

(The electronic version of the following Journal of the Legislative Assembly is for information purposes only.
The printed version remains the official version.)

Daily Sitting 6

Wednesday, December 8, 1999.

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Mockler laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Statement of New Brunswick Bishops on the occasion of the next election*.

During Statements by Members, Mr. C. Thériault rose on a Point of Order, his point of order being that pursuant to Standing Rule 40.1(3), the Official Opposition should be recognized first during this item of business.

Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken and advised that in future this rule would be followed.

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker advised that questions and answers should be direct and that Members should avoid entering into a debate.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. Lord,
Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Residential Property Tax Relief Act*.
Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*.

By Hon. Mr. McFarlane,
Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

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

Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 40 that on Tuesday, December 14, 1999, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. S. 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 the names of all people hired by the New Brunswick Community College at the Bathurst campuses since June 21, 1999.

Hon. Mr. Green advised that, with leave of the House, it was the intention of government that following second reading, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Estimates 1999 - 2000, and then to proceed to Government Motions 30 and 1, and, finally, to resume debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The following Bills were read the second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House:

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Pensions*.
Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*.
Bill 5, *Special Appropriation Act 1999(3)*.

Hon. Mr. Green, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House, announced that it was the intention of the Government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to be granted to Her Majesty forthwith.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

And after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Bernard, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee,

proceeding in the matter under consideration, had passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Supply be granted to Her Majesty, for certain additional sums for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000.

And he was directed to ask leave to sit again.

Mr. Bernard moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Lord,

That the House does concur with the Committee of Supply in its report and agrees in its resolution that Supply be granted to Her Majesty, for certain additional sums for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the government's intention that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply forthwith.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

And after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Bernard, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to the Order of Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had made some progress in the consideration of the matters referred to them 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.

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.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 30, Hon. Mr. Lord moved, seconded by Mr. C. Thériault:

WHEREAS the citizens of Canada, including New Brunswick, clearly support the need for sustainable and high-quality programs in health, post secondary education and social services;

AND WHEREAS the provision of health services, post secondary education and social services is constitutionally a provincial responsibility and related costs continue to rise beyond the sole expenditure means of the Province of New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has considerably reduced, through the Canada Health and Social Transfer, the amount of cash transfers in support of provincial social programs while currently projecting a 95.5 billion dollar cumulative budget surplus over the next five years;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada imposes a ceiling on equalization payments which, when it applies, limits the ability of eligible provinces and territories from meeting the Constitutional principle of offering comparable levels of services to citizens at comparable levels of taxation;

AND WHEREAS the cash transfers through the Canada Health and Social Transfer will be \$4.2 billion less in 2000-01 than 1994-95 levels and the full restoration of this amount in 2000-01 would provide New Brunswick with approximately \$100 million in additional revenues to support health, post-secondary education and social services;

AND WHEREAS provincial and territorial leaders have reached a consensus to call upon the Government of Canada to fully restore the Canada Health and Social Transfer to 1994-95 levels, with an appropriate escalator, and to eliminate the ceiling on equalization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick call upon the Government of Canada to fully restore the Canada Health and Social Transfer to 1994-95 levels, with an appropriate escalator, and to eliminate the ceiling on equalization, thus supporting the consensus reached by provincial and territorial leaders.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

THAT the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure be concurred in by the House.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 1 was carried on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 32

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Hon. E. Robichaud | Mr. Cosman | Mr. Landry |
| Hon. Mr. Lord | Mr. Carr | Mr. Laforest |
| Hon. Mr. Mockler | Mr. Weston | Ms. Keddy |
| Hon. Mrs. Jardine | Mr. Malley | Mr. Huntjens |
| Hon. Mr. Volpé | Mr. Stiles | Mr. Savoie |
| Hon. Mrs. MacAlpine | Hon. Mr. MacDonald | Mr. Cyr |
| Hon. P. Robichaud | Hon. Mr. Holder | Mr. Ashfield |
| Mr. Betts | Mr. Kinney | Mr. Bernard |
| Mrs. Fowlie | Mr. McGraw | Ms. Crossman |
| Mr. LeBlanc | Mr. Steeves | Ms. Dubé |
| Ms. Poirier | Mr. Jordan | |

NAYS - 9

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. Blanchard | Mr. Lee | Mrs. Mersereau |
| Mr. Allaby | Mr. B. Thériault | Mr. Richard |
| Mr. C. Thériault | Mr. Haché | Mr. Kennedy |

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Ms. Dubé, seconded by Mr. MacDonald:

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 30, 1999.

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 after some time, it was agreed by unanimous consent to continue sitting past the ordinary time of adjournment.

And the debate continuing, after some time it was, on motion of Hon. Mr. Mesheau, adjourned over.

And then, 5.57 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:

