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Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Herménégilde Chiasson
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Eugene McGinley

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

**First Session of the 56th Legislative Assembly
Fredericton, New Brunswick**

Tuesday, March 27, 2007.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Murphy, Member for Moncton North, laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by citizens who oppose Bill 17, *An Act to Amend the Off-Road Vehicle Act*. (Petition 11)

Hon. Mr. Doucet, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Haché, Minister of Environment, laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *A Report on Air Quality Monitoring Results in New Brunswick for the year 2005, Environmental Reporting Series*.

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker called the Member for Rothesay to order and asked that all Members refrain from referring to the presence or the absence of a Member in the House.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker called the Member for Woodstock to order and requested that he withdraw the statement that "the Minister misled the House." The Member withdrew the statement.

Mr. C. LeBlanc rose on a point of order and submitted that the Minister of Health had been reading a newspaper during Oral Questions in contravention of the Standing Rules. Mr. Speaker advised the House that he had not witnessed such an action and reminded all Members to show respect for the Member who has the floor.

Mr. Harrison welcomed to the House Mr. Peter Forbes, Progressive Conservative Member of the Legislative Assembly for Fredericton North (1999-2003).

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. C. Robichaud:

Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*.

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Intercountry Adoption Act*.

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

Ms. Blaney gave Notice of Motion 36 that on Tuesday, April 3, 2007, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Carr:

WHEREAS the government has said that community colleges have an important role to play in their self-sufficiency vision; and

WHEREAS the government has said that New Brunswick faces a shortage of skilled workers and that every year young people are turned away from the New Brunswick Community College because of a lack of space; and

WHEREAS the government has said that the province needs skilled workers to support new projects in energy generation and conservation and our information and communication technology sectors; and

WHEREAS the government has said that there is going to be a new infusion of investments in our community college system; and

WHEREAS the government said that their promise would cost an additional \$9.1 million a year for instructors and infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS the government has promised to create 12,000 new full-time seats in the New Brunswick Community College over five years; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly calls on the government to immediately table its plan to expand the New Brunswick Community College by 12,000 full-time students over the next five years.

Hon. Mr. Jamieson, Government House Leader, announced that following second reading and the time reserved for Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Transportation; following which, the Committee would consider the Supplementary Estimates 2006-2007 Volume I.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Credit Unions Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some further time, the debate was, on motion of Hon. V. Boudreau, adjourned over.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 35, Mr. Volpé, seconded by Mr. C. LeBlanc, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS it is a widely accepted principle that tax reduction stimulates economic growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick has enjoyed years of tax reduction that generated record job creation and strong financial growth; and

WHEREAS the provincial budget tabled on March 13, 2007, abandons this successful approach to building prosperity in New Brunswick by raising taxes on people and small business; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to return immediately to the positive measures of tax reduction that New Brunswick previously enjoyed.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. V. Boudreau, seconded by Hon. Mr. Jamieson, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 35 be amended by:

Deleting the second and third whereas clauses and substituting the following:

“WHEREAS tax reduction is a concept that is widely endorsed; and

WHEREAS a review by the accounting company Grant Thornton confirmed that, given historical trends, when combined with previous decisions, the financial challenge for 2007-2008 alone was in the range of \$300 to \$416 million; and

WHEREAS the government must be fiscally responsible to the people of New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has set 2026 as its target to achieve self sufficiency; therefore;” and

In the resolution clause, by deleting all the words after the word “government” and substituting the following:

“to explore measures of tax reduction after the financial problems created by the previous government have been addressed.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and 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 carried on the following recorded division:

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Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Hon. Ms. Schryer	Mr. Kennedy
Hon. V. Boudreau	Hon. Mr. Lamrock	Mr. A. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Jamieson	Hon. Mr. Burke	Mr. Kenny
Hon. Mr. Byrne	Hon. Mr. Foran	Ms. Lavoie
Hon. Ms. Robichaud	Hon. Mr. Ouellette	Mr. Miles
Hon. Mr. Murphy	Hon. Mr. Doucet	Mr. B. LeBlanc
Hon. D. Landry	Hon. Mr. Keir	Mr. Fraser
Hon. Mr. Arseneault	Hon. Mr. Albert	Mr. Collins
Hon. Mr. Doherty	Mr. Brewer	

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Mr. Mockler	Mr. Huntjens	Mr. Fitch
Mr. D. Graham	Ms. Blaney	Mr. MacDonald
Mr. Volpé	Ms. Poirier	Mr. Northrup
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Holder	Mr. C. Landry
Mr. Robichaud	Ms. Dubé	Mr. C. LeBlanc
Mr. Ashfield	Mr. Carr	Mr. Olscamp
Mr. Steeves	Mr. Alward	Mr. Urquhart

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 35 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS it is a widely accepted principle that tax reduction stimulates economic growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS tax reduction is a concept that is widely endorsed; and

WHEREAS a review by the accounting company Grant Thornton confirmed that, given historical trends, when combined with previous decisions, the financial challenge for 2007-2008 alone was in the range of \$300 to \$416 million; and

WHEREAS the government must be fiscally responsible to the people of New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS the government of New Brunswick has set 2026 as its target to achieve self sufficiency; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to explore measures of tax reduction after the financial problems created by the previous government have been addressed.

And the question being put, Motion 35 as amended was carried.

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

At 5.50 o'clock p.m., the Chairman left the chair to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Kenny in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Mockler welcomed to the House Mr. Bernard Thériault, Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly (1987-1999).

And after some further time, Mr. B. LeBlanc took the chair as Acting Chairman.

At 9.29 o'clock p.m., the Acting Chairman declared a recess and left the chair.

9.34 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. B. LeBlanc in the chair as Acting Chairman.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. Kenny, 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 resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.