

Thursday, April 1st, 2004

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

The Speaker ruled on a point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) on March 31st, 2004. The Speaker ruled that unless leave is granted, Private Members' notices of motions and resolutions may be introduced or made only by Private Members of the House. The Speaker also ruled that unless leave is granted, the Government House Leader or the Opposition House Leader must announce on the Monday before the Wednesday of the week in which it is to be debated the Private Members' motion to be debated on that Wednesday.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to recognize the financial contribution made by the people in the Trinity-Conception Area in the recent 2004 Run for the Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation held in Shearstown.

The Member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Ms. Johnson) made a Statement to congratulate two constituents, namely: Ms. Ashley Reid of New Harbour who received the Provincial Youth of the Year Award and Mr. Harry Strong of Old Perlican who was named to the Order of Canada for his many years of volunteering to save lives as CEO of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to recognize and congratulate Ms. Megan Roome, a French Immersion student of Grand Falls-Windsor on being named the provincial winner of Vendez Vos Idées, the French version of the Market Your Thoughts business essay competition, co-sponsored by the Canadian Parents for French and the Y-Enterprise Centre.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Oram) made a Statement to pay tribute and convey condolences to the family of the late Mr. Dawson Perry of Glovertown.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to congratulate the Grand Bank Heritage Society on their initiative to establish a Mariner's Memorial to be located on the grounds of the historic George C. Harris House in Grand Bank. The memorial will recognize the fishing and marine industries, the fishermen, mariners and women involved in those industries as well as a memorial to the more than 300 seamen lost at sea.

The Member for Gander (Mr. O'Brien) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Sarah Brown of Gander who recently won four medals for her snowshoeing abilities at the Special Olympic Canada Winter Games held in Charlottetown, PEI. The Member stated that Ms. Brown will represent Canada in the International Special Olympics to be held in Japan.

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During Oral Questions the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) rose on a point of order respecting certain words used by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes). The Speaker stated he would rule on the matter after Oral Questions.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled that certain words spoken by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) during Oral Questions were unparliamentary in that they imputed motives to the Honourable the Premier.

Whereupon the Speaker asked the Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) if he would withdraw the unparliamentary language.

The Member for Exploits refused to withdraw the words.

The Speaker asked the Member for Exploits a second time to withdraw the words.

The Member for Exploits refused to withdraw the words.

The Speaker asked the Member for Exploits a third time to withdraw the words.

Again, the Member for Exploits refused, whereupon the Speaker named the Member for Exploits, Mr. Roger Grimes.

In accordance with Standing Order 21, the Speaker ordered the Member to withdraw for the remainder of the sitting day.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) tabled the following:

- (a) the Annual Activity Report and audited financial statements of the Newfoundland and Labrador Government Sinking Fund for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003;
- (b) the Annual Activity Report and audited financial statements of the Newfoundland and Labrador Industrial Development Corporation for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003;
- (c) the Annual Activity Report and audited financial statements of Hotel Buildings Limited for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003;
- (d) the Annual Activity Report and audited financial statements of Newfoundland Government Fund Limited for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003;

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- (e) the Activity Report of the Government Money Purchase Pension Plan for the year ended Dec. 31, 2002; and
- (f) the Activity Report and audited financial statements of the Newfoundland Pooled Pension Fund for the year ended December 31, 2002.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) gave notice and by leave moved that the following Members comprise the Striking Committee:

- (a) The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Byrne)
- (b) The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Sullivan)
- (c) The Member for Bonavista South (Mr. Fitzgerald)
- (d) The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons)
- (e) The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett).

By leave, the Speaker put the question on the motion and declared the motion carried.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Collins) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District requesting the Government of the province to change the air ambulance policy immediately to allow for palliative care patients to return to their homes upon being informed they were ready to go home, so they could spend their time surrounded by family and friends.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the motion That This House Approves in General the Budgetary Policy of the Government (the Budget Speech) and on motion debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

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 Monday, April 5th, 2004.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, April 5th 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.