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Daily Sitting 43

Tuesday, May 9, 2000.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker introduced Bill Power who will serve as a Page for the remainder of the session.

Mr. Haché laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by residents of New Brunswick asking that former Alfo fish plant workers be entered into the "registry of fish plant workers of N.B." and that they be treated equally with any and all forms of help offered to any fish plant workers from the Acadien Peninsula today and in the future. (Petition 10.)

Mr. Richard laid upon the table of the House a petition signed by residents of New Brunswick who support Competitive Edge Learning Centre and ask for tax dollars to be spent on at risk youth. (Petition 11.)

Following Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. E. Robichaud rose on a Point of Order and submitted that Ms. Weir used the word "deceived" which is unparliamentary.

Mr. Speaker advised that he would review the transcript and report back to the House. Continuing, Mr. Speaker cautioned Members to avoid using language which could be deemed unparliamentary.

Hon. Mr. Green rose on a Point of Order and submitted that a document referred to by a Private Member should be tabled, if requested. Several Members spoke on the Point of order.

Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement and advised that he would report back to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mrs. Mersereau gave Notice of Motion 142 that on Thursday, May 16, 2000, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. S. 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 a list of all the positions by classification, department and regions which are going to be eliminated in 2000-2001, 2001-2002.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that it was the government's intention that following Private Members' Motions, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Departments of Transportation and Justice.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 35, moved by Hon. Mrs. Blaney, seconded by Hon. Mr. Green, as follows:

THAT Motion 35 be amended:

By striking all words in the resolution clause after the word "government" and replacing them with:

"to continue to work cooperatively with the road builders to maintain and improve the province's transportation infrastructure."

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was carried.

The Acting Speaker put the question on Motion 35 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the government has expressed a goal of strong economic growth for New Brunswick;

WHEREAS a comprehensive transportation infrastructure and services are vital for solid economic growth;

WHEREAS the Minister of Transportation has publicly noted the vital dependence of the economy on good transportation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Legislature urge the government to continue to work cooperatively with the road builders to maintain and improve the province's transportation infrastructure.

And the question being put, Motion 35 as amended was carried.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 48, Mr. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. C. Thériault, moved:

WHEREAS in early December, Motion 18 was proposed in the Legislature requesting that this government immediately table all documents dealing with the issue of opening up the electricity sector to competition and/or privatization;

AND WHEREAS on January 11, 2000, Minister Volpé filed a response to that request with the Clerk of the Legislature quoting NB Power's response when he indicated that the release of the information at this time would jeopardize negotiations leading to agreements which may flow from the privatization studies;

AND WHEREAS the Premier subsequently stated that no negotiations are taking place to sell off some of NB Power's generating stations;

AND WHEREAS the Premier has committed to the people of New Brunswick that no sale of any of NB Power's generating stations shall take place or be considered until this government's energy policy is finalized;

AND WHEREAS on February 3, 2000, Minister Volpé confirmed that the government was going to sell two turbines at NB Power's Millbank generating station and that such sale is the result of talks that began shortly after the June election when a broker expressed interest in those turbines;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that an anchor load is secured to support a lateral pipeline to northern New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS it appears that these two turbines will be sold to a US buyer that intends to convert the turbines to use Canadian natural gas to produce electrical power for New England businesses and industries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislature urge the government to immediately halt any sale, proposed sale or negotiations concerning the sale of any of the assets of NB Power, including the sale of the two turbines in the Millbank generating station, until such time as this government has:

- brought its energy policy forward for all New Brunswickers to openly review and debate including the Members of the Legislative Assembly;
- brought forward its plan for securing the necessary anchor load to secure a lateral pipeline to northern New Brunswick.

And the question being put a debate ensued.

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

The House, according to order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

And after some time, the question being put on the motion that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$94,200,000 to defray the expenses of the Capital Account Program allocations of the Department of Transportation for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2001, the motion was adopted on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 27

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|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Hon. E. Robichaud | Mrs. Fowlie | Mr. McGraw |
| Hon. Mr. Green | Ms. Poirier | Mr. Steeves |
| Hon. Mr. D. Graham | Mr. Carr | Mr. Jordan |
| Hon. Mrs. Blaney | Hon. Mr. Mockler | Mr. Landry |

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| Hon. Mr. Mockler | Mr. Malley | Ms. Keddy |
| Hon. Mr. McFarlane | Mr. MacDonald | Mr. Savoie |
| Hon. Mrs. Jardine | Mr. Forbes | Mr. Cyr |
| Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud | Mr. Holder | Mr. Ashfield |
| Mr. John Betts | Mr. Kinney | Mr. Alward |

NAYS - 9

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Mr. Blanchard | Mr. Haché | Mr. Richard |
| Mr. Allaby | Mr. S. Graham | Mr. Kennedy |
| Mr. B. Thériault | Mrs. Mersereau | Ms. Weir |

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.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Ashfield in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Bernard took the chair.

And after some time, it was agreed by unanimous consent to continue sitting beyond the ordinary time of daily adjournment.

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

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.

The following are the items reported:

MAIN ESTIMATES 2000-2001

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$132,453,000 to defray the expenses of the Ordinary Account program allocations of the Department of Transportation for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2001.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$31,138,000 to defray the expenses of the Ordinary Account program allocations of the Department of Justice for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 2001.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Voted, Supply in the following amounts to defray the expenses of the following programs:

New Brunswick Highway Corporation 0

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$94,200,000 to defray the expenses of the Capital Account program allocations of the Department of Transportation for the fiscal year ending

the 31st of March, 2001.

WORKING CAPITAL - MAXIMUM BALANCES

2000-2001 Voted

WORKING CAPITAL ADVANCES

Justice - Rentalsman 150,000

PETTY CASH ADVANCES

Transportation 50,000

Justice 23,000

INVENTORIES

Transportation 19,000,000

The said items were concurred in by the House.

And then, 10.10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.