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Thursday, February 20, 2003.

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. S. Graham paid tribute to the contribution to New Brunswick provincial politics of Marcelle Mersereau, current Liberal Member for Bathurst (1991 - 2003) who has decided not to re-offer for the next provincial election. Hon. Ms. Blaney joined in this regard.

Mr. S. Graham welcomed to the House Camille Thériault, former Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kent South (1987-1999) and former Premier of New Brunswick (1998-1999).

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and reminded Members that once a question is answered by a Minister, if the next question is posed to another Minister, the question should not make reference to the previous Minister's response.

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Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud announced that it was the intention of government that following Private Members' Motions the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider legislation, in particular, Bills 22 and 30.

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Debate resumed on the sub-amendment to motion 2, moved by Mr. Haché, seconded by Mr. Allaby as follows:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to motion 2 be amended by deleting the word "government" and replacing it with: "government's budget introduced on February 18, 2003".

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

And after some further time, Mr. Jordan took the chair.

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

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, with Ms. Fowlie in the chair.

At 4.36 o'clock p.m., the Chairman declared a recess and left the chair.

4.44 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Ms. Fowlie 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.

7 o'clock p.m.

The Committee resumed with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

Debate resumed on the following amendment to Bill 30, *Electricity Act*, moved by Mr. Allaby:

#### AMENDMENT

Paragraph 4(1)(d) of the Bill is repealed and the following is substituted:

"4(1)(d) a corporation under the name New Brunswick Power Distribution and Customer Service Corporation, whose purposes include, in addition to any other purposes:

(i) owning and operating distribution systems and providing customer services in relation to the provision of electricity through those systems, and

(ii) providing electrical energy adequate for the needs and future development of the Standard Service customers of the province and to promote economy and efficiency in the distribution of power."

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

#### YEAS – 6

Mrs. Mersereau  
Mr. Richard

Mr. Lee  
Mr. Haché

Mr. Allaby  
Ms. Weir

#### NAYS - 20

Hon. Dale Graham  
Mr. Sherwood  
Hon. Mr. Volpé  
Hon. Mr. Weston  
Hon. Mrs. MacAlpine  
Ms. Fowlie  
Mr. LeBlanc

Mr. Carr  
Mr. Jordan  
Mr. Stiles  
Mr. MacDonald  
Mr. Forbes  
Mr. McGraw  
Mr. Steeves

Mr. Savoie  
Mr. Cyr  
Mr. MacKenzie  
Mr. Alward  
Mr. Jean Dubé  
Mr. Williams

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Bernard, the Chairman, after requesting Mr. Speaker revert to the Order of Presentations of Committee Reports, reported:

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

Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriations Act 2001-02 (3)*.

And that the Committee had directed him to report progress on the following Bill:

Bill 30, *Electricity 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.

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And then, 9.56 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.