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Wednesday, January 29, 2003.

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Unanimous consent having been granted to revert to Tabling of Documents, Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and requested that the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy limit his comments to only those required to table a document and to refrain from making a Minister's statement. Mr. Speaker acknowledged that consent had not been granted to revert to Statement's by Ministers.

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Hon. Mr. Volpé laid upon the table of the House a document entitled "NB Power, 1996 Rate Increase".

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Mr. S. Graham gave notice of Motion 89, that on Thursday, February 6, 2003 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 a copy of the first portion of the report prepared by Fujitsu on health human resource needs that was completed in November 2002.

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Hon. Mr. Green announced that, following second reading, it was the intention of the government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to take into consideration the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

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The order being read for second reading of Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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 Deputy 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. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair and delivered the following ruling with respect to comments made earlier this day during the debate on Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*.

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STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

Certain comments made this morning by some Members attacked the integrity, the motives or the character of other Members. Such comments, made without being factual, are not acceptable in this Legislature.

Having said this, I would remind all Members of Standing Rule 49(c) which reads "In debate, a Member shall be called to order by the Speaker if the Member ... imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member".

The interpretation of this rule is as follows: A Member is not permitted to cast aspersions on another Member, nor is it permitted to impute another Member unworthy motives for their actions. This can be broadly interpreted to capture any comments that would have the effect of portraying another Member in a negative light. For example, Marleau and Montpetit, on page 522, states that "Remarks directed specifically at another Member which question that Member's integrity, honesty or character are not in order."

I would remind all Members of Standing Rule 49(c). Such comments are not acceptable in this Legislature.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. McGraw rose on a point of order and requested that the Leader of the Opposition refer to Members by their constituency and not by their proper name. Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken and, in addition, reminded all Members to limit their comments to the principle of the Bill under consideration.

Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and stated that the Member for Petitcodiac should not be making reference to the attendance record of the Leader of the Opposition while a member on the Select Committee on Private Passenger Automobile Insurance. Several Members spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled that the presence or absence of Members in the House, or in Committees thereof, should not be commented upon during debate.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act* be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Ashfield, 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.

And then 6.01 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

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

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 82

January 28, 2003