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No. 5

Tuesday, December 1, 1998.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. C. Thériault paid tribute to a former Fredericton city councillor, Donald Kelly, now deceased. Mr. Green joined with Hon. Mr. Thériault in this regard.

Documents Tabled

Hon. Mrs. Mersereau laid upon the table of the House documents entitled NB 9-1-1 Service PSAP Operation Centre Audit Report and NB 9-1-1 Service PSAP Operation Centre Audit Report Response.

Bills Introduced

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mrs. Breault,

Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.

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

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. Valcourt gave Notice of Motion 42 that on Thursday, December 3, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lord:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has adopted the *Balanced Budget Act*, assented to May 7, 1998; and

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has adopted the *Auditor General Act* assented to July 17, 1981 and that the Auditor General, as an Officer of the Legislative Assembly, has discharged his responsibility to the Legislative Assembly by auditing the financial statements of the Government for the previous fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General's report of July 28th, 1998 in regard to the financial statements of the Province as at March 31, 1998 contains two reservations, "the net effect of which would be to increase the net debt of the Province by \$329 million and to change the reported surplus for the year of \$61.7 million into a deficit for the year of \$267.3 million";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government for the sake of honesty to the taxpayers of New Brunswick, and in accordance with its responsibility, to correct its financial statements and reflect the operating deficit of \$267.3 million for the year ended March 31, 1998 which is in breach of the *Balanced Budget Act*.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 43 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Robichaud:

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 copy and list of the number of Communication Officers including Fte's and contract positions with the Government of New Brunswick including Departments, Crown Corporations, Committees, Commissions and Boards.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 44 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with Baseline Communications, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 45 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with Corporate Research Associates, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 46 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he 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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with Corporate Communications, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 47 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with M 5 Advertising, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 48 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with Hawk Communications, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 49 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with Communications Plus Group, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 50 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Green:

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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with Harley Mallory, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 51 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he 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 contracts between government departments, agencies, committees, boards, and commissions with McKnight Communications, and the costs of those contracts.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 52 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Volpé:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House details of all public relations/communications, and advertising contracts, the amount of said contract, and purpose of the contract, between the Premier's office, and/or any government department or government agency with any and all private public relations, communications, or communications consulting firms in New Brunswick, in Canada, and the United States since 1987.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 53 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 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 all documents, including but not limited to, memos, letters, correspondence, electronic mail, minutes of meetings, reports, pertaining to emergency calls responded to by ambulances and their failure/success rate of response. Please provide the information by region and detail specifically why the ambulance was unable or could not complete the request.

Mr. Mesheau gave Notice of Motion 54 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lord:

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 copy of all memos, letters, correspondence, proposals, electronic mail, minutes of meetings, reports, analyses, feasibility studies over the past five (5) years concerning the Y2K problem.

Mr. Green gave Notice of Motion 55 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Mesheau:

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 copy of all memos, documents, correspondence and electronic mail in the last five (5) years between physicians, physician organizations and Minister of Health and Community Services regarding physician shortages.

Mr. Green gave Notice of Motion 56 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Mesheau:

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 copy of all memos, documents, correspondence and electronic mail in the last five (5) years between residents, family members, concerned citizens and the Minister of Health and Community Services regarding nursing home care.

Mr. Green gave Notice of Motion 57 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Mesheau:

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 copy of all memos, documents, correspondence and electronic mail

in the last five (5) years between nurses and nursing organizations and the Minister of Health and Community Services regarding nursing shortages.

Mr. Green gave Notice of Motion 58 that on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Mesheau:

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 copy of all memos, documents, correspondence and electronic mail in the last five (5) years between physicians, physician organizations, nurses, nursing organizations, related healthcare workers, Emergency Medical Officers, concerned citizens, and interest groups and the Minister of Health and Community Services related to ambulance service.

Government Motions re Business of House

Hon. Mr. Byrne announced that following Private Members' Motions it was the intention of the government that the House resume debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Private Members' Motions

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, moved:

WHEREAS we are committed to the five principles of the *Canada Health Act*: publicly administered, universal, portable, accessible, and comprehensive; and

WHEREAS we want a health care system that puts the patient first, a system that will ensure meaningful involvement for providers, consumers, and communities in shaping the future direction of health care; and

WHEREAS healthcare funding must be based on a combination of quality of service as well as financial accountability; and

WHEREAS there is a need to reevaluate the current services that are delivered; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee provision of appropriate levels of healthcare services to all New Brunswickers regardless of where they live in New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Hon. Mrs. Breault moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

- 1. In the fourth paragraph, by deleting the word "a" and inserting the words "an ongoing", by deleting the word "reevaluate", and inserting the word "evaluate" and by deleting the words "the current" and inserting the word "healthcare" and also by deleting the words "that are delivered";
- 2. In the resolution clause, by deleting the words "to introduce legislation that would guarantee provision of" and replacing them with the words "to continue providing", by deleting the words "levels of", by deleting the word "to" and replacing it with the word "for" and by deleting the word "New Brunswick" and replacing it with the words "the province".

Mr. Speaker having put the question on the amendment, Mr. Robichaud rose on a Point of Order, his point of order being that a member who has spoken when moving an amendment is precluded from speaking again.

After hearing from several members on the point of order, Mr. Speaker ruled that the practice in this House is to permit a member to move an amendment and then speak on the amendment provided the member has not prefaced the moving of the amendment with any other remarks.

And a debate ensuing on the amendment,

After some time, Ms. de Ste. Croix, Deputy Speaker, took the Chair as Acting Speaker.

After some further time, Mr. Lord rose on a Point of Order, to clarify certain remarks that had been attributed to him by Mr. MacLeod during the course of debate.

Madam Deputy Speaker ruled that Mr. Lord's point of order was not well taken.

Mr. Robichaud rose on a Point of Order, his point of order being that the practice of this House is that Members may rise on a point of order to correct false or inaccurate remarks made by another Member.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

After hearing from other Members on the point of order, Mr. Speaker ruled that the matter concerned a difference of opinion between two Members and the point of order was not well taken.

And the debate continuing,

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

Address

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. S. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Barry:

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.
November 24, 1998.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Marilyn Trenholme Counsell,
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, it was on motion of Mr. Flynn, adjourned over.

And then, 5.54 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.