the establishment of the Fonds de lutte contre la pauvreté par la réinsertion au travail (Fund for the fight against poverty through reintegration into the labour force).

### **Presenting Papers**

Mr. Chevrette, Minister of State for Natural Resources, tabled the following:

A document entitled "L'énergie au service du Québec: une perspective de développement durable" (Energy serving Québec: a perspective of sustainable development), along with a summary.

(Sessional Paper No. 474-961126)

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

The annual report of the Ministère de l'Éducation for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 475-961126)

The financial statements, including the statements of salaries, the performance reports and the reports on development prospects, supervisory measures and research, of the Université de Montréal (in two volumes), for the fiscal year ended 31 May 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 476-961126)

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Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Employment and Solidarity and Minister of Income Security, tabled the following:

The actuarial certificat, prepared by the Régie des rentes du Québec, regarding Bill 54, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan.

(Sessional Paper No. 477-961126)

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Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

Answers to written questions by Mr. MacMillan (Papineau) concerning the following subjects:

X access of the disabled to tourist establishments — Question No. 11, *Order Paper and Notices* of 20 November 1996.

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(Sessional Paper No. 478-961126)

- the amendments brought to the Regulation following the *Tourist Establishments Act* —  
Question No. 12, *Order Paper and Notices* of 20 November 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 479-961126)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. Bordeleau (Acadie) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which met on 26 November 1996 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 47 An Act to amend the Act respecting the payment of certain fines - Reported without amendment.

(Sessional Paper No. 480-961126)

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Mrs. Blackburn (Chicoutimi) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Education, which met on 21 November 1996 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 45 An Act respecting university foundations X Reported with certain amendments.

(Sessional Paper No. 481-961126)

### **Presenting Petitions**

The abstracts of four petitions respecting the rent of low-cost housing and the number of public housing facilities were laid upon the Table:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 123 petitioners from the riding of Frontenac, by Mr. Lefebvre (Frontenac);

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(Sessional Paper No. 482-961126)

- the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 3800 petitioners representing the POPIR - Comité logement and Projet Saint-Charles - Comité logement, by Mrs. Loiselle (Saint-Henri—Sainte-Anne);

(Sessional Paper No. 483-961126)

- the third, being the abstract of a petition signed by 500 citizens, by Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay);

(Sessional Paper No. 484-961126)

- the fourth, being the abstract of a petition signed by 79 citizens of the riding of Matapédia, by Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia).

(Sessional Paper No. 485-961126)

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Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the exemption, for certain citizens, from the implementation of the drug insurance programme and signed by 200 petitioners from the Montréal region.

(Sessional Paper No. 486-961126)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

During his answer to a question he had taken as notice, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Boisclair, Minister for Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, tabled the following:

An excerpt from Volume 2 of the Public Accounts of the Québec Government, for the fiscal

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year ended 31 March 1994, concerning transportation expenses under the budgetary responsibility of his Ministry.

(Sessional Paper No. 487-961126)

Documents pertaining to the suppliers of travel services for his Ministry.

(Sessional Paper No. 488-961126)

### **Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly join the eighty-four federal Members of the Liberal Party of Canada, of the Bloc Québécois, of the NDP and of the Reform Party who are asking that the banks and the department stores reduce forthwith the interest rate on credit cards by 50 %.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 229, 235, 243 and 244, Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Institutions hold special consultations and public hearings on Bill 77, An Act to amend the Police Act and other legislative provisions, on Thursday, 28 November 1996, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and from 8.00 p.m. until 10.15 p.m. and, for this purpose, hear the following groups, according to the schedule in appendix:

- Union des municipalités régionales de comté et des municipalités locales du Québec (UMRCQ)
- Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ)
- Association des directeurs de police et pompiers du Québec

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- Fédération des policiers du Québec
- Sûreté du Québec
- Association des policiers provinciaux du Québec
- Communauté urbaine de Montréal
- Fraternité des policiers de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal
- Institut de police de Nicolet
- Directeur général des élections

THAT a period of thirty minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

The presentation by each group shall not last more than fifteen minutes and its exchange with the members of the Committee shall not last more than thirty minutes, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

The Minister of Public Security shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

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

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 229, 235, 243 and 244, Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Labour and the Economy hold special consultations and public hearings on Bill 76, An Act to establish a tourism partnership fund, on Monday, 2 December 1996, from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and from 8.00 p.m. until midnight, and on Tuesday, 3 December 1996, from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and, for this purpose, hear the following groups, according to the schedule in appendix:

- Association touristique régionale associée du Québec
- Office des congrès et du tourisme du Grand Montréal
- Fédération des offices du tourisme du Québec
- Office du tourisme et des congrès de la Communauté urbaine de



Québec

- Association des hôteliers du Québec
- Association des hôtels du Grand Montréal
- Association des petits et moyens hôtels de Montréal
- Fédération des agriculteurs
- Association des gîtes touristiques
- UMRCQ

THAT a period of thirty minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

THAT a period of thirty minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

The presentation by each group shall not last more than fifteen minutes and its exchange with the members of the Committee shall not last more than thirty minutes, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

The Minister for Industry and Trade shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

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

**Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

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

- X the Committee on the Budget and Administration, to give clause-by-clause consideration to the following Bills, in the order given: Bill 60, An Act to amend the Act respecting insurance, and Bill 3, An Act respecting the elimination of the deficit and a balanced budget;
- X the Committee on Planning and Infrastructures, to give clause-by-clause consideration to

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Bill 12, An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions;

- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its special consultations on Bill 31, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards.

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

- X the Committee on Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to examine and concur in its draft report as well as in its conclusions and recommendations on the conditions surrounding success at the high school level;
- X the Committee on Culture shall meet for the purpose of examining the annual report of the Commission d'accès à l'information, pursuant to section 119.1 of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*;
- 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. Pinard, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 27 November 1996, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mr. Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly request that the Prime Minister of Québec convene, as soon as possible, the Committee on the Budget and Administration to hear the unions affected by the government proposal regarding the reduction of manpower costs in the Québec public service.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Government Bills

#### *Passage in Principle*

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of Culture and Communications, moved, —That Bill 64, An Act to amend the Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists and other legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 64 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, Bill 64 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Culture.

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Mrs. Harel, Minister of Income Security and Minister responsible for the Status of Women, moved, —That Bill 68, An Act to amend the Civil Code of Québec and the Code of Civil Procedure as regards the determination of child support payments, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 68 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, Bill 68 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Social Affairs.

At 5.59 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 8.04 o'clock p.m.

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*Passage in Principle*

Mr. Léonard, Minister for Administration and the Public Service, Chairman of the Conseil du Trésor, informed the Assembly that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommended to its consideration Bill 73, An Act respecting the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances and amending various legislative provisions as regards pension plans, and then moved —That this Bill do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 73 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 73 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on the Budget and Administration.

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Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Natural Resources, moved, —That Bill 70, An Act to amend the Hydro-Québec Act, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 70 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 70 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee of the Whole.

On motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, the Assembly then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 70.

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*Clause-by-Clause Consideration in Committee of the Whole*

The Committee of the Whole entered upon the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Hydro-Québec Act.

The said Bill was carried by the Committee.

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Bill 70 was thereupon reported to the Assembly, which concurred in the report from the Committee of the Whole.

*Passage*

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 230, Mr. Chevette, Minister of Natural Resources, moved the passage of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Hydro-Québec Act.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 70 was passed.

*Passage in Principle*

Mr. Cliche, Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, moved, —That Bill 56, An Act to amend the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

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

*Passage*

Mr. Cliche, Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, moved the passage of Bill 53, An Act respecting reserved designations and amending the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products.

And debate arising;

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

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Mr. Julien, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, moved the passage of Bill 52, An Act to amend the Agricultural Products, Marine Products and Food Act and the Environment Quality Act.

And debate arising;

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

**Debates Upon Adjournment**

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first on a question by Mr. Cusano (Viau) to Mr. Rochon, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the resignation of Mr. Gilles Lagacé from Transplant Québec;
- the second on a question by Mr. Vallières (Richmond) to Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Regional Development, about the possible establishment of a ministry of regions;
- the third on a question by Mr. Farrah (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) to Mr. Landry, Deputy

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Prime Minister, about the Government=s commitment to establish a cement factory in Port-Daniel.

At 10.39 o'clock p.m., Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 27 November 1996, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU**

*President*