



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 8 April 1998 — No. 166

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

QUÉBEC

1919



The Assembly was called to order at 10.06 o'clock a.m.



ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, —That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup), Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun), Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata), Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) and Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for having "omitted" to include in its 1998-99 budget specific measures to create employment in Québec which meet our youth=s real needs, while having reduced expenditures in education and vocational training.

And debate continuing on the motion by the Minister of Finance and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), Mr. Béchar (Kamouraska-Témiscouata), Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis);

At the end of his speech, Mr. Williams (Nelligan) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government, which continues to harass low-income taxpayers, particularly tip employees.

And debate continuing on the motion by the Minister of Finance and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup), Mr. Gautrin (Verdun), Mr. Béchar (Kamouraska-Témiscouata), Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis) and Mr. Williams (Nelligan);

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 12.00 o'clock p.m.

Thirteen hours and thirty minutes having elapsed since Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, began the budget speech, Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that, in compliance with Standing Order 275, the debate shall be suspended in the Assembly in order that it might continue in the Committee on Public Finance.

At 12.23 o'clock p.m., Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, having left the Chair, the proceedings were suspended until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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

Moment of reflection

Mr. President tabled the following:

A document containing a series of proposals on the parliamentary reform.
(Sessional Paper No. 1557-980408)

Mr. President then rendered the following decision on the replacement of the want of confidence motions deemed out of order:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. President declared the want of confidence motions moved by the Member for Laporte, the Member for Rivière-du-Loup, the Member for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, and the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce within the framework of the Debate on the Budget Speech to be out of order, on the grounds that these motions contain recitals, which is contrary to Standing Order 191.

With the consent of the Members concerned, the President requested leave of the Assembly to replace the aforementioned motions by new motions which comply with the Standing Orders.

By leave of the Assembly, Mr. President tabled a document containing:

The motion by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte), which now reads as follows:

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THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its 1998-99 budget, which contains no measures to improve health and education services, which contains no real prospect for employment improvement, more specifically with regard to our youth, and which does not take on the impoverishment of Quebecers.

The motion by Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup), which now reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its interventionist economic orientation and its refusal to take on the main obstacle to economic growth brought on by Quebecers= tax burden.

The motion by Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata), which now reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for its 1998-99 budget, which contains no realistic measures to counter the impoverishment of our regions, of the population and more specifically of our youth, and which offloads onto future generations an increase of more than 16 % in Québec=s debt.

The motion by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), which now reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for the lack of measures, in its 1998-99 budget, which could improve the living conditions of the poorest members of our society.

(Sessional Paper No. 1558-980408)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

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The progress report of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1559-980408)

A document by the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec entitled "Survol des activités 1997: Une gestion éclairée pour la sécurité des capitaux" (Profile of activities for 1997: responsible management for safety of principal).

(Sessional Paper No. 1560-980408)

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

The annual report of the Ordre professionnel des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 1561-980408)

Mr. President tabled the following Decision by the Office of the National Assembly, dated 2 April 1998:

- X Decision 871 concerning the regulation respecting the reimbursement of additional travel expenses to the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Règlement sur le remboursement de voyages additionnels au député de la circonscription électorale des Îles-de-la-Madeleine).

(Sessional Paper No. 1562-980408)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Garon (Lévis) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Culture, which, on 7, 8, 16, 22, 23, 28, 30 October and 6 November 1997, held a general consultation and public hearings on the five-year report of the

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Commission d'accès à l'information on the implementation of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information* and of the *Act respecting the protection of personal information in the private sector*. The Committee also held five deliberative meetings. This report contains recommendations.

(Sessional Paper No. 1563-980408)

A report from the Committee on Culture, which, on 4, 5, 6, 18, 19 and 20 March, 27 and 28 August and 4 September 1997, held a general consultation and public hearings within the framework of its order of initiative on identification cards and the protection of privacy. The Committee also held twelve deliberative meetings. This report contains recommendations.

(Sessional Paper No. 1564-980408)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Farrah (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- X the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 416, An Act to amend the Transport Act and the Act respecting transportation by taxi;
- X the Committee on Public Finance, to continue the debate on the Budget Speech, pursuant to Standing Order 272.

Mr. President gave the following notice:

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- X the Committee on Social Affairs shall hear the Regional Health and Social Services Boards of the Nord-du-Québec, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Chaudière-Appalaches regions, within the framework of the examination of their 1993-94 to 1996-97 annual reports, pursuant to section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Education on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 401, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act with respect to itinerant merchants, together with the amendment handed in by Mr. Boisclair, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration.

The amendment was declared in order.

After debate thereon, the amendment was carried.

The report, as amended, was concurred in.

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which, on 10, 11 and 12 February 1998, held special consultations on both the final report entitled "Examen des orientations de la société Hydro-Québec" (Examination of Hydro-Québec=s orientation) and the 1998-2002 strategic plan of Hydro-Québec within the framework of the order of surveillance follow-up with respect to the aforementioned agency. This report contains recommendations.

Before the debate began, Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking

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time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: five minutes shall be set aside for each of the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the period allotted for this debate; within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group or by the independent Members may be redistributed, and individual speeches will not otherwise be limited.

And debate arising;

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

At 5.09 o'clock p.m., on the motion by Mr. Jolivet, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned until Thursday, 9 April 1998, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President