
Daily Sitting 19

Thursday, December 14, 2000.

12 o'clock noon

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that Shayne Davies, Committee Clerk and Research Assistant, would be assisting with Table duties for the next several days.

At the conclusion of Question Period, Hon. Mr. Green rose on a point of order stating that the Member for Bathurst posed questions to the Minister of Education dealing directly with a matter before the courts of the province, contrary to the *sub judice* principles outlined in *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms*, 6th Edition, §408. (1) (d), §409. (9), and §410. (15).

Several Members spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Speaker advised that in order for the Speaker to rule that a matter is *sub judice*, he must be apprised that the matter is before the courts, in accordance with Standing Rule 49, which requires that it be shown to the satisfaction of the Speaker that further interference would create a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the participants.

Ms. Weir rose on a point of order and submitted that the Minister of Justice should refrain from commenting on matters before the court.

Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken as he had not been advised of the matter before the courts.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the intention of the government that following second reading and Private Members' Motions, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation; namely, Bill 14.

Mr. Speaker welcomed to the House Mr. James Gordon, a Progressive Conservative Member of the Legislature who represented the constituency of Miramichi Bay from 1982 to 1987.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2000-01*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 28 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2000-01*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Debate resumed on Motion 3, as follows:

WHEREAS the government has promised an energy policy to be presented this fall;

WHEREAS one of the most significant energy issues to the people of New Brunswick is the future of NB Power;

WHEREAS comments from the government have suggested that the future of NB Power will not be included in the upcoming energy policy;

WHEREAS no energy policy could be considered comprehensive that does not include the future of the province's greatest energy presence;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to include a plan for the future of NB Power in the energy policy to be released this fall.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 3 was negatived.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 4, Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Cyr, moved:

WHEREAS the government successfully sought a mandate to empower people and communities by instituting new elected district education councils; and

WHEREAS the government successfully sought a mandate to empower people and communities by instituting new regional health authorities; and

WHEREAS the government successfully sought a mandate to empower people and communities by instituting new community economic development agencies; and

WHEREAS the government successfully sought a mandate to empower people and communities by holding a referendum on the future of VLT machines in New Brunswick;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick endorses the principle that people and communities should be empowered to take an active role in the decisions affecting their lives

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate continuing, Mr. Thériault rose on a point of order stating that the speech being given by Mr. E. Robichaud was a repetition of a previous statement in the House. Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker ruled the point of order not well taken as the statement varied from a previous statement delivered in the House.

And after some time, Mr. Thériault, seconded by Mr. Allaby, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT motion 4 be amended by:

In the resolution clause, after the word "lives" add, "and that their decisions be binding upon this Government".

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

During consideration of Bill 14, Mr. Alward rose on a point of order; namely, that statements made by Mr. Richard concerned an in-camera meeting of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations. Mr. Richard withdrew the statements.

And after some further time, Mr. Alward took the chair as Acting Chairman.

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

And after some further time, 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 directed him to report progress on the following Bill:

Bill 14, *New Brunswick Income Tax Act*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

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, 6 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 Regional Development Corporation 1999-2000 - December 13, 2000