

Thursday, May 13, 2004.

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers

Mr. Speaker advised that this was the last day in the House for Head Page Melissa MacKinley who had accepted other summer employment and that Eric Moffat would serve as Head Page.

Hon. P. Robichaud announced it was the intention of government that following second reading and Private Members' Motions, the House would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 30, 14, 29 and 34.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 50, *Public Trustee Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And after some further time, with the leave of the House, Mr. Malley welcomed to the House His Worship John McKay, Mayor-elect of Miramichi City, Liberal MLA for Miramichi-Newcastle (1974-1982; 1987-1995), for Miramichi Centre (1995-1999), Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (1997-1999), and his wife Sandra McKay.

Debate continued on the motion for second reading of Bill 50.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 50 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 50, *Public Trustee Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Motions 10, 14, 52, 60, 73, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81, 83, 85, 86, and 90 be withdrawn.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 15, Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Betts, moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS Canadian Premiers and Territorial Leaders have unanimously reiterated their call for the federal government to increase its efforts to become a more meaningful partner in the renewal of health care in Canada; and

WHEREAS recent polls indicate that Canadians are concerned about current levels of federal health care funding and the effect of its

inadequacy on services now and in the future; and

WHEREAS the funding arrangements announced by the Prime Minister on February 5 did not adequately address Canadians' need for a sustainable health care funding partnership, as called for by the federal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada; and

WHEREAS the federal government remains in a strong fiscal position and clearly has the capacity to honour its pledge to Canadians now;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly show its support for better health care in New Brunswick by asking the federal government to increase funding by \$2 billion in 2003-04, \$3 billion in 2004-05, and by 1% per year after that, until the federal share reaches 25% of provincial/territorial health and social expenditures.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

THAT Motion 15 be amended by:

Adding after the final WHEREAS clause, the following:

"WHEREAS the Final Report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada provided a plan for an equitable funding arrangement between the federal government and the provinces and territories;"

And by striking everything in the BE IT RESOLVED clause after "New Brunswick" and replacing it with the following:

"by endorsing the provisions of the Final Report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada and by asking the federal government to provide funding according to the provisions of that report."

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some time, subsequent to a number of points of order being raised, Mr. C. LeBlanc, the Deputy Speaker, cautioned Members to refrain from referring to the absence or presence of Members in the House.

And after some further time, Hon. E. Robichaud, seconded by Hon. Mr. Volpé, moved the following sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 15 be amended by:

At the end of the proposed amendment by adding the words “at a minimum; and more precisely by increasing the annual base funding by \$2 billion immediately and by additional amounts in subsequent years such that the federal funding share reaches 25% of provincial/territorial health and social expenditures by 2009-2010.”

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

In accordance with Standing Rule 44(2.2), Mr. C. LeBlanc, the Deputy Speaker, interrupted the debate and recognized Mr. Williams to close the debate on Motion 15.

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

And the debate being ended and the question being put on the sub-amendment, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the amendment as amended and it was carried.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 15 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS Canadian Premiers and Territorial Leaders have unanimously reiterated their call for the federal government to increase its efforts to become a more meaningful partner in the renewal of health care in Canada; and

WHEREAS recent polls indicate that Canadians are concerned about current levels of federal health care funding and the effect of its inadequacy on services now and in the future; and

WHEREAS the funding arrangements announced by the Prime Minister on February 5 did not adequately address Canadians' need for a sustainable health care funding partnership, as called for by the federal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada; and

WHEREAS the federal government remains in a strong fiscal position and clearly has the capacity to honour its pledge to Canadians now;

WHEREAS the final Report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada provided a plan for an equitable funding arrangement between the federal government and the provinces and territories;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly show its support for better health care in New Brunswick by endorsing the provisions of the Final Report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada and by asking the federal government to

provide funding according to the provisions of that report at a minimum; and more precisely by increasing the annual base funding by \$2 billion immediately and by additional amounts in subsequent years such that the federal funding share reaches 25% of provincial/territorial health and social expenditures by 2009-2010.

And the question being put, Motion 15 as amended was carried.

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

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Holder, 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 14, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act.*

Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act.*

Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Medical Services Payment 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.

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