

Wednesday, May 19th, 2004

The House met at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled on a point of privilege and points of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) and Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) on May 13th, May 17th and May 18th. The Speaker ruled that the Statement by the Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) on May 18th and the Statement made by the Premier accepting full responsibility for the errors or omissions in the documents relating to Budgetary decisions sent to the Opposition and the apology to the House on behalf of the Government settled the matter. The Speaker also reminded Members of the collective responsibility by the House Leader and the Premier for the Administration in acknowledging the documentary errors.

The Speaker ruled on a point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) on May 18th relating to the withdrawal of certain unparliamentary remarks made by the Premier. The Premier stood and withdrew his comments unequivocally.

The Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Young) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Sheralyn Rumbolt, an outstanding student from Norris Point who had been awarded one of three International Baccalaureate Scholarships awarded in Newfoundland and Labrador and tenable at Holy Heart of Mary High School.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Patrick Penton, a student at William and Catherine Bible College in Winnipeg and a resident of Bishop's Falls who had been invited to travel to London and Dublin to preach and to lead some revival services while there.

The Member for Trinity North (Mr. Wiseman) made a Statement to congratulate two students from his District; namely Ms. Simone Warren of Little Heart's Ease and Ms. Stephanie Smith of Port Rexton who won International Baccalaureate Scholarships, one tenable at the Lester B. Pearson University World College in Victoria, BC and the other at the Holy Heart of Mary High School in St. John's.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to congratulate four young swimmers from Grand Falls-Windsor on their recent accomplishments in the Provincial Long Course Swimming Championship. The young swimmers were Erica Kelly, Jared Bursey, Mary Clair Lynch and Rochelle Gladney.

The Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Nancy Riche on her investiture as an Officer of the Order of Canada and to recognize the contribution that she had made to the province and the country in her union related roles.

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The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) rose on a point of order to allege that the Member for St. John's West (Ms. Osborne) had made an unparliamentary remark at the end of yesterday's sitting.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Ed Byrne) made a Statement to announce the Government's plan to ensure compliance of Voisey's Bay Nickel Company with its adjacency principle for the mine/mill portion of the Voisey's Bay project.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Tom Marshall) made a Statement to announce that Newfoundland and Labrador had become the sixth Canadian province to introduce tobacco-free environments at its eight adult correctional facilities.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Bonavista South (Mr. Fitzgerald):

WHEREAS the challenge of constructing and maintaining transportation infrastructure in Newfoundland and Labrador is enormous, given our difficult terrain and our relatively small population dispersed over a large area;

AND WHEREAS much of this province's existing transportation infrastructure has deteriorated in recent years as a consequence of insufficient funding;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada establishes the principle of equalization which directs governments in Canada to reduce the disparity of opportunities associated with the relatively poor fiscal capacity of a province;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has entered into transportation agreements with this and other provinces whereby it has funded or cost-shared valuable infrastructure work;

AND WHEREAS the 1988 fifteen-year Newfoundland [and Labrador] Transportation Initiative (also known as the Roads-for-Rail Agreement) has expired, leaving the province with significantly diminished funding in the face of an undiminished need;

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AND WHEREAS proper transportation infrastructure is required to attract and complement investments that will create jobs and opportunities in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House call upon the Government of Canada to enter into a comprehensive transportation infrastructure agreement with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

During the debate, the Member for St. John's West (Ms. Osborne) rose to withdraw any unparliamentary comments she had made that were heard by certain Members on May 18, 2004.

Debate on the Resolution concluded.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution and declared the Resolution carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 20th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

A. John Noel, Q.C.,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.