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Daily Sitting 9

Tuesday, November 28, 2000.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Richard gave notice of his intention to raise a question of privilege regarding the failure of the Minister of Training and Employment Development to table a study relevant to a Bill before the House. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Rule 9(2), Mr. Richard gave notice of his intention to the following motion, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

WHEREAS the Committee of the Whole House had before it for consideration Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, with respect to Spousal Benefits for the Reinstatement of Surviving Widows' Benefits;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Training and Employment Development had in his Department's possession an actuarial study reflecting on spousal benefit, entitled Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick, Assessment of Potential Additional Liabilities for the Reinstatement of Surviving Spouses' Benefits for Remarriages Prior to April 17, 1985;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Employment and Training Development failed to provide this key study, with important information to assist Members of the House in debate until the Bill was well into Committee of the Whole consideration;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House expresses its regret that the Minister of Training and Employment Development was less than transparent and open in his delay in providing copies of the actuarial study, and that his conduct amounts to contempt for the Members of this House.

Mr. Thériault gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Thursday, November 30, 2000, he 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 all documents, including but not limited to memos, letters, correspondence, electronic mail, minutes of meetings, reports, opinion polls, research including input of focus groups since June 21, 1999, in regard to the government's intention to establish a new theme or brand for the New Brunswick image in its external marketing initiatives.

Hon. Mr. Robichaud announced that it was the intention of the government that following second reading of Bills and Private Members'

Motions, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation; namely, Bill 10.

The following Bill was read the second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House:

Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the All-Terrain Vehicle Act*.

Following second reading of Bill 11, Mr. J. Betts requested the unanimous consent of the House to speak on the principle of the Bill and unanimous consent was denied.

The following Bill was read the second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House:

Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Regional Development Corporation Act*.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 1, moved by Hon. Mr. Furlong, seconded by Hon. Mr. Green, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 1 be amended by:

Deleting the second, third and fourth WHEREAS clauses, and by

deleting the words "bring forward forthwith" in the resolution clause and replacing them with the following:

"continue with".

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

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

The required two hours' notice having been given earlier in the sitting, Mr. Speaker invited the Member for Shédiac—Cap-Pelé to state his question of privilege.

In stating his question of privilege, Mr. Richard noted that the failure of the Minister of Training and Employment Development to provide the Members of the House with an actuarial study in the possession of his department constituted a breach of privilege and a contempt for the Members of both sides of the House.

After hearing comments from other Members, Mr. Speaker informed the House that he would take the matter under advisement.

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

And after some time Mr. Speaker took 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 directed him to report progress on the following Bill:

Bill 10, *Special Payment to Certain Dependent Spouses of Deceased Workers Act*.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker then 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, 6 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.