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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Thursday, January 14, 2010

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

Thursday, January 14, 2010.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Ms. Blaney, Member for Rothesay, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Rothesay, Saint John, Quispamsis, Hampton, Grand Bay-Westfield and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 109)

Ms. Dubé, Member for Edmundston—Saint-Basile, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Sussex, Grand Bay-Westfield, Quispamsis, Saint John and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 110)

Mr. C. LeBlanc, Member for Dieppe-Centre—Lewisville, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Fredericton, Lakeville Corner, Tay Creek, Hanwell, Youngs Cove, Burtts Corner, Harvey and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 111)

Mr. Jody Carr, Member for Oromocto, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Erb Settlement, Saint John and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 112)

Mr. Steeves, Member for Albert, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Holmesville, Beechwood, Andover, Bath, Johnville, Maplehurst, Good Corner, Florenceville, Upper Kent and surrounding areas urging the government to proclaim a plebiscite/referendum on whether the province should sell NB Power. (Petition 113)

Mr. Holder, Member for Saint John-Portland, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Saint John, Quispamsis, Fredericton, Harbour View and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 114)

Mr. Olscamp, Member for Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Miramichi, St. Margarets, Burnt Church, Napan, Chatham, Blackville, Neguac, Laketon, Black River Brook, Renous and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 115)

Mr. Fitch, Member for Riverview, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Nigadoo, Madran, Petit-Rocher, Laplante, Tremblay, Beresford and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 116)

Mr. Jack Carr, Member for New Maryland-Sunbury West, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Blackville, South Esk, Miramichi, Trout Brook, Eel Ground, Lower Derby, Red Bank, Wayerton, Tracadie-Sheila, Pokemouche, Pont-Lafrance and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 117)

Mr. Urquhart, Member for York, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Newcastle, Maple Glen, Miramichi, Baie-Ste-Anne and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 118)

Mr. C. Landry, Member for Tracadie-Sheila, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Millville, Zealand, Upper Hainesville, Juniper, Maple Ridge, Hainesville, Fredericton, Hawkins Corner, Howland Ridge, Stanley, Maplewood and surrounding areas opposing the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 119)

Mr. Fitch gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Thursday, January 21, 2010, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Robichaud.

That an address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he cause to be laid upon the table of the House all information in the possession of government however recorded or stored related to any government contract or spending between any department, agency or Crown corporation and the firms of Hill & Knowlton, Colour and Bristol Group Inc. related to the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec since October 21, 2009.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 22, Mr. Fitch moved, seconded by Mr. Alward:

WHEREAS the net debt of the Province of New Brunswick has grown from \$6.9 billion in the 2006-2007 budget to a projected \$9.5 billion in the 2010-2011 budget; and

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick is projecting that the net debt of the province will increase by \$1.2 billion dollars during the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has pushed back their date for balancing the budget until 2015 with no plan to decrease the debt of the province; and

WHEREAS the net debt-to-GDP ratio will have reached 33.3% by fiscal year end 2011; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General of New Brunswick has called repeatedly for the province to implement a debt reduction program to manage and decrease the province's debt burden;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly form a special bipartisan Debt Reduction Committee to study the province's debt burden and report back to this House with recommendations to reduce the debt load of New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 22 be amended in the third "Whereas" clause by deleting after "2015" the words "with no plan to decrease the debt of the province", and

after the fifth "Whereas" clause, add

"WHEREAS the Government has tabled within the budget document 2010-2011 a plan to return to balanced budgets, and

WHEREAS the Government believes that the Opposition has an important role to play in presenting the House with alternatives, and

WHEREAS the Opposition has stated they would impose an immediate budget cut of one billion dollars, and

WHEREAS in the Opposition reply to the 2009-2010 Budget, it was stated 'A Progressive Conservative government will develop a detailed deficit-exit strategy and ensure that a sound and responsible debt-reduction plan is implemented';"

in the resolution clause, after the word "Assembly" add the words "invite the Opposition" and, delete the words "form a special bipartisan Debt Reduction Committee" and delete the words "this House" and replace with the words "the people of New Brunswick two months hence".

Mr. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that the amendment was out of order as it introduced a foreign element to the motion. Hon. Mr. Byrne spoke on the point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker advised the House that he would take the

matter under advisement.

At 4.02 o'clock, Mr. Fraser, the Acting Speaker, declared a recess and left the chair.

4.17 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Fraser, the Acting Speaker, resumed the chair and delivered the following ruling:

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable members, on the point of order that was raised by the Opposition House Leader, while it is true that an amendment can alter a motion substantially and offer an alternative and a more acceptable proposition to the House, in those instances, however, the amendment retains an essential element of the main motion, which is not the case here. Therefore, this amendment is out of order.

Debate resumed on Motion 22.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, the motion was defeated.

Debate resumed on the motion for second reading of Bill 23, *No One Left Behind Act*.

And after some time, Ms. Robichaud took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Fraser resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, the motion was defeated.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate continuing, after some further time, Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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