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No. 40

Friday, February 28, 1997.

8.30 o'clock a.m.

Prayers

Petitions

Ms. Weir, Member for Saint John Harbour, laid upon the Table of the House a petition signed by residents of the Saint John area urging the government to discontinue the plan to take disabled citizens from their homes and place them in nursing homes, institutions or for profit facilities. (Petition 16).

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

Mr. McKay, from the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, presented the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations for the session which was read and is as follows:

February 28, 1997.

To The Honourable

The Legislative Assembly of

The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Crown Corporations begs leave to submit this their Second Report.

This Report details the Committee's review of the annual reports and financial statements of Crown Corporations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995.

Your Committee met in an organizational session on February 29, 1996 to discuss the Committee's mandate and to schedule future hearings.

The Committee commenced its review on June 5, 1996 by meeting with Auditor General, Ralph W. Black and Deputy Auditor General, Kenneth Robinson. The Committee reviewed various items contained in the 1995 Report of the Auditor General, and posed several questions relating to the year under review. This was the first time that officials of the Office of the Auditor General appeared before the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

Officials of New Brunswick Power Corporation appeared before the Committee on June 5, 1996. The Committee reviewed the Corporation's Annual Report and financial statements. A review of the *NB Power 1996-2001 Business Plan* took place at a later date and was the subject of the Committee's First Report to the House.

On June 6 and 7, 1996 your Committee met with officials of N.B. Coal Limited, New Brunswick Geographic Information Corporation, New Brunswick Liquor Corporation, Regional Development Corporation, and the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick.

Further meetings were held on July 16 and 17, 1996.

On July 16 the Committee met with officials of the New Brunswick Research and Productivity Council, Provincial Holdings Ltd., New Brunswick Transportation Authority, New Brunswick Forest Products Commission, Kings Landing Corporation, and the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation.

On July 17 the Committee met with officials of the Farm Products Marketing Commission, Algonquin Properties Ltd., Algonquin Golf Club Inc., and the Lotteries Commission of New Brunswick.

Officials of Forest Protection Ltd. appeared before the Committee on September 24, 1996.

A special session of the Committee was convened on January 14, 1997 in response to concerns raised in the House regarding thinning of heavy water feeder tubes at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station. Officials of the New Brunswick Power Corporation appeared before the Committee and gave an in-depth presentation on the feeder tube problem. Officials presented details of proposed remedial action and responded to questions of Committee members. A Detailed Event Report entitled *PHT Outlet Feeder Pipe Wall Thinning* was provided to the Committee.

Your Committee wishes to express its appreciation to officials of the various Crown agencies that appeared before it and to extend a special thanks to Auditor General Ralph Black for his assistance to the Committee and service to the Province of New Brunswick.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

(Sgd.) John McKay, M.L.A.

Chairman.

Ordered that the report be received, that leave be granted and the Committee continued.

Notices of Motions

Mr. Sherwood gave Notice of Motion 117 that on Thursday, March 6, 1997, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D. Graham:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the Table of the House copies of any and all documents in the possession of the Department of Justice or any other government department relating to the death of Gladys Marie Parker on September 24, 1977, including but not limited to copies of any reports conducted with respect to this case, among them the report conducted by Inspector H.H. Robicheau and the report concerning an examination of the actions of the prosecutorial authorities involved in the case.

Government Motions re Business of House

Hon. Mr. Frenette rose and announced that the House would follow the regular Order of Business and resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation.

Third Reading

The following Bill was read the third time:

Bill 84, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill does pass.

The Order being read for third reading of Bill 90, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Highway Corporation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 90 be now read a third time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 33

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Hon. Mrs. Trenholme	Mr. Kavanaugh
Hon. Mr. Graham	Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mr. Lee	Mr. McAdam	Mr. Flynn
Hon. Mr. King	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. O'Donnell
Hon. Mr. Blaney	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. MacDonald
Mr. McKay	Mr. Steeves	Mr. Byrne
Hon. B. Thériault	Mr. Wilson	Mr. Doyle

Hon. Mrs. Breault	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. D. Landry
Hon. C. Thériault	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Armstrong
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. A. Landry	Mr. Devereux
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. Johnson	Mrs. Kingston

NAYS - 6

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Mr. Volpé
Mr. Robichaud	Ms. Weir	Mr. D. Graham

Accordingly, Bill 90, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Highway Corporation Act*, was read a third time and passed.

The following Bills were read the third time:

Bill 92, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Act*.

Bill 93, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

Bill 94, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*.

Bill 95, *An Act to Amend the Police Act*.

Bill 99, *Small Claims Act*.

Bill 100, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Second Reading

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 102, *Public Participation Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, the debate was, on motion of Hon. Mr. Frenette, adjourned over.

The following Private Bills were read a second time:

Bill 43, *An Act to Incorporate Laforest Trustee Corporation*.

Bill 45, *An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Chiropractors Association*.

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*.

Bill 59, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Medical Society and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick*.

Bill 82, *An Act Respecting The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company, Montreal Trust Company of Canada and Montreal Trust Company*.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 121, Mr. Speaker ordered Private Bills 43, 45, 46, 59, and 82 for third reading forthwith.

Third Reading

The following Private Bills were read the third time:

Bill 43, *An Act to Incorporate Laforest Trustee Corporation*.

Bill 45, *An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Chiropractors Association*.

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*.

Bill 59, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Medical Society and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Committee of the Whole

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

During consideration of Bill 77, *Education Act*, Ms. Weir moved the following amendment:

AMENDMENT [section 41(1)]

Amend section 41(1) by deleting the words "or a provincial board of education".

And a debate arising, after some time, the question having been put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 4

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Ms. Weir
Mr. Robichaud		

NAYS - 25

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. A. Landry
Hon. Mr. Graham	Mr. McAdam	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mr. Blaney	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. DeGrâce
Mr. McKay	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. O'Donnell
Hon. B. Thériault	Mr. Allaby	Mr. Byrne
Hon. Mrs. Breault	Mr. Wilson	Mr. Armstrong
Hon. Mr. Tyler	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Devereux
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. Jamieson	Mrs. Kingston
Hon. Mr. Smith		

During further consideration of Bill 77, *Education Act*, Ms. Weir moved the following amendment:

AMENDMENT [section 41(4)]

Amend section 41(4) by deleting subsection (4).

And a debate arising, after some time, the question having been put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division and it was agreed, by unanimous consent, to dispense with the ringing of the bells.

YEAS - 4

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Ms. Weir
Mr. Robichaud		

NAYS - 23

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. Johnson
Hon. Mr. Graham	Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mr. Blaney	Mr. McAdam	Mr. O'Donnell
Mr. McKay	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Byrne
Hon. B. Thériault	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. Armstrong
Hon. Mrs. Breault	Mr. Wilson	Mr. Devereux
Hon. Mr. Tyler	Mr. Jamieson	Mrs. Kingston
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. A. Landry	

During further consideration of Bill 77, *Education Act*, Ms. Weir moved the following amendment:

AMENDMENT [section 42(2)]

Amend section 42, subsection (2) by inserting following the words "Lieutenant-Governor in Council" the words "and the respective provincial boards of education".

And a debate arising, after some time, the question having been put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 4

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Ms. Weir
Mr. Robichaud		

NAYS -24

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Johnson
Hon. Mr. Graham	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. Kavanaugh
Hon. Mr. Blaney	Mr. Allaby	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mrs. Breault	Mr. Steeves	Mr. O'Donnell
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. Wilson	Mr. D. Landry
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Armstrong
Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Devereux
Mr. McAdam	Mr. A. Landry	Mr. Kingston

During further consideration of Bill 77, *Education Act*, Ms. Weir moved the following amendment:

AMENDMENT [section 43]

Amend section 43 by inserting following the words "Lieutenant-Governor in Council" the words "and the respective provincial boards of education".

And a debate arising, after some time, the question having been put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division and it was agreed, by unanimous consent, to dispense with the ringing of the bells.

YEAS - 4

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Ms. Weir
Mr. Robichaud		

NAYS - 18

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Johnson
Hon. Mr. Graham	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. Kavanaugh
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. Wilson	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. DeGrâce
Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. O'Donnell
Mr. McAdam	Mr. A. Landry	Mr. D. Landry

During further consideration of Bill 77, *Education Act*, Ms. Weir moved the following amendment:

AMENDMENT [section 44]

Amend section 44 by inserting following the word "Minister" the words "after consultation and agreement by the respective provincial boards of education."

And a debate arising, after some time, the question having been put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 5

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Mr. Volpé
Mr. Robichaud	Ms. Weir	

NAYS - 21

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Johnson
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Hon. Mr. Graham	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. Kavanaugh
Mr. McKay	Mr. Steeves	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. Wilson	Mr. O'Donnell
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. D. Landry
Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Armstrong
Mr. McAdam	Mr. A. Landry	Mrs. Kingston

Hon. Mr. Frenette rose on a Point of Order, his point of order being that amendments should be introduced in both official languages and Members should keep this in mind in the future.

During further consideration of Bill 77, *Education Act*, Ms. Weir moved the following amendment:

AMENDMENT [section 40(2)]

Amend section 40 subsection (2) by inserting following the words Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the words "and the respective provincial board of education".

And a debate arising, after some time, the question having been put, the amendment was negatived on the following recorded division and it was agreed, by unanimous consent, dispense with the ringing of the division bells.

YEAS - 5

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Mr. Volpé
Mr. Robichaud	Ms. Weir	

NAYS - 20

Hon. Mr. Graham	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Kavanaugh
Mr. McKay	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. Olmstead
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. Wilson	Mr. O'Donnell
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. D. Landry
Hon. Mrs. Trenholme	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Armstrong
Mrs. Jarrett	Mr. A. Landry	Mrs. Kingston
Mr. McAdam	Mr. Johnson	

And after some further time, Mr. Chairman put the question that Bill 77, *Education Act*, be reported as amended, and it was carried on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 28

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Mr. McAdam	Mr. Kavanaugh
Hon. Mr. Graham	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. Olmstead
Mr. McKay	Hon. Mr. Richard	Mr. Flynn
Hon. B. Thériault	Mr. Steeves	Mr. DeGrâce
Hon. Mrs. Breault	Mr. Wilson	Mr. O'Donnell
Hon. Mr. Tyler	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Byrne
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. D. Landry
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. A. Landry	Mr. Armstrong
Hon. Mrs. Trenholme	Mr. Johnson	Mrs. Kingston
Mrs. Jarrett		

NAYS -5

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Mr. Volpé
Mr. Robichaud	Ms. Weir	

Mr. MacDonald, the Chairman, declared it to be 12.30 o'clock p.m. and left the chair, to resume again at 2 o'clock p.m.

2 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. O'Donnell in the chair.

And after some further time spent in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. O'Donnell, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to the Order of Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

That the Committee had directed him to report the following Bills as agreed to:

Bill 78, *An Act Respecting the Education Act*.

Bill 85, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*.

Bill 86, *An Act to Amend the Community Planning Act*.

And that the Committee had directed him to report the following Bill as amended:

Bill 77, *Education Act*.

And the Committee asked leave to make a further report.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker then 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.

Government Motions re Business of House

Hon. Mr. Frenette rose and announced that the documentation requested in the tabling motions remaining on the Order and Notice Paper would be tabled in the Office of the Clerk.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that all Bills reported from Committee of the Whole be read a third time today.

The Government House Leader advised that debate would be resumed on Private Members' Motion 106.

Hon. Mr. Valcourt rose on a Point of Order, his point of order being that the English translation of Motion 106 did not correctly reflect the tabled French version. Hon. Mr. Valcourt also clarified certain remarks made earlier in the session.

Private Members' Motions

Debate was resumed on Motion 106 moved by Mr. Volpé, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, as follows:

WHEREAS the federal government has adopted major changes to the Employment Insurance system, which will have a definite impact on the New Brunswick labour market;

WHEREAS the number of people looking for employment and the number of people giving up their search for employment are constantly on the increase in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the job creation strategy of this government has proved ineffective in creating stable, well-paid jobs for residents of the province;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly recommend to the government to undertake a complete review of its job creation strategy and programs in order to tailor them to new labour market realities and new economic realities.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 106 was negatived on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 4

Mr. Sherwood	Hon. Mr. Valcourt	Mr. Volpé
Mr. Robichaud		

NAYS - 28

Hon. Mr. Frenette	Mr. McAdam	Mr. Flynn
Hon. Mr. Graham	Hon. Mr. MacIntyre	Mr. DeGrâce
Hon. Mr. Lee	Mr. Steeves	Mr. O'Donnell

Hon. Mr. King	Mr. Wilson	Mr. MacDonald
Hon. Mr. Blaney	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Byrne
Hon. B. Thériault	Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Doyle
Hon. Mr. Lockyer	Mr. A. Landry	Mr. D. Landry
Hon. Mr. Smith	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Armstrong
Hon. Mrs. Trenholme	Mr. Olmstead	Mrs. Kingston
Mrs. Jarrett		

Third Reading

The following Bills were read the third time:

Bill 77, *Education Act*.

Bill 78, *An Act Respecting the Education Act*.

Bill 85, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*.

Bill 86, *An Act to Amend the Community Planning Act*.

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

Government Motion

With leave of the House to dispense with Notice, Hon. Mr. Frenette moved the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Tyler: (Motion 118)

That the following Standing and Select Committees be empowered to sit following prorogation of the current Session:

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

Standing Committee on Law Amendments

Standing Committee on the Ombudsman

Standing Committee on Procedure

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Select Committee on Gasoline Pricing

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

Royal Assent

His Honour the Administrator was announced, and having been bidden to enter, took his seat in the chair upon the Throne.

Mr. Speaker addressed His Honour as follows:

May It Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick has passed several Bills at the present sittings of the Legislature to which, in the name and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent.

The Clerk Assistant then read the titles of the Bills as follows:

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Act*.

Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*.

Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*.

Bill 31, *Special Appropriation Act 1996 (2)*.

Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Industrial Relations Act*.

Bill 33, *International Wills Act*.

Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Wills Act*.

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Provision for Dependants Act*.

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

Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Probate Court Act*.

Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Act*.

Bill 39, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

Bill 40, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*.

Bill 41, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*.

Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Dairy Products Act*.

Bill 43, *An Act to Incorporate Laforest Trustee Corporation*.

Bill 44, *Harmonized Sales Tax Act*.

Bill 45, *An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Chiropractors Association*.

Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*.

Bill 47, *An Act to Amend the Political Process Financing Act*.

Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco Sales Act*.

Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Services Act*.

Bill 50, *Mental Health Services Act*.

Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the Potato Disease Eradication Act*.

Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Medical Services Payment Act*.

Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act*.

Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act*.

Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Direct Sellers Act*.

Bill 56, *An Act to Amend the Expropriation Act*.

Bill 57, *An Act to Amend the Proceedings Against the Crown Act*.

Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Security Frauds Prevention Act*.

Bill 59, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Medical Society and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick*.

Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Act*.

Bill 61, *An Act to Amend the Days of Rest Act*.

Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*.

Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Farm Products Marketing Act*.

Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Farm Products Boards and Marketing Agencies Act*.

Bill 66, *An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act*.

Bill 68, *Loan Act 1997*.

Bill 70, *An Act to Amend the All-Terrain Vehicle Act*.

Bill 71, *Clean Air Act*.

Bill 72, *An Act to Amend the Residential Property Tax Relief Act*.

Bill 73, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*.

Bill 74, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*.

Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

Bill 77, *Education Act*.

Bill 78, *An Act Respecting the Education Act*.

Bill 79, *An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Health Professionals*.

Bill 80, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

Bill 81, *An Act to Amend the Members Superannuation Act*.

Bill 82, *An Act Respecting The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company, Montreal Trust Company of Canada and Montreal Trust Company*.

Bill 84, *An Act to Amend the Insurance Act*.

Bill 85, *An Act to Amend the Municipalities Act*.

Bill 86, *An Act to Amend the Community Planning Act*.

Bill 88, *New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation Act*.

Bill 89, *An Act to Amend the Libraries Act*.

Bill 90, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Highway Corporation Act*.

Bill 91, *An Act to Amend the University of New Brunswick Act*.

Bill 92, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Act*.

Bill 93, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*.

Bill 94, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*.

Bill 95, *An Act to Amend the Police Act*.

Bill 96, *An Act Respecting Pensions*.

Bill 97, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 1996-97*.

Bill 98, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 1997-98*.

Bill 99, *Small Claims Act*.

Bill 100, *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act*.

His Honour signified His Assent as follows:

It is the Queen's wish. La reine le veut.

To these Bills, His Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in the following words:

In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Administrator assents to these Bills, enacting the same and ordering them to be enrolled.

Mr. Speaker then addressed His Honour as follows:

The Legislative Assembly, having devoted itself with unremitting diligence to the consideration of the several subjects referred to in the speech Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to deliver at the opening of the session, and to other matters of interest to the people of the Province, humbly begs to present for Your Honour's acceptance a Bill intituled Appropriations Act 1997-98. (Bill 67)

His Honour replied:

It is the Queen's wish. La reine le veut.

To this Bill, His Honour's assent was announced by the Clerk in the following words:

His Honour the Administrator thanks Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, accepts their benevolence and assents to this Bill.

His Honour was pleased to close the session with the following speech:

His Honour's Message

Mr. Speaker, honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, I consider it a privilege and a very pleasant duty to preside over the closing of the second session of the 53rd Legislative Assembly. I want to commend and thank you, honourable members, for your diligent attention to the public business of the province of New Brunswick. You have embraced your responsibilities with vigour and have demonstrated great respect for both this House and the people of New Brunswick throughout this session. You have devoted yourselves to lengthy preparation, deliberation, and debate on issues of great importance to this province.

I know it has been a very busy session. However, the people of New Brunswick will benefit from your conscientious and pragmatic approach to the business of the House. You have given legislative approval to initiatives that will serve to enhance the social fabric of this province, with emphasis on fiscal dividends such as tax relief and an aggressive campaign against child poverty. Your new policies and legislation on job creation, education, health care, and prudent government spending will ultimately further the development of all regions of our province.

It is therefore an honour for me to give Royal Assent to your work, bringing all of your work to fruition. Although we will not meet again for several months, I encourage members on both sides of the House to diligently continue their duties and responsibilities as elected representatives of the people.

With the completion of the business of this session, it is my privilege and responsibility to issue the command of Her Majesty that this Legislature stand prorogued. May Divine Providence continue to guide and bless the people of New Brunswick.

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Loredana Catalli Sonier, then said:

It is His Honour's will and pleasure that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until Tuesday, the 8th day of April next, and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued until Tuesday, the 8th day of April next.

The House prorogued at 3.45 o'clock p.m.

3.45 o'clock p.m.

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

Public Opinion Survey of Atlantic Consumer Response to Harmonized Sales Tax Proposals: February 4, 1997 - February 27, 1997