

Daily sitting 67

Friday, May 16, 2014

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Thursday, May 22, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fraser:

WHEREAS the Alward government promised it would balance the books of the province without raising taxes or cutting services;

WHEREAS the Alward government broke its three key promises as they failed to balance the books without raising taxes or cutting services;

WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has missed the financial targets established throughout the mandate of this Conservative government;

WHEREAS the Finance Minister is laying blame on “horrendous” demands by members of the Conservative Caucus;

WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has brought in a bill entitled *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act* which has been referred to by pundits as a gimmick;

WHEREAS the bill purports to fine Members of the Executive Council when budget targets are not met;

WHEREAS the Alward government would have missed its own targets in 2011 and 2013, and would miss them again this year;

WHEREAS, if the aforementioned provisions of this bill were in place when the Alward government came to power, and considering that they have missed their targets three times, the Premier and his Ministers would owe New Brunswickers \$135,000 in fines;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Premier and the members of the Executive Council to honour those provisions retroactively and remit pay the sum of \$135,000 to the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the Finance Minister to reveal the aforementioned “horrendous” spending demands made by his caucus colleagues and clarify if they are the reason that past budget targets were missed.

Mr. Collins gave Notice of Motion 64 that on Thursday, May 22, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Haché:

WHEREAS a decision was made to select a location for the Southern Carleton School in the Local Service District of Bedell, a community within the Premier's constituency, but outside the boundaries of the Town of Woodstock;

WHEREAS there was not a competitive process undertaken for the selection of the site;

WHEREAS the site was adjacent to a subdivision owned by a company whose owner was a friend of the Premier;

WHEREAS the province also entered into a land swap with this company without competitive process;

WHEREAS the site was selected without due consideration of the Department of Education policy related to the criteria for school site selections;

WHEREAS there were serious issues related to the availability of potable water at the site;

WHEREAS as a result of issues related to water, a decision was made that the Town of Woodstock would annex the property and both the province and the municipality would pay to bring water to the site;

WHEREAS the residents of Bedell were not provided the opportunity to have a say on the annexation of the property which impacted their tax base;

WHEREAS while the provision of water to the site created an additional burden for taxpayers, it created a tremendous benefit for the owner of the subdivision;

WHEREAS the Education critic attempted to obtain answers without success from the Minister of Education as to whether education policies and guidelines were followed on the selection of the school site;

WHEREAS the Opposition filed a Right to Information request for documentation related to the selection of the school's site including all documentation on environmental testing and documentation that would establish whether or not the Premier's Office interfered in the selection process;

WHEREAS the information obtained as a result of the Right to Information request was heavily redacted and incomplete;

WHEREAS as a result of a complaint to the Right to Information and Privacy Commissioner, additional documentation was released;

WHEREAS this information which contains e-mails from the Premier's Office to departmental staff is also incomplete;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature urge the provincial government to disclose all documentation and information surrounding the circumstances related to the site selection for the Southern Carleton School, including but not limited solely to, any documentation, record or information regarding the role of the Premier and/or anyone employed in the Premier's Office with respect to the Southern Carleton School.

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate at second reading of Bill 87; following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 90, 89 and 85.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 87, *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 87 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 87, *Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Mr. Urquhart in the chair.

At 12.18 o'clock p.m., Mr. Urquhart declared a recess and left the chair.

12.34 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Urquhart, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed that he report the following Bills as agreed to:

Bill 85, *Teachers' Pension Plan Act*.

Bill 89, *Loan Act 2014*.

Bill 90, *An Act to Amend the Expropriation Act*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then 2 o'clock p.m. the House adjourned.