

Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Speaker ruled on a point of order raised on May 19<sup>th</sup> by the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) relating to comments made by the Member for St. John's West (Ms. Osborne) on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Chair deferred a ruling until he had consulted with the Deputy Speaker and the Members involved. Subsequent to the consultation, the Member for St. John's West had stood in her place and withdrawn the alleged unparliamentary comments on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation, Works and Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Rideout) made a Statement to advise Members of Government's intent to enter into negotiations with the Federal Government and the Miawpukek First Nation in order to determine the terms and conditions for a land transfer agreement to expand the Conne River Reserve.

After Oral Questions, various points of order were raised whereupon the Speaker took the opportunity to remind all Members of the rules relating to Oral Questions by quoting various authorities.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder), in accordance with the *Internal Economy Commission Act*, tabled the Report of the Commission of Internal Economy for the fiscal year April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Whalen) tabled the Report of the *Public Tender Act* Exceptions for April, 2004.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Whalen) also tabled the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities on Operations carried out under the *Automobile Insurance Act* for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of Southern Labrador and travellers generally to the region requesting access to the most effective mode of transportation between Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Cartwright through an increased number of trips of the Sir Robert Bond during the 2004 operating season.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District requesting the Western Health Care Corporation to begin implementation of the plan to build the required facility for extended and chronic care patients in Western Newfoundland.

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The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District specifically Ramea, Grey River and Francois calling on the Government to reverse its decision to close the Human Resources, Labour and Employment Office in Burgeo.

The Member for Torngat Mountains ( Mr. Andersen) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of Labrador requesting the Government of the Province to provide the \$2.4 million designated, but now deferred, to begin construction of the auditorium in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Skinner) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to make laws to protect the rights of grandparents as these rights apply to the raising of grandchildren.

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District urging the Avalon West School Board to reverse the decision by that Board to close St. Joseph's School and to reverse the decision to bus students to Harbour Grace and commit funds to construct a new school in Carbonear.

Pursuant to order and on motion the following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

- A Bill,           An Act To Amend The Mineral Act" (Bill No. 22);
- A Bill,           An Act To Amend The Highway Traffic Act (Bill No. 21);
- A Bill,           An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, 2000 No. 2" (Bill No. 20);
- A Bill,           An Act To Amend The Memorial University Pensions Act (Bill No. 23);
- A Bill,           An Act To Create A Pension Plan For Provincial Court Judges (Bill No. 24).

On motion it was ordered that the above noted Bills be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House on Supply.

The Speaker left the Chair.

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Mr. Fitzgerald took the Chair of the Committee of the Whole on Supply.

The Committee of Supply considered and passed the Estimates of the **Legislature** Head of Expenditure.

The Committee also considered the Estimates of the Executive Council.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee of Supply (Ms. Osborne) reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the matters to it referred, had passed the Head of Expenditure of the **Legislature**, without amendment, had made further progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion the report of the Committee was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

The Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) corrected a quotation in a speech he had made the previous day.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move pursuant to Standing Order 11 that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and that the House not adjourn at 10 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 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.