
Wednesday, February 5, 2003.

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the intention of the government that Bill 17, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, N.B. & P.E.I. Division Inc.* and Bill 30, *Electricity Act* be read a second time.

Motions 27, 31, 35, 36, 53, 55, 56, 61, 62, 63, 68, 69, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 86 were, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Unanimous consent having been granted to revert to Introduction of Bills, the following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Ms. MacAlpine:

Bill 31, *New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth Act.*

Bill 32, *New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors Act.*

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

The following Private Bill was read the second time:

Bill 17, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, N.B. & P.E.I. Division Inc.*

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

The following Private Bill was read the third time:

Bill 17, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, N.B. & P.E.I. Division Inc.*

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 30, *Electricity Act*, a debate arose thereon.

Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and requested clarification as to why debate had not been resumed on second reading of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, as the debate had been interrupted by the time of adjournment during the previous day's sitting.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Rule 42(2) states that once a bill receives first reading, "it stands ordered for second reading at the next sitting of the House." Bill 29 received first reading on Friday, January 31, and was therefore ordered for second reading on Tuesday, February 4. On Tuesday, the motion that Bill 29 be now read a second time was made, and the bill was debated throughout the day. The debate ended when the time expired for that sitting day. Accordingly, the debate on Bill 29 is deemed to have been adjourned. As such, debate may resume on Bill 29 at the discretion of the government.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Ms. Fowlie rose on a point of order and submitted that the Leader of the Opposition had violated Standing Rule 49(c) in that he had imputed false or unavowed motives to her and had stated deliberate falsehoods about her. Mr. Richard spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker took the matter under advisement and at 12.15 o'clock p.m. declared a recess and left the chair.

12.27 o'clock p.m.

The House resumed with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled that the statements by the Leader of the Opposition did contravene Standing Rule 49(c) and directed that they be withdrawn.

Mr. Richard rose on a point of order and requested that the offending words or phrases be identified. Mr. Deputy Speaker advised that he would review Hansard and return to the House with a ruling at the earliest opportunity.

At 12:30 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bernard left the chair to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

2.15 o'clock p.m.

The House resumed with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled, after reviewing Hansard, that the statements in question involved a dispute over facts and were therefore matters of debate. However, he cautioned members to refrain from making reference to or attacking the character of another member and to limit their comments to the issue in question, namely, the principle of Bill 30. He further cautioned the House that a

presiding officer has the discretion, if a member continually contravenes the Standing Rules and practices of the Legislature, to recognize another member to speak.

After some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Speaker interrupted debate and reminded the Leader of the Opposition to limit his comments to the principle of Bill 30 and to refrain from commenting on the conduct of individuals that was not relevant to the Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that the Leader of the Opposition was not respecting the spirit of the Speaker's earlier ruling by not restricting his comments to the principle of the Bill. Mr. Allaby and Ms. Jardine spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled that although the comments of the Leader of the Opposition were very close to being irrelevant, they nevertheless did relate to the principle of the Bill when a broad interpretation was given to the relevancy rule. The Deputy Speaker cautioned the Leader of the Opposition to choose his words carefully to ensure they related to Bill 30.

Ms. Mercereau rose on a point of order to request that the Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud withdraw the remark that the Leader of the Opposition was a "clown". Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud responded that the word "clown" was comparable to the use by the Leader of the Opposition of the terms "marionette" and "puppets of government" to describe government members, but that he would withdraw his remarks. Thereupon, Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud and Mr. S. Graham withdrew their unparliamentary remarks.

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

During his remarks on Bill 30, Mr. Allaby requested that a quorum count be taken. Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Speaker, upon counting fifteen members in attendance in the Chamber, declared that a quorum was present, and the debate was resumed.

And after some time, Mr. Allaby moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Richard:

AMENDMENT

That the motion for second reading of Bill 30 be amended by deleting all the words after "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 30 be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised that the time of adjournment had been reached.

And then 6 o'clock 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, Department of Education 2001-2002 February 5, 2003