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Tuesday, May 18, 2004.

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers

Mr. Lamrock congratulated Head Page Eric Moffatt on the occasion of his being chosen valedictorian by his classmates at UNB.

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Mr. Haché laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by residents of the Jacquet River and Belledune area urging the government to keep the Jacquet River Maintenance Depot garage open to serve the surrounding area. (Petition 35)

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Hon. Mr. Mockler welcomed to the House Jacob Daboué, Raphaël Kompaoré, and Michel Zio, members of a delegation from Burkina Faso.

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Mr. MacIntyre gave Notice of Motion 94 that on Tuesday, May 25, 2004, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Ouellette:

WHEREAS access to health care is the most important concern facing New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS the Premier's Health Quality Council report was made public in January 2002 and the government has yet to bring forward a Health Services Plan;

WHEREAS the contents of the Health Services Plan will impact all New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS this government claims to be committed to "openness" and "transparency";

WHEREAS the New Brunswick Medical Society has called upon Premier Lord to release the Health Services Plan and refer it to the Select Committee on Health Care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to release the Health Services Plan immediately;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Services Plan be referred to the Select Committee on Health Care with a limited timeframe for receiving public input in particular ensuring that front-line health professionals are consulted.

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Hon. P. Robichaud announced it was the intention of government that following Private Members' Motions, the House would resolve

itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

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With leave of the House, pursuant to Notice of Motion 7, Ms. Robichaud on behalf of Mr. S. Graham, seconded by Mr. Lamrock, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the testing of New Brunswick students in both the francophone and anglophone systems over many years has consistently shown evidence that there is room for improvement; WHEREAS research demonstrates that improved student-teacher ratios in the early years have a beneficial effect on academic performance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Education to improve ratios in kindergarten to grade three by reducing average class size by one student per year over four years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Minister of Education to improve the student/teacher ratio of resource teachers to students in each school district.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Ms. Dubé, seconded by Hon. Ms. Blaney, moved in amendment:

#### AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 7 be amended by:

In the first resolution clause, by adding the words “to explore ways” after the word “Education”, and by deleting the words “by reducing average class size by one student per year over four years;” and

In the second resolution clause, by adding the words “to explore ways” after the word “Education”.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended and the question being put on the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 7 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the testing of New Brunswick students in both the francophone and anglophone systems over many years has consistently shown evidence that there is room for improvement;

WHEREAS research demonstrates that improved student-teacher ratios in the early years have a beneficial effect on academic performance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Education to explore ways to improve ratios in kindergarten to grade three;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urge the Minister of Education to explore ways to improve the student/teacher ratio of resource teachers to students in each school district.

And the question being put, Motion 7 as amended was carried.

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

At 4.25 o'clock p.m., the Chairman declared a recess and left the chair.

*4.45 o'clock p.m.*

The Committee resumed with Mr. C. LeBlanc in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. C. LeBlanc, 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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With leave of the House, Hon. E. Robichaud delivered a ministerial statement relating to the employment status of Mr. Jim Wolstenholme, Chief Executive Officer of the Miramichi Regional Health Authority (Region 7).

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The House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. C. LeBlanc in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. C. LeBlanc, 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, 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:

MAIN ESTIMATES, 2004-2005  
ORDINARY ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$55,162,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2005:

Corporate Services .....	4,300,000
Local Government and Community Relations .....	38,464,000
Environmental Management .....	6,754,000
Sciences and Planning .....	5,681,000
Less amounts authorized by law .....	37,000
Voted .....	55,162,000

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,450,000 to defray the expenses of the following program allocations for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2005:

Clean Water Control Grants .....	500,000
Local Service Districts .....	500,000
Provincial Wastewater Treatment Facilities .....	450,000
Voted .....	1,450,000

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES  
2004-2005

WORKING CAPITAL ADVANCES	
Environment and Local Government .....	20,000
PETTY CASH ADVANCES	
Environment and Local Government .....	20,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

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