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Daily Sitting 45

Thursday, May 11, 2000.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker introduced Rod Gallagher, who will be serving as a Page for the remainder of the session.

Following Question Period, Hon. Mr. Green rose on a Point of Order and noted that the Member for Charlotte had referred to the fact that a Minister was absent from the House.

Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken and advised Members to refrain from commenting on the absence of Members from the House.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. Green, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Lord:

Bill 39, *An Act to Repeal Unproclaimed Public Acts and Parts of Public Acts.*

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

Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 145 that on Thursday, May 18, 2000, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Haché:

WHEREAS the agriculture industry is a pillar of the New Brunswick economy;

AND WHEREAS the 1999-2000 investment of \$23 million in agriculture results in production worth over 1.3 billion dollars;

AND WHEREAS over 12,000 New Brunswickers are employed in agriculture and agri-food industries;

AND WHEREAS it is the intention of government to severely cut services to farmers in the current fiscal year;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the government to continue to provide farmers with all services that were in place on March 31, 2000.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the government's intention that following Private Members' Motions, the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Supply and Services.

Debate resumed on Motion 48, moved by Mr. Blanchard, as follows:

WHEREAS in early December, Motion 18 was proposed in the Legislature requesting that this government immediately table all documents dealing with the issue of opening up the electricity sector to competition and/or privatization;

AND WHEREAS on January 11, 2000, Minister Volpé filed a response to that request with the Clerk of the Legislature quoting NB Power's response when he indicated that the release of the information at this time would jeopardize negotiations leading to agreements which may flow from the privatization studies;

AND WHEREAS the Premier subsequently stated that no negotiations are taking place to sell off some of NB Power's generating stations;

AND WHEREAS the Premier has committed to the people of New Brunswick that no sale of any of NB Power's generating stations shall take place or be considered until this government's energy policy is

finalized;

AND WHEREAS on February 3, 2000, Minister Volpé confirmed that the government was going to sell two turbines at NB Power's Millbank generating station and that such sale is the result of talks that began shortly after the June election when a broker expressed interest in those turbines;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that an anchor load is secured to support a lateral pipeline to northern New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS it appears that these two turbines will be sold to a US buyer that intends to convert the turbines to use Canadian natural gas to produce electrical power for New England businesses and industries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislature urge the government to immediately halt any sale, proposed sale or negotiations concerning the sale of any of the assets of NB Power, including the sale of the two turbines in the Millbank generating station, until such time as this government has:

- brought its energy policy forward for all New Brunswickers to openly review and debate including the Members of the Legislative Assembly;
- brought forward its plan for securing the necessary anchor load to secure a lateral pipeline to northern New Brunswick.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Weston took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Ashfield resumed the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

The House, according to order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Carr in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Bernard took the chair.

And after some further time, the Chairman declared it to be 6 o'clock p.m., and left the chair to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Ashfield in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Ashfield, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, and asked leave to sit again.

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, 10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.