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Daily Sitting 7

Thursday, December 9, 1999.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. B. Thériault rose on a Question of Privilege and submitted that the Minister of Human Resources Development, in refusing to answer certain questions posed during question period on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, and subsequently answering similar questions during a media interview, was in breach of his privileges as a Member.

Several Members spoke on the question of privilege.

With leave of the House, Mr. B. Thériault laid upon the table of the House a video tape of the Radio Canada Interview, a Hansard excerpt from question period of December 8, 1999, and an excerpt from *The Daily Gleaner* dated December 9, 1999.

Mr. Speaker ruled that it is a well-established practice that announcements made outside the House cannot be the subject of a question of privilege; furthermore, the Minister had the choice of not answering questions posed, and in his opinion, the matter involved a question of courtesy, not a question of privilege.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. E. Robichaud,

Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Youth Assistance Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Green,

Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act*.

Bill 11, *Provincial Court Judges' Pension Act*.

By Mr. MacKenzie,

Bill 12, *An Act to Proclaim Holocaust Memorial Day Yom haShoah in New Brunswick*.

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

Mr. Allaby gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Thursday, December 16, 1999, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

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 New Brunswick Regulations and clauses of New Brunswick Statutes relating to the removal and/or disposal of asbestos, together with policy papers and documents in the possession of the Department of the Environment relating to the removal and/or disposal of asbestos, and copies of all documents including correspondence, letters, memos, electronic mail, proposals, studies, reports and analyses relating to the storage removal and/or disposal of asbestos at the Skypark site in Miramichi during the current calendar year.

Hon. Mr. Green advised that following second reading and Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of government 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 6, *An Act to Amend the Residential Property Tax Relief Act*.

Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 8 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that second reading of Bills 9, 10 and 11, introduced earlier during the sitting be deferred until Tuesday, December 14, 1999.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 31, moved by Hon. P. Robichaud, seconded by Mr. Bernard, as follows:

THAT Motion 31 be amended by deleting the words:

"WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick and the Government of Canada forgave a \$38M debt for the Port of Saint John in 1996;"

and by deleting all the words after the word "Legislature" and replacing them with the following: "encourage the Government of New Brunswick to continue its ongoing efforts to urge the federal government to reduce or eliminate the debt of the Port of Belledune."

And after some time, Mr. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. S. Graham, moved a sub-amendment, as follows:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 31 be amended by deleting the word "Government" the third time it appears and substituting the word "Premier"; and by deleting the word "its" and substituting the word "his"; and by deleting the words "reduce or".

And the question being put on the sub-amendment, a debate ensued.

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

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. Lord, adjourned over.

And then, 6.05 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:

Annual Report Health and Community Services Vital Statistics - December 8, 1999