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No. 24

Thursday January 29, 1998.

8.30 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Frenette, Premier, informed the House that Mr. Doucet, the Member for Nigadoo-Chaleur, had been accepted and was returning to the Liberal government caucus.

During Statements by Members, Mr. Doucet announced his intention to be recognized as a Member of the Liberal caucus and requested that a seat be provided beside the Member for Miramichi-Bay du Vin. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker declared a recess at 8.42 o'clock a.m.

8.56 o'clock a.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker ruled that it was not necessary for Members to repeat an answer that they had received to one question in the preamble to the next question.

Point of Order

Mr. Robichaud rose on a Point of Order, his point of order being that Hon. Mr. B. Thériault withdraw certain comments, which he did.

Bills Introduced

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:

By Hon. Mr. Tyler,

Bill 35, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act*.

Ordered that the said Bill be read a second time at the next sitting.

Government Motions re Business of House

Hon. Mr. Tyler announced that it was the intention of government that following Private Members' motions, the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the ordinary account estimates of the Department of Transportation.

Private Members' Motions

Debate resumed on Motion 2 as amended, as follows:

WHEREAS due to an aging population patients in New Brunswick Nursing Homes are requiring increased levels of care to meet their specific level of needs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly call upon the Government to address the recommendations contained in the nursing home review recently completed by the Department of Health and Community Services and ensure that the basic needs of seniors in nursing homes are met.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 2 as amended was carried.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 3, Mr. Mockler, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, moved:

WHEREAS this government has repeatedly promised to the people of New Brunswick that bringing an end to poverty in the province would be a high priority; and

WHEREAS the level of poverty in New Brunswick continues to be among the highest in the country and has a devastating impact on the lives of many people in our province;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly call upon the government to honour its commitment by immediately implementing policies to combat poverty throughout New Brunswick.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

During the debate, Mr. Sherwood rose on a Point of Order, stating that the Speaker had earlier indicated that he would recognize the Member for Carleton to speak next in the debate.

Mr. Speaker ruled the point of order well taken, and that he had indicated that he would recognize the Member for Carleton next and therefore asked Hon. Mr. Graham to cede the floor to Mr. Graham, which he did.

And after some time, Mr. Allaby, seconded by Mr. Duffie, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 3 be amended as follows:

1. In the first paragraph, by deleting the word "promised" and replacing it with the word "demonstrated", and by deleting the words "would be" and also by inserting the words "by steps toward self-sufficiency is a" after the word "province":
2. In the second paragraph by deleting the words "the level of" and replacing them with the word "any", and by deleting the words "continues to be among the highest in the country" and by deleting the words "many people in our province" and replacing them with the words "the people affected";
3. In the resolution clause, by deleting the words "to honour its commitment by immediately implementing" and by substituting the words "to continue to implement".

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised that the time allotted for Private Members' Motions had expired.

It was agreed by unanimous consent was to vary the Orders of the Day and revert to Private Members' Motions later in the sitting to dispose of certain tabling motions remaining on the Order and Notice Paper and for which the documents requested had been tabled.

Committee of Supply

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. O'Donnell in the chair.

And after some time, 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. MacDonald in the chair.

During consideration of the estimates related to the Fredericton-Moncton Highway Agreement, the Chairman ruled out of order questions in relation to certain statements contained in details of a press conference written on the letterhead of Mr. William Casey, the federal Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester.

And after some time, leave was granted for Hon. Mr. Tyler to address the Assembly from a seat other than his own.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Tyler, the Chairman declared a recess at 3.25 o'clock p.m.

3.50 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. MacDonald in the chair.

And after some time, the Chairman declared it to be 6 o'clock p.m. and left the chair, to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

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

And after some time, the Chairman ascertained the agreement of the House to continue sitting past the ordinary time of adjournment in order to complete consideration of the estimates of the Department of Transportation.

And after some further time spent in Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. O'Donnell, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had made some progress in the consideration of the matters referred to them, had passed several items and asked leave to sit again.

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.

The following are the items reported:

MAIN ESTIMATES - ORDINARY ACCOUNT

1998 - 1999

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolved, That there be granted to her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$128,695,600 to defray the expenses of the Ordinary Account program allocations of the Department of Transportation for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES

1998-1999 Voted

PETTY CASH ADVANCES

Transportation 50,000

INVENTORIES

Transportation 19,000,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then, 10.20 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

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

1996-97 Annual Report of the Youth Council of New Brunswick - January 28, 1998