



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 27 November 1996 — No. 58

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.07 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Rioux, Minister of Labour, moved, —That Bill 74, An Act to amend the Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases and the Act respecting occupational health and safety, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 74 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 74 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

Mr. Rioux, Minister of Labour, moved, —That Bill 75, An Act to amend the Act respecting collective agreement decrees, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 75 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, Bill 75 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

Mr. Rioux, Minister of Labour, moved, —That Bill 79, An Act to establish the Commission des lésions professionnelles and amending various legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

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

At 12.36 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 3.05 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Bégin, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

A copy of a letter, dated 26 November 1996, sent to Mr. Michel Carpentier, Secretary

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General of the Executive Council, from Mr. Michel Bouchard, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General, regarding an article published on 25 November 1996 in the *Gazette* newspaper and dealing with certain events that took place in May of 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 489-961127)

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

Answer to a written question by Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) concerning the completion of the reserved transit lane between the Bédard traffic circle (Kahnawake) and Saint-Francis Boulevard (Châteauguay) – Question No. 2, *Order Paper and Notices* of 27 November 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 490-961127)

Answer to a written question by Mr. Benoit (Orford) concerning the Écosommet (Ecosummit), which was held in Montréal in May of 1996 – Question No. 3, *Order Paper and Notices* of 27 November 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 491-961127)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The annual report of the Public Protector for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 492-961127)

A letter, dated 26 November 1996, he had received from Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Prime Minister, regarding the appointment of Mr. Jean Campeau, Member for Crémazie, as member of the Office of the National Assembly, thus replacing Mr. Daniel Paillé, Member for Prévost, and that of Mrs. Monique Simard, Member for La Prairie, and of Mr. Michel Morin, Member for Nicolet-Yamaska, as substitute members.

(Sessional Paper No. 493-961127)

On motion by Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, these modifications to the composition of the Office of the National Assembly were agreed to.

Presenting Petitions

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 62 and 63, Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting possible job losses in the Gaspé region and signed by 1767 citizens of Gaspé.

(Sessional Paper No. 494-961127)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 229, 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 50, An Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie, on 3, 4 and 5 December 1996, according to the schedule in appendix, and, for this purpose, hear the following groups:

- the Chambre de commerce du Québec
- the Association des producteurs privés d'électricité
- the Union des producteurs agricoles
- the Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature (UQCN), with Greenpeace Québec
- the Centre Hélios, with the Mouvement Au Courant
- the Grand Conseil des Cris
- the Centrale des syndicats nationaux (CSN), with the Fédération des travailleurs du Québec (FTQ)
- the Groupe des consommateurs résidentiels, namely the ACEF Montréal jointly with the Fédération des ACEF, the Fédération nationale des associations de consommateurs du Québec and the

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- Association de protection des automobilistes
- the Association des manufacturiers du Québec (AMQ) with the Association des industries forestières du Québec (AIFQ)

- the Association des consommateurs industriels de gaz (ACIG) with the Association québécoise des consommateurs industriels d'électricité
- the Groupe des organisations du secteur énergétique, namely: the Association québécoise pour la maîtrise de l'énergie (AQME), the Groupe de recherche en économie de l'énergie et des ressources naturelles and GREIGE
- the Association de l'huile à chauffage, with the Corporation de chauffage urbain de Montréal
- Hydro-Québec
- Gaz Métropolitain, with Gazifère
- the Association des distributeurs indépendants de produits pétroliers
- Imperial Oil Limited (Esso)
- Irving Oil Limited
- Petro-Canada Products
- Shell Products Limited
- Ultramar

THAT a period of thirty minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time shall be shared equally between the Minister of Natural Resources and the spokesperson for the Official 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 the period set aside for questions between the members of the Committee and each grouping of interest groups shall not last more than thirty minutes, which time shall be shared equally between the two parliamentary groups;

The Minister of Natural Resources 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.

Mr. Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the new members of the boards of directors of the health and social services institutions for their election, last Monday night, and mark their commitment to volunteer work and their contribution to the management of the health and social services institutions network.

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 continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 3, An Act respecting the elimination of the deficit and a balanced budget, and to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 73, An Act respecting the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances and amending various legislative provisions as regards pension plans;
- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 31, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards;

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143:

- X the Committee on Institutions, to hold special consultations on Bill 77, An Act to amend the Police Act and other legislative provisions.

Mr. President gave the following notices:

- X the Committee on Institutions shall meet to hear the Public Curator, pursuant to the *Act*

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respecting the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies;

- X the Committee on the National Assembly shall meet in order to establish the parliamentary committees membership, in compliance with Standing Orders 121 et sequentia.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

At the request of Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, Mr. President convened the House Leaders of the parliamentary groups in order that they may appoint the time when the Committee on Institutions shall be ordered to lay upon the Table of the Assembly its report in respect of Bill 130, An Act respecting administrative justice.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis), moved:

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.

Before the debate began, Mr. 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

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individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited.

Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, requested a directive from the Chair regarding the heading under which this motion is to be placed in the *Order Paper and Notices*.

After having taken the matter under advisement, Mr. President gave the following directive:

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

The motion moved by the Member for WestmountXSaint-Louis is placed under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition in today=s *Order Paper and Notices*, the only heading under which it may be placed since it is not a want of confidence motion. Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, it may be the subject of a debate.

Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, then raised the question of the receivability of this motion due to its wording.

After having heard comments from both sides and after having taken the matter under advisement, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, rendered the following decision:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The motion moved by the Member for WestmountXSaint-Louis is receivable on the grounds that it expresses a wish that is not incompatible with the procedure respecting the convocation of committees which is provided for in the Standing Orders. Indeed, a procedural meaning cannot be given to the words contained in the said motion.

And debate arising on the motion by Mr. Chagnon;

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that a debate upon adjournment would be held on Thursday, 28 November 1996, on a question by Mrs. Delisle (Jean-Talon) to Mr. Trudel, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding the possible trusteeship of the municipality of Saint-Lin.

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

At the request of Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Presenting Reports from Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 54, Mr. President tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on the National Assembly which, on 27 November 1996, established the membership of the parliamentary committees, in compliance with Standing Orders 121 et sequentia.

(Sessional Paper No. 495-961127)

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

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 54, Mr. President gave the following notice:

X the parliamentary committees shall meet in order to elect their chairmen.

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. President adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 28 November 1996, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President