
Tuesday, May 25, 2004.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers

Hon. Mr. Ashfield paid tribute to the memory of Fredericton lawyer, Progressive Conservative political activist, and sportsman, George Yeamans, recently deceased. Mr. Burke joined with the Minister in this regard.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Lamrock rose on a Point of Order and requested that the Minister of Energy table a document from which he had quoted during the response to an oral question.

Accordingly, Hon. Mr. Fitch laid upon the table of the House a letter dated May 22, 2004, and addressed to Hon. Mr. Fitch, from David D. Hay, president and chief executive officer of NB Power.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. S. Graham,

Bill 52, *An Act Respecting the Regional Health Authorities Act.*

By Mr. Burke,

Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.*

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

Mr. MacIntyre gave Notice of Motion 98 that on Tuesday, June 1, 2004, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Brewer:

That an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he lay upon the table of the House all correspondence including letters, e-mails etc., between Region 7 Miramichi Regional Health Authority and the Department of Health and Wellness regarding the cancellation of the planned methadone clinic for the Miramichi Regional Health Authority, since May 1, 2004.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 99 that on Tuesday, June 1, 2004, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Brewer:

That an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he lay upon the table of the House a copy of

the most recent Actuarial Review on the status of the Teachers' Pension Fund and the Civil Service Pension Fund.

Hon. P. Robichaud announced it was the intention of government that following second reading of Bills 49 and 51 and Private Members' Motions, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation; namely, Bills 27, 47, 15, 34, 45, 19, 32, 33, and 21.

The following Private Bill was read a second time:

Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Moncton Act.*

Pursuant to Standing Rule 121, Mr. Speaker ordered Private Bill 49 for third reading forthwith.

The following Private Bill was read a third time:

Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Moncton Act.*

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 51, *Victims of Family Violence Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, on motion of Hon. Ms. Blaney, the debate was adjourned over on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 27

Hon. Ms. Blaney	Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Huntjens
Hon. E. Robichaud	Hon. Mr. Steeves	Mr. Betts
Hon. Mr. Mesheau	Hon. Ms. Dubé	Mr. Malley
Hon. Mr. Volpé	Hon. Ms. Poirier	Mr. Williams
Hon. Mr. Lord	Hon. Mr. Ashfield	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Green	Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. MacDonald
Hon. D. Graham	Hon. Ms. Fowlie	Mr. Stiles
Hon. Mr. Mockler	Hon. P. Robichaud	Mr. Holder
Hon. Ms. MacAlpine	Hon. Mr. Alward	Mr. C. LeBlanc

NAYS - 23

Mr. McGinley	Mr. Branch	Mr. Foran
Mr. Jamieson	Ms. Weir	Mr. Albert
Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Ouellette	Mr. LeBlanc
Mr. Allaby	Mr. Lamrock	Mr. Paulin
Mr. S. Graham	Mr. Burke	Mr. Doucet
Mr. Haché	Mr. Murphy	Mr. Boudreau
Mr. Armstrong	Mr. Kenny	Mr. Brewer
Mr. Landry	Mr. Arseneault	

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 18, Mr. Stiles, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS in its election platform entitled “Reaching Higher, Going Further,” the government committed that New Brunswick will have the lowest personal income taxes in eastern Canada, and

WHEREAS in “Reaching Higher, Going Further,” the government committed that New Brunswick will have the lowest small business taxes in all of Canada; and

WHEREAS in “Reaching Higher, Going Further,” the government committed that New Brunswick will have the highest tax free threshold for low-income earners in all of Canada;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly encourage the government of New Brunswick to continue to deliver lower taxes in a prudent and reasonable manner for the people of New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some time, Mr. Haché welcomed to the House Mr. Jean Dubé, Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament for Madawaska-Restigouche (1997-1999) and MLA for Campbellton (2001-2003). Mr. Malley joined with the Member in this regard.

And after some further time, Mr. Lamrock, seconded by Mr. Jamieson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 18 be amended:

In the resolution clause, by striking out “to continue” after “encourage the government of New Brunswick”; and

After the final WHEREAS clause, adding the following:

“WHEREAS New Brunswickers have seen no meaningful relief from previous tax-cut measures brought forward by this government;

WHEREAS any income tax cuts made by this government have been nullified by ‘bracket creep’ and increases in consumption taxes;

WHEREAS the government, by cutting taxes before growing the economy, has had to cut needed services in health and education;”

and adding after “prudent and responsible manner” in the resolution clause:

“that is meaningful”

and adding at the end of the resolution clause before the period and by replacing the period with a semi-colon:

“that hard work for a living”

and adding after the resolution clause:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if tax-cutting measures will jeopardize social programs such as health and education, the House urge the government to delay any plans to impose further tax cuts until such time as cuts to important social programs can be avoided.”

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, the amendment was negatived.

And the question being put, Motion 18 was carried.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Mr. Holder in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Holder, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to the Order of Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed him to report the following Bills as agreed to:

Bill 15, *An Act to Amend An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.*

Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Order of New Brunswick Act.*

Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.*

Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2003-2004 (1).*

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Custody and Detention of Young Persons Act.*

Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act.*

Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Quarriable Substances Act.*

Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2002-03 (2).*

And that he had been directed to report progress on the following Bill:

Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Clean Water Act.*

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker 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 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.