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Thursday, December 13, 2001.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Richard requested the unanimous consent of the House to extend the time allotted for oral questions and unanimous consent was denied.

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Leave was granted to revert to the order of Tabling of Documents and Hon. Mrs. Blaney laid upon the table of the House the following documents:

*Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women, Strategic Framework, December 2001*

*A Better World for Women, Government Response to the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women, December 2001*

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The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. McFarlane,

Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Fisheries Bargaining Act.*

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

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Hon. Mr. Green, the Government House Leader, announced that following second reading and Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of the government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Supply to continue consideration of the 2002 - 2003 Capital Budget; in particular, the estimates of the Departments of Supply and Services and Training and Employment Development.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended and the question being put that Bill 13 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act.*

Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act.*

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Mr. Speaker having called for Motion 4, Mr. Richard indicated he was not prepared to proceed with his motion as the subject matter was currently under discussion during consideration of the Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Wellness.

(Motion 4 ordered dropped from the Order and Notice Paper.)

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 5, Mrs. Mersereau, on behalf of Mr. Richard, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau, moved:

WHEREAS in October 2000, the Minister of Training and Employment Development was presented with a petition signed by 65,000 people demanding that the province enact pay equity legislation that would guarantee pay equity in all economic sectors;

AND WHEREAS New Brunswick women earn about \$2.70 less per hour than their male counterparts;

AND WHEREAS in New Brunswick male 1996 university graduates earn an average of \$726 more per month than their female counterparts;

AND WHEREAS on October 13, 2000 the Premier made the following commitment: *The Minister of Training and Employment Development is looking at some improvements that can be brought to the act that could help greater equity in the workforce;*

AND WHEREAS there still exists parts of the public service that are not covered by the *Pay Equity Act*;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to bring forward amendments to the *Pay Equity Act* so that it applies to all parts of the Public Service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the government to bring forward for open discussion by all New Brunswickers a white paper on pay equity in the private sector of the province before the next election.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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, Hon. Mrs. Blaney moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. McFarlane:

#### AMENDMENT

That Motion 5 be amended by:

In the first resolution clause, by deleting all the words after the word "government" and replacing them with the following: "to continue

to implement pay equity in all parts of the public service through the collective bargaining process as is currently being done”;

And in the second resolution clause, by deleting the words “bring forward” and replacing them with the word “encourage”; and by deleting the words “a white paper” and “of the province before the next election.”

And the question being put, Mr. Allaby rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was out of order as it negated the spirit and intent of the original motion.

Several Members spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, advised he was taking the matter under advisement and declared a recess at 4.06 o'clock p.m. and left the chair.

4.18 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair and delivered the following statement:

#### **STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER**

First I would like to quote from *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms* 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, page 175, number 567: “The object of an amendment may be either to modify a question in such a way as to increase its acceptability or to present to the House a different proposition as an alternative to the original question.”

I have carefully reviewed the amendment, and in my opinion it does not entirely negate the intent of the original motion, but offers to the House a different proposition as an alternative to the original motion. The amendment is therefore in order.

Debate continued on the amendment.

And after some time, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Green rose on a point of order and submitted that Mrs. Mersereau was drawing the attention of the House to a previous decision of the chair.

Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, ruled the point well taken.

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.

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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 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 passed several items, 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.

The following are the items reported:

2002-2003 CAPITAL ESTIMATES Voted

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$57,860,000 to defray the expenses of the following program:

Design and Construction of Provincial Buildings ..... 57,860,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then, 6 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.