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**No. 14**

Tuesday, December 17, 1996.

8.30 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mrs. Breault rose pursuant to Standing Rule 10 to complain to the House of an article published in the December 17, 1996, edition of *L'Acadie Nouvelle* relating to yesterday's proceedings on Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act*, in Committee of the Whole House.

Hon. Mrs. Breault then laid upon the table of the House *L'Acadie Nouvelle*, December 17, 1996 edition.

Hon. Mr. Valcourt inquired whether he could speak on the Point of Privilege. Mr. Speaker ruled that Standing Rule 10 did not permit debate.

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**Petitions**

Ms. Weir, Member for Saint John Harbour, laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by members of the New Brunswick Hairdressers' Association who strongly oppose the implementation of a 15% tax added to the existing cost of any hairdressing service provided by any licensed hairdressers in the province. (Petition 7)

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Mr. Robichaud raised a Point of Order informing the House that no response had been received to Petitions 2 and 3. Mr. Speaker ruled that the Point of Order was well taken as Standing Rule 36(7) requires that the government provide a written response to a petition within two weeks of its presentation.

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**Documents Tabled**

Hon. Mr. Lockyer laid upon the table of the House the following documents:

Report Card '96 - Anglophone Schools Districts

Résultats des Examens et tests provinciaux - Districts scolaires francophones

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Hon. Mr. Blanchard laid upon the table of the House a document entitled Performance Measurement - Supplement to the Main Estimates 1997-1998.

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**Message from His Honour the Administrator**

Hon. Mr. Blanchard, Minister of Finance, delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour, the Administrator, and the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the Members standing, and is as follows:

*Fredericton, N.B.*

*December 17, 1996.*

*His Honour the Administrator transmits a Bill entitled Special Appropriation Act 1996 (2), and having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends the same to the House.*

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### **Bills Introduced**

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. Blanchard,

Bill 31, *Special Appropriation Act 1996 (2)*.

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

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### **Notices of Motions**

Ms. Weir gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Tuesday, January 7, 1997, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Sherwood:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House copies of all correspondence or any other documents from the Office of the Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, Premier, and Minister of Economic Development relating to proposed labour law reform, or other changes to New Brunswick's labour laws from employers, employer representatives, or employer organizations.

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Mr. Robichaud gave Notice of Motion 64 that on Tuesday, January 7, 1997, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D. Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a detailed list of all reassessments of provincial government property including the property housing Crown Corporations, agencies and Boards, over the last 5 fiscal years including, address of property; department, agency office located there; assessed value prior to reassessment; new assessed value; change in assessment, increase or decrease; date and rationale for new assessed value.

As well as any government policy or directive from the Board of Management, the department of Municipalities Culture and Housing, the Premier's Office or deputy premier's office dealing with the reassessment of any of the properties that fall into the above list.

Please accompany the tabled documents with this information in electronic format, preferably in WordPerfect or Excel.

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### **Bills Introduced**

At the request of Hon. Mr. MacIntyre, Mr. Speaker reverted to the Order of Introduction of Bills and the following Bill was introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. MacIntyre,

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*.

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

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### **Government Motions re Business of House**

On motion of Hon. Mr. Frenette, seconded by Hon. Mr. Tyler,

RESOLVED, that when the House adjourns, it stand adjourned until Wednesday, December 18, 1996, at 9.30 o'clock a.m.

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Hon. Mr. Frenette announced that today the Order of Business would be Private Members' Motions, followed by resumption of the Budget Debate and consideration of legislation in Committee of the

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### Private Members' Motions

Debate resumed on Motion 2 by Hon. Mr. Valcourt, seconded by Mr. Robichaud:

WHEREAS for more than two decades, New Brunswick had the best regime of local government in Canada where large and small municipalities alike provided local rate payers with quality services at a reasonable and equitable level of taxation;

WHEREAS in its more formal response to the commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment the government committed itself to a full and complete review of all relevant tax measures; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendments to the unconditional grant formula may hinder the possibility for municipalities to operate under a framework which favours long-term planning, stability of revenues and accountability for local decisions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government consider staying its decision to amend the unconditional grant formula for one year so that a full review of all relevant tax measures can be conducted with meaningful public consultation.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 55 was negatived.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Mr. Robichaud moved, seconded by Mr. Mockler:

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Public Employees Association recently released the results of a poll carried out among the public, showing that 88% of those surveyed were against bed closures and staff cutbacks in hospitals and against the closure of certain hospitals;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Nurses' Union also released the results of a poll carried out among its membership, showing that 80% of those surveyed believe New Brunswick hospital staff cutbacks jeopardize patient care quality;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government take into consideration the results of these scientific polls when it develops its health care policies.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. King, seconded by Hon. Mr. Frenette, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 3 be amended by

1. In the paragraph containing the resolution, by deleting the word "these" in line 2; and
2. In the paragraph containing the resolution by inserting the following words after the words "scientific polls" in line 2: ", the concerns of the public at-large, the *Canada Health Act*, the opinions of stakeholders in the health sector, the opinions of taxpayers, editorials in daily newspapers and weeklies, the opinions of users of the health care system, taxation level, hospital corporations, discussions of the government caucus, national experts in the field of health insurance, members of political parties and many others,"

Mr. Speaker put the question, then declared a short recess at 10.36 o'clock a.m. to allow distribution of said amendments to Members.

*10.58 o'clock a.m.*

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and after making a correction to the English version of the amendment, a debate ensued.

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

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### Budget Debate

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the Motion (Motion 61) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed,

And after some time, it was agreed by unanimous consent to continue the sitting through the noon recess to allow Ms. Weir to conclude her remarks.

Mr. Speaker declared it to be 12.30 o'clock p.m. and left the chair, to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

*2 o'clock p.m.*

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Hon. Mr. Valcourt rose on a Point of Order to complain that Mr. LeBlanc had, in remarks spoken earlier in the House, attacked the reputation of the Auditor General, an officer of the House, and requested that he apologize.

Hon. Mr. Frenette rose and suggested that this was not a valid point of order.

Mr. Speaker informed Members that although this was not a proper point of order, Members must be careful to avoid making personal attacks on Members.

And the debate continuing, it was on motion of Hon. Mr. Frenette, on behalf of Hon. Mr. C. Thériault, adjourned over.

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### **Committee of the Whole**

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Mr. O'Donnell in the Chair.

And after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. O'Donnell, the Chairman, after requesting Mr. Speaker revert to the Order of Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed him to report progress on the following Bill:

*Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Municipal Assistance Act.*

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker then 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.

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And then, 6.02 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

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The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid before the Table of the House, pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 16 - December 16, 1996