

Wednesday, December 8th, 2004

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

The Member for Placentia & St. Mary's (Mr. Manning) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Catherine Mahoney of the Community of St. Bride's, Placentia Bay who celebrated her 101st birthday on December 8th.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Betty Andrews, a native of Point Leamington, who was awarded the prestigious Public Service Award of Excellence for 2003 in recognition of her work at Government House for the past thirty years.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to congratulate members of the Lions Club in Grand Bank for their outstanding public service in her District. The Member mentioned individual members of the Club who were recognized by the International Association of Lions and the Lions Foundation of Canada.

The Member for Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Almon Thomas Dale who was a former employee of CN Telecommunications, served as a deputy returning officer in the province and participated in international election monitoring under the UN sponsorship.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Whalen) made a Statement to advise Members that her Department will be using the Canadian Financial Services Ombudsnetwork as part of its consumer complaint system in order to assist consumers in resolving complaints with financial service providers.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation & Works and Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Rideout) made a Statement to recognize the contribution by the University's Faculty of Education in establishing a *Sharing Hope with Hopedale Campaign* to replace books and teaching materials lost in the school fire in September. The Minister also thanked and recognized other organizations and persons who contributed to the campaign.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Marshall) tabled the following reports:

- (a) the 2003-04 Annual Report and financial statements of the Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities for the year ended March 31, 2004;
- (b) the 2003-04 Annual Report of the Department of Justice;
- (c) the Newfoundland and Labrador Legal Aid Commission Report for the fiscal year for the period ending April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

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The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne), on behalf of the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan), gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act Respecting Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Tax Credits". (Bill No. 58)

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed 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 Thursday, December 9th, 2004.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Marshall) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Remove Anomalies And Errors In The Statute Law". (Bill No. 59)

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District requesting the provincial government to withdraw Bill No. 45, "An Act To Amend The Motorized Snow Vehicles And All Terrain Vehicles Act" until public consultations have been held.

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, and to begin construction of the auditorium in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris):

"WHEREAS fair, affordable and accessible automobile insurance is a concern for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians;

AND WHEREAS public automobile insurance has been suggested as a model that could bring relief for Newfoundland and Labrador drivers, and may be a necessity in the event private insurers discontinue their operations in the province;

AND WHEREAS there are many models of public insurance that contain numerous options and in the interest of an informed debate these models and options should be explored in the Newfoundland and Labrador context;

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AND WHEREAS the province should be ready to operate a public automobile system that has been developed to satisfy the needs and desires of the people of the province with a practical plan for implementation and delivery;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House appoint a Select Committee on Public Automobile Insurance to examine and inquire into the most suitable form of public insurance system for Newfoundland and Labrador should the province conclude that a public system is required;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Select Committee shall inquire into and identify:

1. The most suitable model of public automobile insurance to ensure fair, affordable and accessible public automobile insurance including:
 - (a) the type of public automobile system to be recommended,
 - (b) the types of coverage and benefits to be offered,
 - (c) a proper risk rating system for establishing premiums,
 - (d) the method of distribution,
 - (e) the types of insurers;
2. The start-up costs for establishing the proposed model, including infrastructure, office equipment, payroll, initial provision for losses, etc.;
3. The fixed and recurring costs of operating the proposed model;
4. The legal and trade implications involved in setting up the proposed model;
5. The downstream impact of the proposed model on the legal community, the physiotherapists and other therapists, as well as on the brokers, independent adjusters, automotive repair shops and trades or professions;
6. The creation of a basic automobile insurance policy within a public system.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Select Committee be provided with sufficient resources to conduct an adequate public consultation process and engage consultants to advise on matters required to fulfill its mandate.”

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The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the Resolution: Mr. Grimes, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Butler, Mr. Langdon, Ms. Jones, Ms. Thistle, Mr. Reid, Mr. Andersen, Ms. Foote, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Harris, Mr. Collins.

Against: Mr. Ed Byrne, Ms. Dunderdale, Mr. Rideout, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Jack Byrne, Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. Sheila Osborne, Ms. Burke, Mr. Tom Osborne, Ms. Whalen, Mr. Manning, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Young, Mr. Jackman, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Goudie, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Oram, Ms. Elizabeth Marshall, Mr. Ridgley.

The Speaker declared the Resolution defeated.

The Speaker recessed the House at 4:22 o'clock in the afternoon in order to prepare for the ceremony relating to the unveiling of the portrait of former Speaker Lloyd Snow.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 4:37 o'clock in the afternoon.

After calling order, the Speaker directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Mr. Lloyd & Mrs. Linda Snow from the Speaker's Gallery to the front of the Chamber. After Mr & Mrs. Snow were seated, the Speaker recognized the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) representing the Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) who made a few remarks. The Speaker recognized the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) and the Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) who also made a few remarks. Mr. Lloyd Snow replied following which the Speaker asked the Honourable the Government House Leader and the Leader of the Opposition along with Mr. Lloyd Snow to unveil the portrait of former Speaker Snow. After the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) and Mr. Snow returned to their seats, the Speaker concluded with a few remarks. The Sergeant-at-Arms escorted Mr. & Mrs. Snow to the Speaker's Gallery.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, December 9th, at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

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On motion the House then adjourned at 5:16 o'clock in the afternoon.

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