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**Daily Sitting 34**

Tuesday, April 10, 2001

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Mockler laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "Greater Opportunities for New Brunswick Children: An Early Childhood Development Agenda, Phase 1: 2001-2002."

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Hon. Mr. Furlong laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "Ensuring a Nursing Presence - A Nursing Resource Strategy for New Brunswick."

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Following Question Period, Mr. Allaby rose on a point of order and submitted that it was not in keeping with the Standing Rules for a Minister respond to a question that had been addressed to another Minister.

Hon. Mr. Green spoke on the point of order, asserting that it is the prerogative of the Premier to rise on any question that is posed in question period, just as it is the Premier's prerogative to redirect any question which might be posed to him in question period.

Several Members spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Speaker stated that it was a well established principle that questions, although customarily addressed to specific Ministers, are directed to the Ministry as a whole. Mr. Speaker added that it was a well-established practice in this House and in other jurisdictions that it is the prerogative of the Premier to respond on behalf of the government to any or all questions posed during Question Period.

Mr. Speaker read a passage from page 432 of Marleau and Monpetit's *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* on the issue of questions being directed to the Ministry as a whole.

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Volpé,

Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Endangered Species Act.* By Hon. Mr. Betts,

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act.*

By Hon. Mr. Volpé,

Bill 39, *An Act to Amend the Mining Act.*

Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Metallic Minerals Tax Act.*

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

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The following Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. MacKenzie,

Bill 41, *An Act Respecting The Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick.*

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

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Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 67 that on Thursday, April 19, 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 copies of all documentation, correspondence, memorandums, reports and/or electronic mail relating to or concerning a complaint of an unlawful or unauthorized removal of sand and/or salt from the Department of Transportation storage shed in Minto on or about November 10, 2000, including without limiting the foregoing, any other dates that an unlawful or unauthorized removal has allegedly occurred including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the particulars of any such complaints, the procedures followed to investigate such complaints and any formal or informal responses to such complaints.

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Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 68 that on Thursday, April 19, 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 a listing of the inventory prepared for the steel building that was removed from the NB Power site at the Minto Power Plant as well as a complete listing of all property, equipment, materials [the "items"] and/or fixtures removal contained within the building before the unauthorized removal occurred and indication of where each of the items is located or stored as of today's date as well as an indication whether any of the items have been sold or disposed of and the amount of consideration paid for each such item.

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Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 69 that on Thursday, April 19, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

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 between the Department of Health and Wellness and Southeast Hospital Corporation or internal documents within the department pertaining to the Provincial Centre for Ambulance Dispatch or any other issue concerning Ambulance Dispatch.

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Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 70 that on Thursday, April 19, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Richard:

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 concerning the updating of Schedule F of the Forest Management plans, details of any changes that have been made to Schedule F since June 1999 to present and a listing of all temporary allocations of wood fibre given by this government.

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Mr. S. Graham gave Notice of Motion 71 that on Thursday, April 19, 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 cost of writing, design, photography and printing of the Greater Opportunities for New Brunswick Children tabled by the Minister of Family and Community Services in the House on April 10, 2001, this should include but not limited to a breakdown of expenses with names of those companies or individuals used in any capacity who received compensation in the production of this publication.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 72 that on Thursday, April 19, 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 a list of any and all write-offs, since June 1999, of government loans to corporations or persons, including but not limited to all loans issued by a government department or any agency, board or commission.

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Mr. Allaby gave Notice of Motion 73 that on Thursday, April 19, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Haché:

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, correspondence, memorandums, reports and/or electronic mail relating to or concerning the disposition of fixtures, chattels, equipment and/or assets (the "assets") contained in the toll plazas including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a complete listing of the assets, with an indication of how each asset was disposed, who purchased each asset, what purchase price was paid, and the disposition of any of the assets that were not purchased.

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Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 74 that on Thursday, April 19, 2001, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Haché:

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 map of all the territories of districts and subdistricts of the new education structure including a breakdown of population, eligible voters, linguistic profile for each district and subdistrict.

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Hon. Mr. Green announced that following Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of the government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Family and Community Services.

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It was agreed by unanimous consent that Motions 9, 11, 15, 16, 20, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41 and 48 be withdrawn.

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Debate resumed on Motion 4 moved by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Cyr, as follows:

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 after some time, Mrs. Mersereau, seconded by Mr. Richard, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 4 be amended by:

In the first WHEREAS clause, after the word "Councils" add,

"and that the Select Committee on Education recommended that the government maintain the 18 school districts, that 2800 people from District 1 (Shediac—Cap-Pelé) and 1050 people from District 17 (Minto-Chipman) have signed petitions requesting that the government maintain the 18 school districts and that hundreds of people from District 12 (Woodstock) and District 4 (Sussex) have held public meetings and the mayors, Chamber of Commerce and group of concerned citizens of the Chaleur region have asked the government to maintain the existing boundaries for the newly elected District Education Councils;"

AND

Following the resolution clause add:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to indicate to the people of New Brunswick that they have listened and heard them and that they will maintain 18 school districts as was recommended by the Select Committee on Education and requested by thousands of New Brunswickers."

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 being ended and the question being put, the amendment was negated on the following recorded division:

	YEAS - 6	
Mrs. Mersereau	Mr. Haché	Mr. Kennedy
Mr. Richard	Mr. S. Graham	Ms. Weir
	NAYS - 31	
Hon. Mr. Robichaud	Mr. Cosman	Mr. Laforest
Hon. Mr. Green	Mr. Carr	Mr. Huntjens
Hon. Mr. Graham	Mr. Jordan	Mr. Savoie
Hon. Mrs. Blaney	Mr. Malley	Mr. Cyr
Hon. Mr. MacFarlane	Mr. Stiles	Mr. Bernard
Hon. Mr. Sherwood	Mr. MacDonald	Ms. Dubé
Hon. Mrs. MacAlpine	Mr. Holder	Mr. Weston
Mr. J. Betts	Mr. Kinney	Mr. Alward
Mrs. Fowlie	Mr. Steeves	Mr. Dubé
Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Landry	Mr. Moore
Ms. Poirier		

Debate continued on Motion 4.

And after some time, the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 4 was carried.

Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, advised that the time allotted for Private Members' Motions had expired.

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The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

And after some time, the Chairman declared it to be 6 o'clock p.m., and left the chair to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

*7 o'clock p.m.*

The Committee resumed with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

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

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

And after some further time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and Mr. Bernard, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, and asked leave to sit again.

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.

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And then, 10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.