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**Daily Sitting 47**

Tuesday, May 16, 2000.

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

The Honourable the Premier laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "Memorandum of Understanding on Atlantic Canada Cooperation" dated May 15, 2000.

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

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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 the debate being ended and the question being put, the motion was negatived on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 10

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|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Blanchard | Mr. B. Thériault | Mrs. Mersereau |
| Mr. Allaby    | Mr. Haché        | Mr. Kennedy    |
| Mr. Lee       | Mr. S. Graham    | Ms. Weir       |

|                    |               |               |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hon. Mr. Green     | Mrs. Poirier  | Mr. Jordan    |
| Hon. Mrs. Blaney   | Mr. Cosman    | Mr. Laforest  |
| Hon. Mr. Mesheau   | Mr. Carr      | Ms. Keddy     |
| Hon. Mr. McFarlane | Mr. Weston    | Mr. Huntjens  |
| Hon. Mrs. Jardine  | Mr. Malley    | Mr. Savoie    |
| Hon. Mr. Volpé     | Mr. MacDonald | Mr. Cyr       |
| Hon. Mr. Sherwood  | Mr. Holder    | Mr. Ashfield  |
| Mr. J. Betts       | Mr. Kinney    | Mr. MacKenzie |
| Mrs. Fowlie        | Mr. McGraw    | Ms. Dubé      |
| Mr. LeBlanc        | Mr. Steeves   |               |

Motions 17, 22, 24, and 36 by Ms. Weir were, by leave of the House, stood over to Thursday, May 25, 2000.

Motion 43 by Mr. C. Thériault was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 52, Ms. Weir moved, seconded by Mr. Richard:

WHEREAS the disclosure of internal government documents related to the decision not to order a full Environmental Impact Assessment of the Irving Oil Refinery Expansion has badly shaken public confidence in the integrity of decision making in the Department of Environment; and

WHEREAS public participation is critical in making important public policy decisions on the environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government and the Department of Environment to implement stronger public participation for key and critical environmental decisions and take immediate steps to restore public confidence in the Department of Environment and its decision.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further 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. Steeves in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Ashfield 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.

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.

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 Notices of Motions 98, and 110 - May 15, 2000

Documents requested in Notices of Motions 117 and 133 - May 16, 2000