

Daily sitting 10

Thursday, December 8, 2011

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

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

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Mr. Fraser, Member for Miramichi-Bay du Vin, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging that acute care beds at the Miramichi Regional Hospital remain as such, and that the hospital maintain its level 3 trauma designation. (Petition 45)

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Mr. Jack Carr, Member for New Maryland-Sunbury West, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to ban herbicide spraying of the public forest in New Brunswick. (Petition 46)

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Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, Member for Rogersville-Kouchibouguac, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging that acute care beds at the Miramichi Regional Hospital remain as such, and that the hospital maintain its level 3 trauma designation. (Petition 47)

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Hon. Mr. Higgs laid upon the table of the House documents entitled: *Unaudited Supplementary Employee and Supplier Lists, 2010-2011*; and *Public Accounts for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2011, Volume 2, Supplementary Information*.

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Higgs,

Bill 13, *An Act Respecting the Recovery of Debts Owed to the Crown*.

By Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc,

Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*.

By Hon. Ms. Blais, Q.C.,

Bill 15, *An Act to Repeal the Habeas Corpus Act*.

Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Management of Seized and Forfeited Property Act*.

By Hon. Ms. Dubé,

Bill 17, *An Act Respecting Regional Health Authorities*.

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Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud gave notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, Bills 13, 15, 16 and 17 would be called for second reading.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker delivered the following ruling with respect to Motion 3:

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

Honourable Members:

Before we proceed to Opposition Members' business, I want to draw your attention to Motion 3 standing on the Order Paper in the name of the Member for Centre-Péninsule—Saint-Sauveur and the amendment thereto proposed by the Minister of Natural Resources. According to an old rule of Parliament, a question being once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, cannot be questioned again but must stand as a judgment of the House. The rule exists to ensure that the time of the House is not spent debating the same question. It also ensures that the House does not arrive at contradictory decisions in the course of the same session. I find that Motion 1, adopted by the House on Tuesday last and the amendment thereto which was negatived, deal with substantially the same questions as Motion 3 and the amendment thereto. Given that the House has rendered a decision on both questions, I order Motion 3 and the amendment thereto struck from the Order and Notice Paper.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 10 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 5, Mr. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Albert:

WHEREAS the Alward government is proposing a two-tiered minimum wage for the province of New Brunswick, wherein servers and wait staff would earn a lower minimum wage than other workers;

WHEREAS a two-tiered minimum wage is a direct attack on the most vulnerable wage earners;

WHEREAS tipping is designed to reward excellent service, not supplement wages;

WHEREAS the scheduled increase to the minimum wage that was supposed to have taken place in September as mandated by the Poverty Reduction Plan has not yet been implemented;

WHEREAS the Poverty Reduction Plan did not suggest a two-tiered minimum wage;

WHEREAS the Alward government's public consultation on a two-tiered minimum wage consists of an online survey which contains questions which have been criticized as being designed to tip the balance of the results in favour of a two-tiered minimum wage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government of New Brunswick to respect the spirit and intent of the Poverty Reduction Plan, reject a two-tiered minimum wage and immediately implement the recommendation of the Poverty Reduction Plan to raise the minimum wage to \$10.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. S. Robichaud resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Arseneault used unparliamentary language when he stated the Premier "lied". Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the point well taken and the Member withdrew the remark.

And after some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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