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Daily Sitting 31

Wednesday, April 4, 2001.

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

During Statements by Ministers, Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and submitted that the Minister of Transportation should announce the policy on highway advertisements and table related documents in the House prior to a press conference scheduled for later in the day.

Hon. Mr. Green advised the House that the Minister of Transportation would be tabling the documents prior to the House recessing for the dinner hour.

During Statements by Members, Mr. Richard rose on a point of privilege and submitted that his Members' Statement from yesterday had been misrepresented by the Member from Saint John-Fundy. Mr. Richard stated that if his statement offended any member of the Corp of Commissionaires he would retract that part of his statement.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that 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, following which, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation; namely, Bills 31, 32, 33, and 34.

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, Hon. Mr. Green interrupted proceedings and requested that Mr. Speaker revert to the Order of Tabling of Documents.

Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and submitted that the documents the government now wished to table should have been tabled earlier and referred to a recent ruling by Speaker Milliken in the House of Commons pertaining to statements and information outside the House.

Hon. Mr. Green submitted that the document was being tabled in an appropriate manner and would be provided to all Members. Hon. Mr. Green submitted that the ruling made in the House of Commons pertained to legislation to be considered in the House and was not directly applicable to the current situation.

Mr. Speaker acknowledged the precedent established by Speaker Milliken in the House of Commons pertaining to statements made outside the House. Mr. Speaker stated that, although Speaker Milliken's ruling is not directly applicable to the current situation, as a matter of courtesy and respect, members should be provided access to all information required to perform their responsibilities as elected representatives of the people of New Brunswick.

With the unanimous consent of the House, Mr. Speaker reverted to Tabling of Documents.

Hon. Mr. Green laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Highway Advertisements Information Kit*.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker declared it to be 12.30 o'clock p.m. and left the chair, to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

2 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

The debate continued and after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, the debate was on motion of Ms. Poirier adjourned over.

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

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker and Mr. Ashfield, the Chairman, after requesting that the Acting Speaker revert to the Order of Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed him to report the following Bills agreed to as presented:

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

Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Bernard, the Deputy 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, 6.06 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.