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Daily Sitting 29

Friday, March 30, 2001.

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 10, Mr. Huntjens rose on a question of privilege to correct an article in the Wednesday, March 28, 2001, edition of the *Evening Times Globe*.

Mr. Richard, the Member for Shediac—Cap-Pelé, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of New Brunswick urging the government to act immediately to stabilize the health care system and to support physicians in their effort to focus attention on the physician crisis in New Brunswick. (Petition 7)

Mrs. Mersereau, the Member for Bathurst, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of the Minto and Chipman area who are concerned about the closure of the school board office in Chipman and request the decision be reversed. (Petition 8)

Ms. Poirier, Member for Rogersville-Kouchibouguac, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of the salmon and trout fishermen from the Miramichi region urging the government to reverse the practice that forbids worms and lures fishing from the Quarryville Bridge to Doyles Brook. (Petition 9)

Ms. Poirier, Member for Rogersville-Kouchibouguac, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of citizens of the Kouchibouguac National Park area who oppose the proposed protected zone near the park. (Petition 10)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Betts:
Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act*.
Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Pensions*.

By Hon. Mr. Green on behalf of Hon. Mr. Lord:
Bill 35, *An Act to Repeal Unproclaimed Public Acts and Parts of Public Acts*.
Bill 36, *An Act to Repeal Acts Not Consolidated and Not Repealed*.

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

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Green laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "New Brunswick Statutes 1903-1975 Proposed for Repeal."

Mr. Huntjens gave Notice of Motion 57 that on Thursday, April 5, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kinney:

WHEREAS rabies is a North American problem and

WHEREAS rabies has been progressing from the United States to some parts of Canada in the past couple of years and

WHEREAS the Province of New Brunswick has acted by developing a surveillance, prevention, and awareness program, which includes the provision of a toll-free information line and the removal of rabid animals, especially in areas most at risk

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Department of Health and Wellness be commended for its efforts to implement a strategy that will protect the health and safety of New Brunswickers.

Hon. Mr. Green gave Notice of Motion 58 that on Thursday, April 5, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT, notwithstanding Standing Rule 29(1), the time for the daily meeting and sitting of the Assembly shall be as follows:

Tuesday 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Wednesday 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Thursday 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Friday 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

That this Special Order shall come into effect on the first sitting day following the conclusion of the Budget Debate and shall remain in effect until such time as the House has concluded its consideration of the estimates in the Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the intention of government that Private Bill 17, *An Act Respecting the Canadian Information Processing Society of New Brunswick*, be read a second time on Friday next and that following second reading today, the House would resume the budget debate.

Before Orders of the Day, Mr. Richard moved, seconded by Mr. S. Graham, the following motion pursuant to the provisions of Standing Rule 45 governing emergency debates:

WHEREAS the Maritime Lumber Accord which guarantees New Brunswick softwood lumber producers access to American export markets, expires on March 31, 2001;

WHEREAS approximately one in eight New Brunswickers are employed in the forestry sector, and some 28,000 jobs in softwood lumber alone;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's forest industry is three times more dependent on exports than any other province in Canada;

WHEREAS trade sanctions by American lumber producers and the United States Government or voluntary export limitations by the Government of Canada would be devastating to New Brunswick's economy and cripple several dozens of rural communities in New Brunswick such as Saint-Jacques, Baker Brook, Saint-Leonard, Doaktown, Kedgwick, Chipman, Nackawic and many others;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a long standing tradition of free trade in logs and forest products with the Northeast United States, beginning with the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842;

WHEREAS since 1981, the Maritime Provinces have been excluded from the various trade remedies implemented to resolve ongoing softwood lumber disputes;

WHEREAS it would appear to be prudent that the Government be urged to immediately take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the renewal of the Maritime Lumber Accord as part of or separate from any softwood lumber agreement with the United States Government and that New Brunswick's historic free trade status in lumber be preserved.

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Standing Rule 45, for the purpose of discussing this specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, that this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Honourable Members,

In accordance with Standing Rule 45 (2), which governs requests for emergency debates, I received from the Leader of the Opposition this morning, in the required time frame prior to the opening of the House, a written statement on the matter proposed to be discussed.

I understand that the Leaders of the recognized parties also received such notice.

In the interim, I have had the opportunity to consider the matter proposed for debate.

This is of course a very serious matter and there is no doubt that it concerns an issue which is very important to New Brunswickers. However, this has been an ongoing issue for some time and one that has very much been under consideration by both levels of government.

I realize, as was stated, that the Maritime Lumber Accord expires on March 31st. However, it is the opinion of the Chair that it does not create a genuine emergency at this time which would require the immediate adjournment of the House to consider the matter. Accordingly, I must reject the application for an emergency debate.

However, in view of the fact that this is an important issue, Members should be aware that other avenues are available by which a substantive motion to this effect might be introduced and the matter brought before the House within a reasonable time by other means.

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

Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act.*

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Elevators and Lifts Act.*

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned debate on the motion (Motion 47),

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, having been read,

The debate was resumed.

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

And after some further time, the House agreed by unanimous consent to continue the sitting through the lunch recess.

And the debate continuing, after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

During the debate, Mr. Dubé rose on a point of order to complain that Mr. S. Graham was referring to the Member for Western Charlotte by name rather than by constituency.

Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken and cautioned Mr. S. Graham to refer to Members by constituency.

And after some further time, Ms. Dubé rose on a point of order to complain that the Member for Kent continued to refer to other Members by name. Mr. Richard spoke on the point of order stating that Mr. Graham had been quoting an extract from a newspaper which referred to a Member by name and that this was acceptable.

Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken.

And the debate continuing, after some time, Mr. Haché rose on a point of order stating that a number of government Members had their backs turned away from the Member who was speaking, which was not in keeping with the practices of the House.

Mr. Speaker advised that he had not observed any behaviour that was not in keeping with the normal activity that takes place within the Chamber.

Debate continued, and after some time, on motion of Hon. Mr. Green on behalf of Mr. Stiles, the debate was adjourned over.

With leave of the House, Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 59 that on Tuesday, April 3, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. S. Graham:

WHEREAS the Maritime Lumber Accord which guarantees New Brunswick softwood lumber producers access to American export markets, expires on March 31, 2001;

WHEREAS approximately one in eight New Brunswickers are employed in the forestry sector, and some 28,000 jobs in softwood lumber alone;

WHEREAS New Brunswick's forest industry is three times more dependent on exports than any other province in Canada;

WHEREAS trade sanctions by American lumber producers and the United States Government or voluntary export limitations by the Government of Canada would be devastating to New Brunswick's economy and cripple several dozens of rural communities in New Brunswick such as Saint-Jacques, Baker Brook, Saint-Leonard, Doaktown, Kedgwick, Chipman, Nackawic and many others;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has a long standing tradition of free trade in logs and forest products with the Northeast United States, beginning with the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842;

WHEREAS since 1981, the Maritime Provinces have been excluded from the various trade remedies implemented to resolve ongoing softwood lumber disputes;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government be urged to immediately take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the renewal of the Maritime Lumber Accord as part of or separate from any softwood lumber agreement with the United States Government and that New Brunswick's historic free trade status in lumber be preserved.

Mr. Richard requested the unanimous consent of the House to treat Motion 59 as a priority motion on Tuesday, April 3, 2001, and that it be the first motion for debate that day.

Hon. Mr. Green advised that, as Government House Leader, he would take the request under consideration and advise the House accordingly.

And then, 1.40 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House since the last sitting of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report New Brunswick Human Rights Commission 1999-2000 - March 29, 2001