

Thursday, February 11, 2010.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. B. LeBlanc, Minister of Justice and Consumer Affairs, rose on a matter of personal privilege to announce his resignation from Cabinet as a result of the disclosure of private information by the Minister's office in November of 2009 while he was the Minister of Local Government.

Mr. D. Graham, Member for Carleton, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Saint John, Fredericton Junction, Fredericton and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of any portion of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 195)

Mr. Olscamp, Member for Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Saint John, Summerville, Sussex Corner and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 196)

Mr. Harrison, Member for Hampton-Kings, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Rothesay, Saint John, Quispamsis, Public Landing, Darlings Island and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of any portion of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 197)

Mr. Williams, Member for Kent South, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Norton, Saint John, Quispamsis, St. Stephen, Rothesay, Hampton and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of any portion of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 198)

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Robichaud rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. A. LeBlanc, the Member for Saint John Lancaster, had directed rude and impolite comments toward Ms. Blaney. Hon. Mr. Byrne spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker asked all Members to show respect to the House and to fellow Members.

Mr. Robichaud rose on a further point of order and submitted that Mr. A. LeBlanc had directed an offensive gesture toward Ms. Blaney and requested that the Member apologize. Mr. A. LeBlanc rose to speak on the point of order and indicated that he would not apologize. Mr. Speaker requested that Mr. A. LeBlanc retract his statement. Following the Member's refusal, Mr. Speaker advised the Member that if he did not retract his statement, he would have to order him to withdraw from the Chamber. Mr. A. LeBlanc withdrew from the Chamber.

Hon. Mr. Byrne, Government House Leader, gave notice that on Friday, February 12, Bills 32 and 33 would be called for second reading.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 36, Mr. Volpé moved, seconded by Mr. Northrup:

WHEREAS communities in New Brunswick depend upon healthy forests not only for manufacturing and economic reasons, but also for clean water, clean air and for the future of all outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS forests are not only about the trees that exist within them, and because New Brunswickers want to have a say in the planning of the future for what we will leave to future generations; and;

WHEREAS private woodlot owners are an important component of what our forests contribute to our province and these owners want to be a part of planning for the future; and

WHEREAS the manner in which our forests are managed can have a significant impact on our environment both positively and negatively with respect to clean water, erosion, fire and wildlife; and

WHEREAS keeping the integrity and biodiversity of our forests is of primary importance; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to join with industry to organize a forestry summit in order to bring together all levels of government and all forestry stakeholders to discuss the challenges that the forestry industry is facing today; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of this forestry summit be to provide a forum for an open discussion on the future of forestry in New Brunswick, to examine potential long-term solutions to the challenges affecting the industry, and to ensure the survival and viability of this critically important component of New Brunswick's economy.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

At 2.29 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.51 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Debate resumed on Motion 36.

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

And after some further time, the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 36 was defeated.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

And the debate being ended and the question being put that Bill 29 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

And then, 5.55 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.