



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 13 March 1997 — No. 77

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

QUÉBEC



The Assembly was called to order at 10.02 o'clock a.m.



ORDERS OF THE DAY

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly resumed the debate on the consideration of the report from the Committee on the Budget and Administration, which, on 24, 25 and 26 September 1996 as well as on 9, 16 and 17 October 1996, held special consultations on the five-year report on the implementation of the *Act respecting market intermediaries* entitled "La distribution de produits financiers aux particuliers: relever résolument le défi du changement" (The distribution of financial products to individuals: resolutely meeting the challenge of change). The report contains recommendations.

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Resuming the debate on the motion by Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister responsible for the

administration of the Charter of the French language, —That Bill 40, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language, do now pass in principle;

At 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.07 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

95 An Act to establish a fund to combat poverty through reintegration into the labour market.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Rioux, Minister of Labour, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

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- 96 An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards as regards the duration of a regular work week.

The motion was carried.

Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais, Minister for Industry and Trade, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 94 An Act to amend the Act respecting assistance for the development of cooperatives.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

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

The annual report of the Commissioner of complaints with respect to the health and social services sector for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 710-970313)

Mr. Brassard, Minister of Transport, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Office des autoroutes du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 711-970313)

Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Bureau de révision en immigration for the fiscal year ended 31

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March 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 712-970313)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Planning and Infrastructures, which met on 12 March 1997 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 56 An Act to amend the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species – Reported without amendment.

(Sessional Paper No. 713-970313)

Mr. Garon (Lévis) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Culture, which, on 6 March 1997, examined the financial commitments of the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration, of the Conseil des communautés culturelles et de l'immigration and of the Commission d'accès à l'information contained in the lists for the months of January 1993 to December 1996.

(Sessional Paper No. 714-970313)

Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Middlemiss (Pontiac) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the freeze on the gasoline tax and on registration and driver's licence fees and signed by 35,189 residents of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 715-970313)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Kieffer (Groulx) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the maintaining of half-time kindergarten and signed by 30,107 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 716-970313)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

- X the Committee on Planning and Infrastructures, to continue its special consultations on Bill 92, An Act respecting the Greater Montréal Development Commission.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark International Consumers= Rights Day, which shall be celebrated next 15 March.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- X the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its special consultations on the green paper entitled "La réforme de la sécurité du revenu: Un parcours vers l=insertion, la formation et l=emploi" (The income security reform: Towards integration, training and employment).

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

- X the Committee on Education shall meet to hear the heads of educational institutions at the university level on the annual reports tabled before the National Assembly, pursuant to the *Act respecting educational institutions at the university level*;
- X the Committee on Culture shall hold a general consultation on identification cards and the protection of privacy.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 21 March 1997, Mr. Ouimet (Marquette) would question Mrs. Marois, Minister of Education, during an interpellation on "the implementation of the education reform".

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

And debate continuing on the motion by Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister responsible for the administration of the Charter of the French language, —That Bill 40, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language, do now pass in principle;

At the end of his address, Mr. Lefebvre, Deputy Opposition House Leader, moved the following motion to divide the said Bill:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 241, Bill 40 be divided into two Bills, the first of which shall be entitled An Act to amend the Charter of the French language and shall comprise sections 1 to 10, 13 to 16, 18 and 20, and the second of which shall be entitled An Act to establish the Commission de protection de la langue française and shall comprise sections 11, 12, 17 and 19.

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, heard arguments from both sides regarding the receivability of this motion before taking this matter under advisement.

After a suspension of the proceedings, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, gave the following ruling:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The motion is receivable on the grounds that Bill 40 contains several principles and that each bill that the division of Bill 40 would establish would constitute coherent bills that could be considered separately.

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, then announced the allocation of speaking time for the limited debate on this motion: five minutes shall be set aside for each of the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall equally share the rest of the time allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members may be redistributed amongst the parliamentary groups, and individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited. The Assembly entered upon the limited debate on the motion to divide moved by

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Mr. Lefebvre, Deputy Opposition House Leader.

The debate being concluded, the motion was negatived.

And debate continuing on the motion for the passage in principle of Bill 40, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language;

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried on division and Bill 40 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, Bill 40 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Culture.

Debates Upon Adjournment

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first on a question by Mrs. Houde-Pepin (La Pinière) to Mr. Rochon, Minister of Health and Social Services, concerning the Centre Jeunesse de la Montérégie;
- the second on a question by Mr. Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis) to Mr. Landry, Deputy Prime Minister, concerning a possible increase in the salary of casino croupiers.

At 6.23 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 18 March 1997, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

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ROYAL ASSENT

On Thursday, 13 March 1997, at 12.12 o'clock p.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President of the National Assembly, of Mr. Jolivet (Laviolette), the Delegate of the Prime Minister, of Mr. Parent (Sauvé), the Delegate of the Leader of the Official Opposition, and of Mr. Bédard, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly, the Honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bill:

93 Appropriation Act No. 1, 1997-98.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President