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**Daily Sitting 27**

Thursday, April 6, 2000.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. S. Graham withdrew unparliamentary comments made during the previous sitting day.

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Ms. Weir stood on a question of privilege and submitted that the government was in contempt of the House in not providing complete financial information in the budget and estimates presented March 28, 2000, and in circulating a memorandum from the Deputy Minister of Transportation had been circulated to departmental employees outlining changes that were not reflected in the budget but which would be finalized in the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Ms. Weir further argued that Members of the Opposition were impeded in the discharging of their duties if financial decisions had been made and deliberately omitted from the financial information presented to Members of the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker ruled that the matter had been sufficiently dealt with in his ruling of April 4, 2000, which found that it was within the prerogative of the Crown to make the financial requirements of the government known to the House by tabling the Main Estimates.

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At the request of Hon. Mr. Green, unanimous consent was granted to vary the order of the daily routine of business, to begin with Question Period and Ministers' Statements.

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Prior to the start of Question Period, Mr. Speaker reminded Members that they must respect the rules and precedents of the House, and avoid unparliamentary language and negative references to other Members.

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At the conclusion of Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. Robichaud rose on a Point of Order, maintaining that it was contrary to the rules laid out in *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th Edition*, to impute motives different from those acknowledged by a Member.

Mr. Speaker stated that he would review the Hansard transcript and address this matter later if necessary.

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Hon. Mr. Robichaud announced that it was the intention of government that following Private Members' Motions, the House would resume the Budget Debate, and, time permitting, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 33 and 28.

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During Statements by Members, Mr. Speaker reminded Members that all statements should be directed through the chair and this often involves facing the chair while speaking.

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Debate resumed on Motion 3, as follows:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's tourism industry has been growing at a record pace over the last number of years;

WHEREAS this success is largely due to the active participation of thousands of New Brunswickers who are directly involved in the tourism industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to maintain the previous level of support for the tourism industry of New Brunswick.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Mesheau, seconded by Hon. Mrs. MacAlpine, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 3 be amended by deleting the word "previous" in the BE IT RESOLVED clause and replacing it with the word "appropriate."

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was carried.

Debate resumed on Motion 3 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS New Brunswick's tourism industry has been growing at a record pace over the last number of years;

WHEREAS this success is largely due to the active participation of thousands of New Brunswickers who are directly involved in the tourism industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to maintain the appropriate level of support for the tourism industry of New Brunswick.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 3 as amended was carried.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 4, Mr. S. Graham moved, seconded by Mr. Blanchard:

WHEREAS the Premier has made a commitment to the people of New Brunswick to remove the tolls from the new Fredericton-Moncton highway;

WHEREAS the Premier has committed the removal of tolls will not cost the taxpayers of New Brunswick more money;

WHEREAS approximately one-third of toll revenue would come from outside New Brunswick,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature urge the Premier to explain to New Brunswickers the real cost of removal of tolls including a clear indication of how the lost toll revenues will be replaced.

And the question being put, 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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The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 77),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Ashfield assumed the chair as Deputy Speaker.

And after some further time, on motion of Hon. Mr. Green on behalf of Hon. Mr. Lord, the debate was adjourned over.

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Bernard, 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 33, *An Act to Amend the Prescription Drug Payment 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.

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And then, 6.00 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 upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 45 - March 31, 2000

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 87 - April 4, 2000

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 99 - April 5, 2000

Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick Annual Report, 1999 - March 31, 2000

Lotteries Commission of New Brunswick Annual Report - March 31, 2000