



Journals

(Unrevised)

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Hon. Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor

Speaker: Hon. Roy Boudreau

Friday, April 9, 2010

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

Friday, April 9, 2010.*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to recess at 10.45 o'clock a.m., to resume sitting at 12 o'clock p.m., and to adjourn at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker noted that Sunday, April 11 is Holocaust Memorial Day or Yom haShoah. The House observed a moment of silence in honour of the six million European Jews—men, women and children—annihilated by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Hon. Mr. Kenny, Member for Bathurst, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of the East Bathurst area urging the government to re-evaluate their property tax assessments. (Petition 254)

At 10.45 o'clock a.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

12.17 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Speaker delivered the following ruling with respect to the point of order raised by Mr. Robichaud the previous sitting day:

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Honourable Members:

At yesterday's sitting of the House, during a reply by the Minister of Natural Resources to a question taken as notice, the Opposition House Leader and Member for Shippagan-Lameque-Miscou rose on a point of order and stated that it was not appropriate for a Member of the Legislative Assembly to suggest that any Member of the House misled the House and asked that the Minister of Natural Resources retract his remarks.

When considering whether remarks of this nature are unparliamentary, the Speaker considers the tone and context in which the remarks were made and whether other inflammatory language was used.

According to the transcript, the Minister of Natural Resources stated as follows and I quote :

"My department has been very forthcoming with the opposition on requests for information related to oil and

natural gas exploration in our province, and yet we still have these misleading and groundless claims being made by the opposition.”

In the past, Speakers have not always intervened when claims or accusations of this nature have been directed to the government or opposition as a whole and not to a specific member. Since a point of order was raised, I did caution the Minister to be very careful with his comments. I believe this disposed of the matter.

However I did note that throughout question period yesterday, there had been a number of comments of a personal nature made by Members of both sides of the House and that I would review the transcript of question period and report back to the House.

In posing questions to the Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport, the Member for Lameque-Shippagan-Miscou, stated more than once that plant workers had told the Minister (*il s'est fait dire par les travailleurs et travailleuses d'usine*) that he “had lied to their faces” and “had filled them with lies”. I reviewed the transcript of the exchange because I wanted to be sure of what I thought I heard. There is no ambiguity in the transcript. I want to make it very clear that in this place a Member cannot accuse another Member of lying or repeating an accusation that the Member lied. Attributing those remarks or accusations to the public does not give a Member license to repeat these types of remarks or accusations in the House.

I would ask the Member to withdraw the remarks in question.

Following the ruling, Mr. Robichaud withdrew the remarks.

Mr. Fitch gave Notice of Motion 67 that on Thursday, April 15, 2010, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Alward:

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia has announced its intention to increase the Harmonized Sales Tax in its province by two percent; and

WHEREAS the Finance Minister of the Government of Nova Scotia has expressed his view that the Liberal Government of New Brunswick will likely attempt to raise the Harmonized Sales Tax if it retains power after the next election; and

WHEREAS the current Minister of Business New Brunswick as well as the Premier have previously expressed on behalf of this Government, a desire to increase the Harmonized Sales Tax in New Brunswick by two percent; and

WHEREAS the current Government of New Brunswick has previously promised in its last election platform not to raise taxes; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly unanimously commit to not raising the Harmonized Sales Tax in the Province of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Byrne, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, Private Bill 53 would be called for second reading; following which, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 35, 40, and 45; following which, Bills 54, 55, and 56 would be called for second reading; following which, at 2 o'clock p.m., the House would take into consideration Motion 62.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act.*

Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Civil Service Act.*

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act.*

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

Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act.*

Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The following Private Bill was read a second time:

Bill 53, *Crandall University Act, 2010.*

Pursuant to Standing Rule 121, Mr. Speaker ordered Private Bill 53 for third reading forthwith.

The following Private Bill was read a third time:

Bill 53, *Crandall University Act, 2010.*

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

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

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

That the Committee had directed that he report progress on the following Bill:

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations 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.

At 2.05 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.10 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Ms. Robichaud, the Chair, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

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

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations 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 3 o'clock p.m. the House adjourned.