

PROCEEDINGS
of the
FOURTH SESSION
of the
THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of
NEWFOUNDLAND

BEGUN and holden at St. John's in the Province of Newfoundland on Thursday, the eleventh day of March, Anno Domini, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-two, being the thirtieth year of the reign of Her Majesty, our Sovereign Lady, Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor having fixed the hour at which he proposed to open the present Session of the Legislature at three of the clock in the afternoon of this Thursday, the eleventh day of March, the Members of the House of Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at three of the clock in the afternoon when Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

At three of the clock the Sergeant-at-Arms announced that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor had arrived.

His Honour entered the Assembly Chamber preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor took the Chair.

His Honour was then pleased to open the Session with a Speech From The Throne.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor then left the Assembly Chamber.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

On motion of the Honourable the Minister of Justice and by leave of the House, a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Conflict Of Interest Act, 1973", was introduced and read a first time.

On motion it was ordered the said Bill be read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker announced that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor had been pleased to make a Speech to the Members met in the General Assembly and that for greater accuracy he had obtained a copy.

It was unanimously agreed that the Speech From The Throne should be taken as read.

It was moved by the Honourable the Member for Exploits and seconded by the Honourable the Member for St. John's West that an Address of Thanks be presented to His Honour in reply to the Gracious Speech with which he had been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature and that a Select Committee be appointed to draft such Address In Reply.

It was ordered accordingly and the following Members were appointed to the said Committee:

Dr. Hugh Twomey, Exploits
Mr. Hal Barrett, St. John's West
Mr. Wilson Callan, Bellevue

The Honourable the Minister of Finance on behalf of the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the European Parliament of the European Economic Community has voted to impose an embargo on the importation of seal produces;

AND WHEREAS national and international investigation of the Canadian seal fishery indicates the seal fishery is one of the most humane and well managed fisheries in the world;

AND WHEREAS the seal fishery has been and will continue to be an integral part of the economic, social and cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador and has contributed an estimated 6 million dollars in 1981 to approximately 5,500 people engaged in primary and secondary aspects of the seal fishery;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of this Honourable House of Assembly communicate their objection to the decision made by the European Economic Community to ban the importation of seal products and that this Honourable House of Assembly fully support the efforts of the Government of Canada to ensure the continuance of the annual seal fishery.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance requested that the motion be put without debate because of the urgency of the matter.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

The motion was carried.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Law of the United States known as the Jones Act, presently provides that an action may be maintained by foreign workers employed by American-owned companies engaged in the exploration for hydrocarbons in offshore areas;

AND WHEREAS a Bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives to eliminate this right of action and to restrict it to citizens and permanent residents of the United States;

AND WHEREAS the effect of this Bill would be to discriminate between citizens and permanent residents of the United States and those of other countries;

AND WHEREAS American companies are engaged in the exploration of the Continental Shelf of Newfoundland and Labrador and their employees should be accorded the full protection of American law, irrespective of where they live;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House, through the Speaker, communicate its firm objections to this Bill to the Speakers of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice requested that the motion be put without debate and requested unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

Unanimous consent was denied.

The Honourable the Member for Burin - Placentia West gave notice that would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS there is an obvious lack of provincial planning and knowledge in Newfoundland and Labrador's fishery;

AND WHEREAS the fishermen's Union, the industry, the fishermen and Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans appear to be drifting in different directions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government immediately set as it's priority a comprehensive long-term strategy for our fishery and a Select Committee be appointed to ensure that this becomes a reality.

The Honourable the Member for Placentia gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS there has been considerable loss of life off the shores of our Province during the past few years;

AND WHEREAS there is no major Search and Rescue facility located in this Province;

AND WHEREAS a local facility could shorten the response time in the event of an emergency at sea;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House go on record as urging the Federal Government to set up a Search and Rescue facility in this Province, preferably to be located at the former United States Naval Station in Argentina.

The Honourable the Member for Windsor - Buchans gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS on February 15, 1982, Newfoundland experienced one of its worst sea disasters in the sinking of the Ocean Ranger and with the tragic loss of 84 lives;

AND WHEREAS the people of Newfoundland and Labrador had been lead to believe that our safety regulations were the best in the world, a belief accepted to the point that we had become complacent about the safety of our offshore workers;

AND WHEREAS these regulations failed, resulting in the tragic sinking of the Ocean Ranger;

AND WHEREAS the safety of our workers in the offshore must always be the prime concern of the Government, as it indeed is of all the people of Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS our offshore workers will always be exposed to great occupational hazards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly, through an appointed committee, consider safety procedures and regulations already in effect, anywhere in the world, gather safety technology available from any source, anywhere in the world, and from such procedures and technology, and with due consideration for our own unique knowledge of the devastating power and destructive force of the North Atlantic, devise a safety standard code that will apply to offshore drilling and production rigs operating anywhere in the Newfoundland Offshore;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Committee be empowered by the full Legislative authority of the House of Assembly to ensure the strict, dilligent application of the approved safety standards on a day-to-day basis so that the safety of our offshore workers will be assured to the extent that it is humanly possible to do so.

The Honourable the Member for Harbour Main - Belle Island gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Provincial Government entered into offshore negotiations with the Federal Government on the understanding that the ownership issue had been put aside;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government requested and obtained an expansion of the SIU labour relations court case into the area of offshore ownership during the period of the negotiations;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government subsequently referred the offshore ownership issue to the Newfoundland Supreme Court;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House support the position of the Newfoundland Government in that it is willing to reopen negotiations on the offshore issue with the Federal Government as soon as the Federal Government agrees to set the ownership issue aside for the duration of the negotiations, and permanently should an agreement be reached.

The Honourable the Member for Fogo gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the present Government seems to be totally oriented towards multi-million dollar mega-projects;

AND WHEREAS its actions and policies indicate total accommodation of large industrial and multi-national corporations;

AND WHEREAS the result of this total preoccupation with such grandiose schemes is a total neglect of smaller developments and businesses;

AND WHEREAS these smaller businesses and developments are vitally important to the economy of this Province;

AND WHEREAS the ever increasing number of bankruptcies in small businesses, fishing, forestry and agriculture is leading to record unemployment and loss of income;

AND WHEREAS it seems apparent that we need to develop an economic strategy geared to the "other Newfoundlands and Labradors" rather than the single large industrial mega-project development fixation of the present Government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee of this Honourable House be struck to investigate and recommend to the Government an economic development policy for the whole of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Honourable the Member for Stephenville gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the recent Federal Budget provides for smaller increases in E.P.F. Transfers to this Province than would have been the case under the previous E.P.F. system;

AND WHEREAS the new Federal Budget removes from E.P.F. any specific designations of funds for Health and Post-secondary Education;

AND WHEREAS the Budget of the Province is heavily dependent on Federal Transfers;

AND WHEREAS the high interest rate policy of the Federal Budget is very harmful to both individuals and business alike;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House go on record as condemning this Federal Budget's harsh impact on the people, businesses and Government of this Province.

The Honourable the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS a great many Newfoundlanders are losing their homes through no fault of their own;

AND WHEREAS this loss is not due solely to high interest rates;

AND WHEREAS this loss in many cases represents practically a lifetime of effort and saving;

AND WHEREAS this loss is due primarily to lack of employment opportunities and lack of economic development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House immediately implement a program whereby a homeowner cannot be evicted from his/her home because of an economic inability to pay a mortgage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program be evaluated at the end of 1982 to ascertain whether it should be continued beyond the present year.

The Honourable the Member for Humber West gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the level of DREE funding to this Province has fallen to approximately half its previous levels;

AND WHEREAS the Province has a number of proposals before DREE, some of which have been there for some years;

AND WHEREAS the Province's experience with the DREE funding mechanism has been quite successful since its inception;

AND WHEREAS cost-shared development agreements under DREE are very pertinent to the Canadian concept of co-operation and sharing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House go on record as urging the Federal Government to reaffirm its faith in cost-shared programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House urge the Federal Government to sign these outstanding proposals which include among others the Corner Brook Harbour Development.

The Honourable the Member for Lewisporte gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Legislative Assemblies of most Canadian provinces and the House of Commons now permit live coverage of debates on television and radio;

AND WHEREAS Legislatures of other assemblies throughout the democratic world also permit television and radio coverage of their Parliaments;

AND WHEREAS important matters concerning the people of this Province will be brought up for debate in this coming Assembly, perhaps matters more important than ever before debated in this House;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House approve the principle of live coverage of all House of Assembly debates and live coverage of all Committees of this House of Assembly;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Committee be struck comprising Members of this House to negotiate with radio and television networks to provide coverage of this House;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a simple majority of this House or a Committee of this House decide whether or not television and radio be permitted to carry live coverage of debates in this House and in Committees of this House.

The Honourable the Member for Bay of Islands gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Gros Morne National Park has been recognized as one of the most attractive areas of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Humber Valley has long been a site for recreation and sightseeing;

AND WHEREAS the Marble Mountain ski facility is rapidly becoming one of the most popular ski centres in eastern Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Bay of Islands offers great attractions for marine oriented recreation;

AND WHEREAS there exists additional potential for development of tourist attractions in the Western region;

AND WHEREAS the tourist industry offers great opportunity for year-round employment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador encourage the further development of these attractions and of additional attractions and that every effort be made to promote this area as a major recreational centre.

The Honourable the Member for Torngat Mountains gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Quebec has recently shown that they are interested in taking ownership of Labrador;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government is taking Labradorians and Labrador for granted;

AND WHEREAS many people living in Labrador are concerned with the lack of performance of this Government toward Labrador;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House take whatever action is necessary to assure Labradorians that they have no fear of being absorbed by Quebec;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that more emphasis be placed on the development of Labrador resources and at the same time assuring Labradorians that they will be treated equally.

The Honourable the Member for LaPoile gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the most beneficial way to settle the offshore dispute is through meaningful negotiations;

AND WHEREAS reference to the Newfoundland appeals court seems to be a desperate move by the Province and fraught with dangers;

AND WHEREAS development is being seriously hindered through Provincial wrangling and squabbling;

AND WHEREAS there is a definite need to identify responsibility for various stages of exploration and production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee of the House of Assembly be struck as quickly as possible to provide a sound rationale and prevent further confusion and frustration over the development of our very valuable offshore resources.

The Honourable the Member for Grand Bank gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS television has a great influence and impact on its listening and viewing audiences;

AND WHEREAS its greatest influence and impact is on the young people of Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS television carries commercials advertising alcoholic beverages implying that one must drink to have a good time and enjoy a good life;

AND WHEREAS such advertising is destructive to the well-being of our society in Newfoundland and Labrador and an important factor in the increase of alcoholism in Newfoundland and Labrador;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge the Government to bring into this House legislation controlling the advertising of all alcoholic beverages on television stations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Honourable the Member for Bellevue gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS there is still a large proportion of the secondary roads of this Province which are unpaved and generally in a deplorable condition;

AND WHEREAS there is much natural resource potential in the areas concerned especially fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism;

AND WHEREAS the maximum development of these resources require an effective transportation system;

AND WHEREAS the people of these areas are subjected to physical discomforts and extremely higher operating and maintenance costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador escalate their road construction and paving program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a program of action be announced during this Session of the House of Assembly.

The Honourable the Member for St. Barbe gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS a record number of our people are depending on Government assistance for their survival;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living in Newfoundland and Labrador is the highest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of Federal Government various increases in social benefits in the form of Canada Pension, Veterans benefits, old age security, etc., is to keep up with inflation;

AND WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Social Services reduces benefits to the needy in accordance with Federal Government increases;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Social Services, not penalize the needy of this Province by reducing benefits to them but rather recognize federal benefits for that which it was intended.

The Honourable the Member for Terra Nova gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS School Boards throughout the Province are experiencing severe financial problems;

AND WHEREAS the present financial arrangements for capital and operational expenditures are grossly inadequate to meet today's educational requirements;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial grant structure allocated to School Boards fails to recognize several key economic, social and geographic factors, resulting in great financial disparities among the School Boards throughout the Province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government immediately develop and initiate a total financial structure which will eliminate such disparities and thus provide the financial basis for the provision of an efficient and effective educational system for the youth of this Province.

On motion it was ordered that when this House rises it adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 16th at three of the clock.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Elizabeth M. Duff
Clerk of the House of Assembly