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Daily Sitting 30

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

At the conclusion of Oral Questions, Mr. Allaby rose on a point of order to complain that several times during the session the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Richard, had been incorrectly referred to as the Interim Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Allaby stated that the Leader of the Opposition was not an interim position and that the Leader should be referred to by his correct title. Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken and advised that Members should refer to the Leader of the Opposition by his correct title.

Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 60 that on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. S. Graham:

WHEREAS there are two outstanding sites for the Canada Games sports venues that need approval for capital funding from the Province of New Brunswick namely the Bathurst Sports Center and the permanent long track speed skating at the Sugarloaf Senior High School;

AND WHEREAS the federal government, the Province of New Brunswick and the two municipal governments (Bathurst and Campbellton) have committed two million dollars each for capital expenditures for a total of \$6,000,000;

AND WHEREAS as the Premier and the Minister responsible for Canada Games 2003 have publicly stated that both Bathurst and Campbellton will get each their equitable share of the capital dollars \$3 million each and that so far the total committed for Bathurst is \$2,350,000 and \$2,280,000 for Campbellton;

AND WHEREAS the intent of the Canada Games is to leave a legacy in the communities where the games are held and that the top priorities of the Canada Games Society are the Bathurst Sports Centre, number one, and a permanent long track speed skating oval for Campbellton as a second priority;

AND WHEREAS Bathurst and Campbellton and the federal government are contributing 66 and two thirds percent of the monies being invested in capital and that the province will reap the benefits of \$1,705,000, which will be spent on refurbishing schools in Bathurst (this represents 73% of capital expenditures for Bathurst) and the Dalhousie and the Quebec regions will share 16 percent of the funds being allocated to the capital cost. With the 11% being spent in Dalhousie and Charlo the 5.8% being spent in Quebec and the 30.7% being spent on schools in Bathurst that means that 47.5% of the \$5,550,000 committed to date will not be invested equitably in the only two municipalities who are equal funding partners with the provincial and federal governments. Bathurst and Campbellton's investment should at the very least translate into \$3,000,000 for each municipality in capital investment;

AND WHEREAS the Canada Games Host Society will be forced to raise the roofs of two 30 year old gyms in Bathurst for a two week period - at a cost of \$1.2 million, the result will not leave Bathurst and the region with an adequate facility to host future rhythmic gymnastics competitions as the gyms are not readily available on a regular basis and the retro fit will be make shift at best;

AND WHEREAS the Bathurst Sports Center would meet the games hosting needs for badminton and the rhythmic gymnastics, the post game's legacy by providing a City Hall, a library and a sports facility which would include a double gym with the capacity to provide a home for the city rhythmic gymnastics club, the Bathurst sports hall of fame, with additional adult recreational space and a regional athlete training center;

AND WHEREAS the games society would like to host the long track speed skating at Sugarloaf Senior High School in Campbellton and that the land next to the school is level and owned by the city and the province and is big enough and that a permanent long track speed skating oval would be a superb

legacy from the games. The City of Campbellton is the only city with two Olympic sized indoor short track speed skating surfaces in Atlantic Canada. The addition of a permanent long track facility would make Campbellton the speed skating training center for Atlantic Canada. The high school staff and students are very keen on this project. The high school would also like soccer field post games. The total cost of this project would be \$1 million. The Canada Games society have \$300,000 funding set aside for this project which would leave the federal and provincial governments participating at \$350,000 each. If this project is not approved the society will be forced to spend \$300,000 for a temporary track which will be useless after the two weeks. The cost of hosting the speed skating venue would then be \$150,000 a week and would not leave any legacy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly ask the government to re-consider its decision not to fund the Bathurst Sports Centre and the permanent speed skating track for Campbellton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canada Games Host Society be given the authority to realize the two top priorities which will leave long term legacies in both Bathurst and Campbellton and therefore continue to insure that the spirit of the Canada Games is maintained in New Brunswick.

Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 61 that on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

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 documentation including but not limited to, letters, correspondence, electronic mail, minutes of meetings, and/or reports, since June 21, 1999 and up to and including today's date concerning the establishment and/or the ongoing operation of a call centre in Bathurst, N.B. by Can Jet Airlines and complete details of all funding and/or incentives of any type whatsoever offered or committed to by the government in connection with this call centre.

Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 62 that on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, 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 copies of all documentation including but not limited to letters, correspondence, electronic mail, memorandums, minutes of meetings and/or reports concerning the hiring freeze implemented by the government on October 14, 1999.

Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, 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 a complete detailed listing of all positions that any employee was hired for or transferred to since the hiring freeze was implemented on October 14, 1999 with an indication as to whether the filled position is a permanent, part-time, casual or a contract position and whether a competition was held for the filled position and whether an exemption from the hiring freeze was requested for each position and if so a detailed explanation of the reasons for the exemption.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that following second reading of Bills and Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of the government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approve in general the budgetary policy of the government.

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

Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax. Act*
Bill 34, *An Act Respecting Pensions*

The Order being read for a second reading of Bill 35, *An Act to Repeal Unproclaimed Public Acts and Parts of Public Acts*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 35, be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 35, *An Act to Repeal Unproclaimed Public Acts and Parts of Public Acts*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Order being read for a second reading of Bill 36, *An Act to Repeal Acts Not Consolidated and Not Repealed*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 36, be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 36, *An Act to Repeal Acts Not Consolidated and Not Repealed*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The following Private Bill was read a second time:

Bill 17, *An Act Respecting the Canadian Information Processing Society of New Brunswick*.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 121, Mr. Speaker ordered Private Bill 17 for third reading forthwith.

The following Private Bill was read a third time:

Bill 17, *An Act Respecting the Canadian Information Processing Society of New Brunswick*.

Ordered that said Bill does pass.

The House agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the notice requirement of Standing Rule 65(1) and to consider motion 59 forthwith. Accordingly, Mr. Richard, seconded by Mr. S. Graham, moved the following resolution:

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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Lord, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mesheau, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 59 be amended by:

In the first WHEREAS clause:

By striking out the words "Lumber Accord" and replacing them with "Accord on Softwood Lumber";

By adding the phrase "and Atlantic Canadian" after "New Brunswick";

By adding the words "free market" after the word "producers"; and

By replacing the word "expires" with "expired".

By deleting the second, third and fifth WHEREAS clauses in their entirety and substituting in their stead:

WHEREAS thousands of New Brunswickers depend on the forestry industry, including the softwood lumber sector, for their livelihoods;

WHEREAS the four Atlantic provinces are united in their position and have called on the Government of Canada in a number of venues over time to ensure that the existing free trade practices in softwood lumber between Atlantic Canada and the United States are maintained;

WHEREAS the position of the Government of New Brunswick and the other Atlantic Provinces is consistent with the position of the Maritime Lumber Bureau, the organization representing the softwood lumber sector in Atlantic Canada;

In the sixth WHEREAS clause, by adding the words "any and all" after the word "from";

AND By deleting the final clause and substituting in its stead:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick call upon the Government of Canada to immediately renew the Maritime Accord with the Government of the United States to ensure that the existing free trade practices in softwood lumber between Atlantic Canada and the United States can continue and to ensure Atlantic Canada is not subject to any anti-dumping action, countervail duties or export taxes.

Mr. Speaker having put the question, Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and submitted that the proposed amendment was out of order as it would result in a substantially different motion than the one originally proposed. Hon. Mr. Green also spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Speaker declared a short recess at 3.44 o'clock p.m.

4.05 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable members, I have listened carefully and considered both arguments proposed by the Leader of the Opposition and the Government House Leader. I have to admit this is an extremely difficult decision, considering all the parameters and the degree of difficulty of the wording that is here. However, referring to the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, which is the 2000 edition, Marleau and Montpetit, they very clearly have made the decision a little easier.

I am quoting from them. "A motion to an amendment arises out of debate and is proposed either to modify the original motion in order to make it more acceptable to the House, or to present a different proposition as an alternative to the original."

The amendment offered is an alternative proposition. It retains, in my view, the spirit of the original motion, which is the renewal or to renew the Maritime Lumber Accord. I do not agree that the proposed amendment offers an entirely new proposition to the House. I therefore rule the amendment in order.

A debate ensued on the proposed amendment.

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 being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was carried.

Debate resumed on Motion 59 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Maritime Accord on Softwood Lumber which guarantees New Brunswick and Atlantic Canadian softwood lumber producers free market access to American export markets, expired on

March 31, 2001;

WHEREAS thousands of New Brunswickers depend on the forestry industry, including the softwood lumber sector, for their livelihoods;

WHEREAS the four Atlantic provinces are united in their position and have called on the Government of Canada in a number of venues over time to ensure that the existing free trade practices in softwood lumber between Atlantic Canada and the United States are maintained;

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 the position of the Government of New Brunswick and the other Atlantic Provinces is consistent with the position of the Maritime Lumber Bureau, the organization representing the softwood lumber sector in Atlantic Canada;

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick call upon the Government of Canada to immediately renew the Maritime Accord with the Government of the United States to ensure that the existing free trade practices in softwood lumber between Atlantic Canada and the United States can continue and to ensure Atlantic Canada is not subject to any anti-dumping action, countervail duties or export taxes.

And after some time, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, advised that the time allocated for Private Members' Motions had expired. It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the period for Private Members' Motions to allow Hon. Mr. Volpé to conclude his remarks.

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 resumed.

After some time Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some further time, on motion of Hon. Mr. Green, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Volpé, the further consideration thereof was adjourned over.

And then, 5.58 p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Annual Report, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick 2000 - March 30, 2001