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No.7

Tuesday, February 13, 1996.

8.30 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Robichaud, from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

February 13, 1996.

To the Honourable

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Public Accounts begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

Your Committee met on Thursday, February 8, 1996 in the Legislative Council Chamber.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Valcourt, Mr. Robichaud was elected Chairman of the Committee. On motion of Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Jamieson was elected Vice-Chairman.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd.) Elvy Robichaud, MLA.

Chairman.

Ordered that the Report be received and leave be granted and the Committee continued.

Standing Committee on Procedure

Hon. Mr. Frenette from the Standing Committee on Procedure, presented the First Report of the Committee for the session which was read and is as follows:

February 13, 1996.

To the Honourable

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Procedure begs leave to submit this, their First Report.

Your Committee met on Thursday, February 8, 1996 in the Legislative Council Chamber.

On motion of Mr. Robichaud, Hon. Mr. Frenette was elected Chairman of the Committee. On motion of Mr. Robichaud, Hon. Mr. Tyler was elected Vice-Chairman.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd.) Hon. J. Raymond Frenette.

Chairman.

Ordered that the Report be received and leave be granted and the Committee continued.

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker cautioned all Members to be brief in posing questions and making responses.

Bills Introduced

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mrs. Barry,

Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Police Act*.

By Hon. Mrs. Breault,

Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Emergency Measures Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills be read a second time at the next sitting.

Second Reading

The following Bills were read the second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House:

Bill 9, *Special Appropriation Act 1996*.

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*.

Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*.

Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*.

Government Motions re Business of House

Hon. Mr. Frenette, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to the order of Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House, announced that the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation on Friday next.

Private Members' Motions

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Hon. Mr. Valcourt, seconded by Mr. Mockler, moved:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick has jurisdiction over many components of the Canadian social safety net which it discharges in cooperation with the federal government; and

WHEREAS a partial reform of our social safety net that does not proceed from a comprehensive review and assessment of the needs of New Brunswickers and Canadians is not desirable; and

WHEREAS the proposed Employment Insurance reforms of the federal government do not proceed from a comprehensive review of the Canadian social safety net; and

WHEREAS too many New Brunswickers and our total provincial economy will be adversely affected by said proposed changes which will result in individuals and families living below the poverty line;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick ask the Government of Canada to immediately withdraw that government's proposed reform of the Unemployment Insurance Act, and substitute therefore a mechanism whereby the federal and provincial governments would jointly undertake a comprehensive review of the social safety net with the objective of reforming all its components and adapting it to the current needs of all Canadians.

And the question being put, a debate arose,

And after some time, Hon. Mr. MacIntyre, seconded by Hon. Mrs. Mersereau, proposed the following amendment:

THAT Motion 1 be amended by:

1) Removing the first four Whereas clauses and adding the following Whereas Clause:

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has proposed changes to the Unemployed Insurance Act, many of which will impact negatively on our province, but some of which will have a positive effect on our workforce.

2) Striking everything after the word "to" in the second line of the resolution clause and substituting the following:

"amend those parts of the Employed Insurance Reform that negatively impact on New Brunswick's seasonal workers, notably the calculation of benefits based on consecutive weeks, the intensity rule, and the divisor used to calculate benefits".

Hon. Mr. Valcourt arose on a point of order, his point of order being that the amendment was contrary to the intent of the motion, and therefore out of order.

Mr. Speaker declared a recess at 10.04 o'clock a.m.

10.25 o'clock a.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Speaker advised that he had reviewed the amendment to Motion 1 as moved by the Member for Saint John Champlain and found that it did not negate the intent of the original motion. In ruling to accept the motion, Mr. Speaker made reference to paragraph 567 of Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Forms*, Sixth Edition, which states:

567. The object of an amendment may be either to modify a question in such a way as to increase its acceptability or to present to the House a different proposition as an alternative to the original question. Sir Erskine May,

Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament (20th ed., 1983), p. 395.

The Speaker then put the question and a debate ensued.

After some time, Mr. Speaker reminded Members to direct their remarks through the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time allotted for Private Members' Motions had expired.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Motions 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 be stood over until Thursday March 21, 1996.

Address

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Ms. de Ste. Croix, seconded by Mr. Devereux:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.

February 6, 1996.

To Her Honour,

The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

And the debate continuing,

After some time spent therein it was agreed by unanimous consent that the House continue to sit through the noon recess.

And the debate continuing,

After some time, Ms. Weir paid tribute to the late Louis Murphy, former Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saint John Harbour.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker cautioned Members to refer to other Members by constituency, and not by name.

And after some further time,

The debate was, on motion of Hon. Mr. Frenette, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McKenna, adjourned over.

And then, 1.57 o'clock p.m. the House adjourned.