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Journals
(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Friday, February 12, 2010

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

Friday, February 12, 2010.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker rose and requested that certain Members remove any props that were affixed to their lapels, which they did.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following statement:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members,

Yesterday at the conclusion of Question Period following the raising of a point of order by the Opposition House Leader, the Member for Saint John Lancaster was ordered to withdraw from the Chamber for being grossly disorderly and for disregarding the authority of the chair.

Following the incident, I had a meeting in my office with the Minister of Social Development and the Opposition House Leader concerning the incident and the circumstances which led to the withdrawal of the Member for Saint John Lancaster.

The Member for Saint John Lancaster was ordered to withdraw from the Chamber yesterday afternoon pursuant to the authority granted by Standing Rule 20. If on any occasion the Speaker deems that the powers under Standing Rule 20 are inadequate, the Speaker may name the Member. The naming of the Member initiates a two-stage disciplinary process as outlined in Standing Rule 21 which states:

21 Whenever a member has been named by the Speaker, or by the Chair, immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Chair, or of persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House by abusing the rules of the House, or otherwise, then, if the offence has been committed by such Member in the House, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being made by any Member, "That _____ be suspended from the service of the House for a period of _____";

Given the grossly disorderly behaviour of the Member for Saint John Lancaster, and the egregious nature of the remarks and gestures directed to Members of the Opposition, it is my opinion that Standing Rule 20 was inadequate to deal with the seriousness of the situation in question.

It is therefore my intention to invoke Standing Rule 21 which empowers the Speaker to name a Member. Accordingly, pursuant

to Standing Rule 21, I name Mr. Abel LeBlanc, the Member for Saint John Lancaster.

I will now recognize the Government House Leader to move the appropriate motion.

Hon. Mr. Byrne moved, seconded by Mr. Robichaud:

THAT the Member for Saint John Lancaster be suspended from the service of the House for a period of time to be determined by the Speaker.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Speaker stated that due to the serious nature of the incident, after considering relevant precedents of this House and other Canadian Legislatures, he was suspending the Member for Saint John Lancaster for a period of three days, commencing today.

Mr. C. Landry, Member for Tracadie-Sheila, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of New Brunswick urging the government to put children first and invest in education. (Petition 199)

Mr. D. Graham, Member for Carleton, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Neguac, Oak Point, Miramichi, Eel Ground, Maple Glen and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 200)

Mr. Northrup, Member for Kings East, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of New Brunswick who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 201)

Mr. Olscamp, Member for Tantramar, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Eel Ground, Plaster Rock, South Esk, Miramichi, Doaktown, Strathadam, Renous, Whitney and surrounding areas who oppose the sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec. (Petition 202)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time.

By Hon. Mr. Lamrock,

Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.*

Mr. Alward gave Notice of Motion 40 that on Thursday, February 18, 2010, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Robichaud:

WHEREAS the proposed sale of many of NB Power's assets to Hydro Quebec as outlined in the Revised Memorandum of Understanding has been met with a great deal of uncertainty and massive public opposition; and

WHEREAS there are many questions surrounding the revised Memorandum of Understanding that have not been answered by this government including the valuation of assets and the long term implications on power rates and power bills that this deal may have on the people of New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS during the last several weeks there has been a tremendous increase in support for an election or referendum pertaining to this issue; and

WHEREAS the current government does not have a mandate as per their 2006 election platform to enter into a deal with either a public or private entity to sell any of the assets of NB Power; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government to cease all current business dealings with respect to the sale of any of the assets of NB Power to Hydro-Quebec and that negotiations be immediately suspended until such time as a referendum is convened whereby the people of New Brunswick may decide in a democratic forum as to their wishes for the future of this utility that is owned by the people of New Brunswick.

Mr. Jack Carr gave Notice of Motion 41 that on Thursday, February 18, 2010, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Alward:

WHEREAS 125,000 or 1/6th of New Brunswickers are directly involved in sport as athletes and participants, coaches, and officials and this does not even include the number involved in recreation and leisure activities; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick is ranked 10th out of 13 provinces and territories in the Heart and Stroke Foundations Annual Health Report Card and continues to be the most obese jurisdiction in Canada per capita; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick is not sending an Olympian to the Winter Games for the first time in its 86 years existence; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick is the only province or territory not to contribute to the Olympic Partnership Program which could have highlighted New Brunswick throughout the world and thus demonstrating a lack of interest in promoting New Brunswick and amateur sports; and

WHEREAS the Premier, who has a Physical Education degree, is a former Canada Games athlete, and is a former Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport and therefore of all people should be the greatest supporter of sport, recreation and active living; and

WHEREAS there is a report within the provincial government entitled "*A Sport Plan for New Brunswick ... One Day*" which calls upon core funding to be raised to \$6 million per year by 2011; and

WHEREAS core funding has been cut in previous years, including \$154,000 in the upcoming budget year; and

WHEREAS according to the Canadian Fitness Lifestyle Research Institute, every dollar invested in sport and recreation saves \$16.00 in long term health care, not to mention the other money saved in Social Development, Education, Justice, and other departments; and

WHEREAS in the province of Saskatchewan, a province that is very similar in demographics of urban and rural dynamics, receives nearly six times more provincial funding than that of our own sports organizations; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly urge the government to immediately develop a detailed plan involving all stakeholders to increase funding for sport, recreation and active living so that in subsequent budgets proper funding can be made available to ensure that the province regains its position on the world stage for sport and to increase recreation and active living for present and future generations of New Brunswickers.

Hon. Mr. Byrne, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 19, 16 and 12; following which, the House would resume the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 30.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to sit through the noon recess and to adjourn at 3 o'clock p.m.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with Ms. Lavoie in the chair.

And after some time, Ms. Robichaud took the chair.

And after some further time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fraser, the Deputy Speaker, resumed the chair as Acting Speaker and Ms. Robichaud, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Deputy Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed that she report the following Bill as agreed to:

Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Political Process Financing Act*.

And that the Committee had directed that she report progress on the following Bill:

Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Deputy 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, 3 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned

The following document having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the Table of the House, pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petitions 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, 137, 138 and 139	February 11, 2010
Documents requested in Notice of Motion 39	February 11, 2010
Response to Petitions 164, 165 and 166	February 10, 2010
Annual Report 2008-2009 Department of Health	February 15, 2010