



---

---

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

---

---

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Thursday, 22 May 1997 — No. 105**

**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

### Business Having Precedence

#### *Want of Confidence Motion*

Mr. Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis) moved:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for devoting more time and energy to efforts to save the Bloc Québécois than to efforts to solve the real problems of Quebeckers, particularly for abandoning some 800,000 welfare recipients and some 400,000 unemployed and:

- for having offloaded its deficit on the school boards, the universities, the hospitals, the municipalities and, ultimately, on all citizens, on whom increases in taxes and fees of all kinds are being imposed;
- for having weakened the health system by closing hospitals, reducing the number of beds and cutting personnel, all of which add to the waiting lists for surgery;

- for having destabilized the education system through its bungling of the establishment of both linguistic school boards and compulsory full-time kindergarten, while forcing school boards to raise school taxes by over 100 million dollars this year and denying parents freedom of choice with regard to day care centres;
- for having destabilized the municipal sector by announcing, without consultation and in an incoherent fashion, reductions in the number of regional municipalities and by announcing a transfer of responsibilities to the municipalities in the amount of 500 million dollars without consultation and without granting them the necessary resources to do so, thus forcing them to raise municipal taxes by an average of 17 to 18 cents per \$100, or \$150 to \$200 per household in Québec;
- for having abandoned the agricultural sector, particularly producers of pork and milk, through its unfulfilled promises, thus instilling an enormous sense of insecurity in producers;
- for having cut back by more than 253 million dollars the budget for senior citizens and by close to 38 million dollars that of the poorest members of society, by forcing them to pay more for their prescription drugs;
- for having discredited the police and the justice systems, by destroying evidence of the illegal cultivation of marijuana in Oka in 1995; by destabilizing the Sûreté du Québec, twice leaving it without a leader, which resulted in the appointment of three different directors over a three-year span; and by its destabilization of the judicial system, denounced by the President of the Bar Association and by one of the most respected lawyers in Québec, Mr. Guy Pépin, who has resigned from the Conseil de la magistrature du Québec in order to have complete freedom to criticize the attitude of the Minister of Justice;
- for having divided Québec society as a whole, among other things, by its stubborn refusal to recognize the results of the referendum it had itself held on 30 October 1995.

Before the debate began, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this want of confidence motion: twenty 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; within this framework, Members may speak for up to twenty

**22 May 1997**

---

minutes each, with exception for the mover of the motion and the representative of the Prime Minister, who shall each be permitted to speak for one hour.

Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, having raised the question of the receivability of the motion, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, heard comments from both sides on this question. He then took the matter under advisement, and, for this purpose, at 10.38 o'clock a.m., suspended the proceedings during pleasure.

---

The proceedings resumed at 11.58 o'clock a.m.

---

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, rendered the following decision on the receivability of the motion moved by Mr. Chagnon:

#### RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The want of confidence motion moved by the Member for WestmountXSaint-Louis is in order.

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, then informed the Assembly that he would give the motives for his decision upon resumption of the debate on the want of confidence motion, after Routine Proceedings on the present sitting day.

---

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

22 May 1997

---

The proceedings resumed at 2.02 o'clock p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_

Moment of reflection

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, made a statement about the Programme québécois de parrainage collectif des personnes en situation de détresse (Québec programme for the corporate sponsorship of persons in distress).

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. Bertrand (Charlevoix) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which met on 7, 14 and 20 May 1997 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

102 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plans Act in order to facilitate phased retirement and early retirement – Reported with certain amendments.

(Sessional Paper No. 889-970522)

### Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Loiselle (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) tabled the following:

Copies of two letters, dated 5 May 1997, one which had been sent to Mr. Claude Boily, of the general management of the Montérégie Regional Board, and another which had been sent to Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Prime Minister, from Messrs. Denis Bélanger and Réjean Huot, of the general management of Après-Coup, concerning a request for a grant for their programme of intensive therapy for abusive spouses in a crisis situation.

(Sessional Paper No. 890-970522)

### Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- X the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 125, An Act to amend various legislation in order to prevent crime and ensure public security;
- X the Committee on Public Finance, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 108, An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions of a fiscal nature;
- X the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 105, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act.

**22 May 1997**

---

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### **Business Having Precedence**

#### *Want of Confidence Motion*

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, gave the motives for the decision he had previously rendered on the receivability of the motion moved by Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis):

#### RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The want of confidence motion is receivable on the following grounds:

Firstly, it has not lapsed. It can technically be presumed in the want of confidence motion that the Government, in the past, has contributed to "having divided Québec society as a whole", notwithstanding the adoption yesterday of a motion by the Assembly recognizing "the will, democratically expressed by Quebeckers in the referendum of 30 October 1995";

Secondly, the want of confidence motion cannot be divided since it contains but one principle, to blame governmental activity, despite the fact that the want of confidence motion touches upon several activities or subjects;

Thirdly, notwithstanding Standing Order 191, want of confidence motions have always contained recitals. It is inherent to these motions to contain the reasons for which the Government is blamed;

Fourthly, despite the fact that the want of confidence motion contains a preamble, it may be moved and debated, considering the precedents with regard to this matter;

However, in the future, any motion containing preambles and any motion containing recitals, excepting want of confidence motions, shall be ruled out of order by the Chair. Also, the Chair shall not permit such motions to be placed on the Order Paper.

And debate arising on the want of confidence motion by Mr. Chagnon;

**22 May 1997**

---

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.

---

At 5.40 o'clock p.m., on motion by Mrs. Caron, Deputy Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned until Tuesday, 27 May 1997, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

---

**ROYAL ASSENT**

On Thursday, 22 May 1997, at 10.58 o'clock a.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of the President of the National Assembly, of Mr. Lachance (Bellechasse), the Delegate of the Prime Minister, of Mrs. Loiselle (Saint-Henri—Sainte-Anne), the Delegate of the Leader of the Official Opposition, and of Mr. Bédard, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly, the Honourable Louis Lebel, Administrator of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bills:

81 An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions;

134 Appropriation Act No. 4, 1997-98.

**JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU**

*President*