



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 4 November 1997 — No. 128

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 2.03 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

163 An Act to amend the Public Curator Act and other legislative provisions relating to property under the provisional administration of the Public Curator.

The motion was carried.

Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais, Minister for Revenue, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bills:

164 An Act to amend the Act to facilitate the payment of support.

The motion was carried.

165 An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu, the Act to facilitate the payment of support and the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

248 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec – This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-first day of December 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1190-971104)

Mr. Jutras (Drummond) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 248, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Jolivet, Government House Leader, Private Bill 248 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Education, of which the Minister of Education shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, transmitted the following Message from Her Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, which Mr. President communicated to the Assembly:

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec transmits to the Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the Supplementary Estimates # 2 for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1998, and recommends the said Estimates to the consideration of this Assembly.

Québec City, 31 October 1997

Lise Thibault

Mr. Landry laid upon the Table the Supplementary Estimates # 2 for the fiscal year ended

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31 March 1998. (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 1191-971104)

On motion by Mr. Jolivet, Government House Leader, the Supplementary Estimates # 2 for 1997-98 were referred to a Committee of the Whole.

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

The annual reports, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1997, of the following Regional Health and Social Services Boards: Laurentides, Montérégie and Outaouais.

(Sessional Paper No. 1192-971104)

The annual report, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1997, with regard to the implementation of the complaints examination procedure of the Bas-Saint-Laurent regional health and social services board.

(Sessional Paper No. 1193-971104)

Mr. Jolivet, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the 1996-97 annual reports of the following regional health and social services boards, be referred to the Committee on Social Affairs for consideration: Laurentides, Montérégie and Outaouais.

The Minister of Health and Social Services shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes for the

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fiscal year ended 31 March 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1194-971104)

Mr. Trudel, Minister of Municipal Affairs, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Ministère des Affaires municipales for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1195-971104)

The annual report of the Régie de la sécurité dans les sports du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1196-971104)

Mr. President tabled the following:

Pursuant to Standing Order 97.1, copy of the notice of the motion by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) to be placed on the Order Paper and Notices of Wednesday, 5 November 1997, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 1197-971104)

Mr. President then tabled the following mission report:

The report, presented by Mr. Michel Côté, the Member for La Peltrie and vice-chairman of the Committee on Public Administration, on the XVIIIth annual conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees, which was held in Edmonton, Alberta, from 14 to 16 September 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1198-971104)

Presenting Petitions

The abstracts of two petitions respecting the social welfare reform were laid upon the Table:

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 64,

- the abstract of a petition signed by 2514 citizens from the Lanaudière region, by Mr. Blais (Masson);

(Sessional Paper No. 1199-971104)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63,

- the abstract of a petition signed by 743 citizens from the riding of Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques, by Mr. Boulerice (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques).

(Sessional Paper No. 1200-971104)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Rochon, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Month and remind us of the importance of CPR techniques, which enable us, each year, to save a great number of lives.

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

Mr. Trudel, Minister of Municipal Affairs, moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the persons elected within the various municipal councils, either as mayor or councillor, in the elections held on

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Sunday, 2 November 1997, and thank the candidates who ran as well as the people who retired after many years of serving their fellow citizens.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 170 to 173, Mr. Jolivet, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Culture hold special consultations on the report from the committee on the establishment of a very large library entitled "Une grande bibliothèque pour le Québec" (A large library for Québec), on 11, 12, 13, 18 and 19 November 1997, and, for this purpose, hear the following groups and persons according to the schedule indicated hereafter:

On Tuesday, 11 November 1997

- from 9.00 o'clock a.m. to 9.45 o'clock a.m., opening statements;
- from 9.45 o'clock a.m. to 10.30 o'clock a.m., the Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (ANEL);
- from 10.30 o'clock a.m. to 11.15 o'clock a.m., the Union des écrivains et des écrivaines du Québec (UNEQ);
- from 11.15 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock p.m., the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED);
- from 3.00 o'clock p.m. to 3.45 o'clock p.m., the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Mrs. Paule Leduc;
- from 3.45 o'clock p.m. to 4.30 o'clock p.m., the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec (OPHQ);
- from 4.30 o'clock p.m. to 5.15 o'clock p.m., the Association des producteurs de multimédia du Québec (APMQ);

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- from 5.15 o'clock p.m. to 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Association des libraires du Québec (ALQ);

On Wednesday, 12 November 1997

- from 9.00 o'clock a.m. to 9.45 o'clock a.m., the Académie des lettres du Québec;
- from 9.45 o'clock a.m. to 10.30 o'clock a.m., Mr. Jean-Paul Baillargeon;
- from 10.30 o'clock a.m. to 11.15 o'clock a.m., Mrs. Louise Guay, Public Technology;
- from 11.15 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Diane Mittermeyer;
- from 3.00 o'clock p.m. to 3.45 o'clock p.m., the Syndicat des professionnelles et professionnels du gouvernement du Québec (SPGQ);
- from 3.45 o'clock p.m. to 4.30 o'clock p.m., the Association des éditeurs anglophones du Québec (AÉAQ);
- from 4.30 o'clock p.m. to 5.15 o'clock p.m., the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec (CBPQ);
- from 5.15 o'clock p.m. to 6.00 o'clock p.m., the City of Québec, Mr. Jean-Paul L=Allier;

On Thursday, 13 November 1997

- from 9.00 o'clock a.m. to 9.45 o'clock a.m., the Conférence des recteurs et principaux du Québec (CREPUQ);

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- from 9.45 o'clock a.m. to 10.30 o'clock a.m., the City of Montréal;
- from 10.30 o'clock a.m. to 11.15 o'clock a.m., Mrs. Hélène Fotopoulos (RCM);
- from 11.15 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock p.m., the Communauté urbaine de Montréal (CUM);
- from 3.00 o'clock p.m. to 3.45 o'clock p.m., Héritage Montréal;
- from 3.45 o'clock p.m. to 4.30 o'clock p.m., the Regroupement des CRSBP (Centres régionaux de services aux bibliothèques publiques);
- from 4.30 o'clock p.m. to 5.15 o'clock p.m., the Association des bibliothèques publiques de l'Île de Montréal;
- from 5.15 o'clock p.m. to 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ);

On Tuesday, 18 November 1997

- from 3.45 o'clock p.m. to 4.30 o'clock p.m., the Amis de la bibliothèque de Montréal;
- from 4.30 o'clock p.m. to 5.15 o'clock p.m., the Quebec Library Association;
- from 5.15 o'clock p.m. to 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Marie McAndrew, vice-president of the Centre de recherche en relations ethniques;

On Wednesday, 19 November 1997

- from 3.00 o'clock p.m. to 3.45 o'clock p.m., the Association des écrivains et écrivaines québécois pour la jeunesse;
- from 3.45 o'clock p.m. to 4.30 o'clock p.m., the Centre de recherche informatique de Montréal (CRIM);

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- from 4.30 o'clock p.m. to 5.15 o'clock p.m., the Société de développement des périodiques culturels québécois (SODEP);
- from 5.15 o'clock p.m. to 6.00 o'clock p.m., closing statements;

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 of Culture and Communications 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. Jolivet, Government House Leader, convened the following Committee:

- X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 149, An Act to reform the Québec Pension Plan and to amend various legislative provisions.

Mr. President gave the following notices:

- X the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall examine the orientation, activities and management of the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage;
- X the Committee on Public Administration shall examine the financial commitments of the Ministère des Affaires municipales contained in the lists for the months of January 1996 to March 1997.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 5 November 1997, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly denounce the numerous cutbacks imposed on the most destitute members of our society by the Parti Québécois Government.

Mr. President then rendered the following decision with respect to the question raised by the Member for Nelligan on Thursday, 30 October 1997, regarding the measures the President would take to ensure that the Assembly examines the special report of the Public Protector that was tabled in the Assembly on the same day by the President.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Regarding this matter, no authority other than that of tabling the report of the Public Protector in the Assembly is invested in the President by statute. Since there is no legal obligation to examine this report in parliamentary committee, only an order of reference to the competent committee, pursuant to the rules of procedure of the National Assembly, would allow the examination of this report. In the case in point, there are several possibilities: The Assembly could refer the matter to a committee by adopting an order. A committee could also initiate proceedings, pursuant to Standing Order 149, if it deems the subject of the report falls within its terms of reference. Also, the Committee on Institutions could hear the Public Protector with respect to his special report, pursuant to Standing Order 294.1.

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Finally, the Committee on Public Administration could initiate proceedings pursuant to the *Act respecting the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage

Mr. Julien, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, moved the passage of Bill 156, An Act to amend the Agricultural Products, Marine Products and Food Act.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division and, accordingly, Bill 156 was passed.

At 4.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6.00 o'clock p.m.

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first on a question by Mr. Mulcair (Chomedey) to Mr. Trudel, Minister of Municipal Affairs, on behalf of Mr. Ménard, Minister of Justice, about freedom of speech and a personal lawsuit on the part of a Government minister against a citizen from the region of Rouyn-Noranda—Témiscamingue;
- the second on a question by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) to Mr. Bégin, Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, about the agreement with RECYC-Québec respecting

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the deposit system regarding beer and soft drink single-use containers;

- the third on a question by Mr. Williams (Nelligan) to Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais, Minister for Revenue, about the retroactive contribution of tip employees.

At 6.42 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 5 November 1997, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President