

Tuesday, May 18th, 2004

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

The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) made a Statement to honour and congratulate many of the local volunteer firefighters from the Town of Channel-Port aux Basques and in particular Messrs. Ralph Myles and Alvin Sheaves for their long term service to the Brigade.

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to congratulate many of the talented athletes in the Town of Carbonear, in particular, Ms. Victoria Ralph, Mr. Michael Mutrey, Ms. Jill Colbourne, Mr. Josh Janes and the Carbonear Collegiate Girls Basketball Team.

By leave, the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs and the Member for The Straits & White Bay North (Mr. Taylor) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Jill Hodge from St. Anthony who finished the Boston Marathon within three hours and placed 22nd among female runners.

The Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) made a Statement to apologize, clarify and correct discussions which took place last week and yesterday in the House regarding a document released by the Executive Council Office to the Opposition Members which outlined the impact of the 2004 Budget decisions on each of the Province's Electoral Districts.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (Ms. Dunderdale) made a Statement to promote the craft industry in the Province as a valuable contributor to the economy and a growing employer of men and women in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Minister reiterated Government's support for the craft industry.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Whalen) made a Statement to advise Members of Government's decision regarding the integration of the Petroleum Products Pricing Commission with the Public Utilities Board and the abolition of the position of Petroleum Products Pricing Commissioner.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Marshall) made a Statement to welcome an announcement by the Federal Government to invest new federal funding in support of community groups in the province whose work contributes to the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) made a Statement respecting violent and unprovoked stabbings on George Street in downtown St. John's on Saturday morning.
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Premier stated that he, the Chief of Police and the Mayor of St. John's had consulted in order to initiate a public debate to improve the situation there so as not to take away from the tourist industry and the non-violent reputation of the province which is fast becoming a world class tourism destination.

Before Oral Questions, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) rose on a point of order to state that following the Ministerial Statement of the Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout), the Ministers of Government Services, Environment and Conservation and Tourism, Culture and Recreation should each apologize to the House for their statements that the detailed budgetary documents in question were not drafts or works in progress and that inaccuracies did occur. The Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout), the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) and Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) spoke to the issue whether the Ministers should apologize individually.

The Speaker stated that he would take the matter under advisement and rule on the point of order and also on the point of privilege relating to the same matter at the same time.

During Oral Questions, the Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) rose on a point of order to allege that the Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid) had used unparliamentary remarks against him and asked the Member to withdraw these comments.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

After Oral Questions, the Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid) responded to the point of order raised by the Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) whereby he stated that he had not made an unparliamentary remark against the Premier.

The Speaker ruled there was no point of order.

The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) rose on a point of order with respect to certain language used by the Premier during Oral Questions when he said the Leader of the Opposition was *Atwo faced@*. The Premier withdrew the comment. However, the Opposition House Leader rose to say the Premier did not fully withdraw the comments unequivocally.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

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The Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) rose on a point of order to ask the Speaker to clarify his statements with respect to how Oral Questions should operate when points of order are raised during Oral Questions. The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan), the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons), the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) and the Speaker spoke to the issue and agreed that this matter be reviewed by the House Leaders and the Speaker.

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (Mr. Byrne) rose on a point of order to ask the Member for Burgeo and LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) to withdraw certain unparliamentary language directed towards him.

The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) stood and withdrew the unparliamentary language.

The Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) on behalf of the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Edward Byrne) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Mineral Act (Bill No. 22).

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Whalen) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Highway Traffic Act (Bill No. 21).

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move that the House Resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to Consider certain Resolutions relating to the Raising of Loans by the Province (Bill No. 19).

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Bills:

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).

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The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a petition on behalf of 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 Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District on Fogo Island opposing the proposed ferry rate increase and requesting the ferry rates be frozen and that the Government consider reducing these rates in the future.

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.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) presented a Petition on behalf of certain pensioners in the Province urging the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to restore its contribution to the pension increase so that affected pensioners would once again receive the full 1.5 percent increase as promised.

The Member for Placentia & St. Mary's (Mr. Manning) presented a Petition on behalf of certain citizens of the St. Mary's Bay Area to draw attention of the Government to the lack of safe mode of transportation in the Riverhead-St. Mary's Area and to request the Government to put in place a plan to address the current serious situation.

The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District requesting the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to reinstate operations and rehire weigh scale operators in Port aux Basques, Foxtrap and other locations in order to protect the safety of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Pursuant to order and on motion the following Bills were read a third time and passed:

- A Bill, An Act To Amend The Fire Prevention Act, 1991 (Bill No. 6);
- A Bill, An Act To Amend The Municipal Affairs Act (Bill No. 8);
- A Bill, An Act To Amend The Emergency Measures Act (Bill No. 5);
- A Bill, An Act To Amend The Financial Administration Act (Bill No. 16).

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On motion it was ordered that the said Bills be printed being entitled as above and that they be submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for His Assent.

On motion of the Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House.

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Fitzgerald took the Chair of Committee of the Whole House.

The Committee of the Whole House considered and passed a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Law About The Practice Of Optometry" (Bill No. 9).

The Committee of the Whole House considered and passed a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Survival of Actions Act" (Bill No. 11).

The Committee of the Whole House considered and passed a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Corporations Act" (Bill No. 4).

The Committee of the Whole House considered and passed a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Services Charges Act" (Bill No. 10).

The Committee of the Whole House considered a Bill entitled, "An Act To Incorporate The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre For Health Information" (Bill No. 17).

On motion the Committee rose.

The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House (Mr. Fitzgerald) reported that the Committee of the Whole House had considered the matters to it referred and had passed the following Bills without amendments, made progress on another Bill and asked leave to sit again:

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Law About The Practice Of Optometry" (Bill No. 9);

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Survival of Actions Act" (Bill No. 11);

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Corporations Act" (Bill No. 4);

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Services Charges Act" (Bill No. 10).

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On motion the report of the Committee was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that Bills No. 9, 11, 4 and 10 be read a third time presently.

Pursuant to order and on motion the following Bills were read a third time and passed:

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Law About The Practice Of Optometry" (Bill No. 9);

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Corporations Act" (Bill No. 4);

A Bill, An Act To Amend The Services Charges Act" (Bill No. 10).

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Third Reading of a Bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Survival Of Actions Act[@] (Bill No. 11), on motion the said Bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion it was ordered that the said Bills be printed being entitled as above and that they be submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for His Assent.

On motion of the Honourable the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House.

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Fitzgerald took the Chair of Committee of the Whole House.

The Committee of the Whole House considered and passed a Bill entitled, An Act To Incorporate The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre For Health Information" (Bill No. 17).

The Committee of the Whole House considered a Bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, 2000" (Bill No. 7).

On motion the Committee rose.

The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House (Mr. Fitzgerald) reported that the Committee of the Whole House had considered the matters to it referred and had passed a Bill, An Act To Incorporate The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre For Health Information" (Bill No. 17) without amendment, made progress on another Bill and asked leave to sit again.

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On motion the report of the Committee was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 17 be read a third time presently.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled, An Act To Incorporate The Newfoundland And Labrador Centre For Health Information (Bill No. 17) was read a third time and passed. On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 17 be printed being entitled as above and that it be submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for His Assent.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 19th at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

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