

Wednesday, March 16th, 2005

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

By leave, the Honourable the Premier and Member for Humber West (Mr. Williams) made a Statement to pay tribute to Dr. Noel Murphy who died on March 10th at the age of 89. Dr. Murphy was a former Member of the House of Assembly and a former Mayor of Corner Brook.

By leave, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) and the Member for Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) also paid tribute to Dr. Murphy.

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Duane Andrews on winning an East Coast Music Association Award for Jazz Record of the Year.

By leave, the Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture & Recreation and Labrador Affairs and Member for Baie Verte (Mr. Shelley) made a Statement to pay tribute to Mr. Dick Power, an athlete and educator, who died on March 12th, 2005.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to recognize the 300th anniversary of the founding of Spaniard's Bay.

The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Ridgley) made a Statement to recognize the volunteers who contributed to the organizing and hosting of the recent Scott Tournament of Hearts at Mile One Stadium in St. John's.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to congratulate the Grand Bank Heritage Society for expanding their Mariners' Memorial initiative to include the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Ed Byrne) made a Statement to advise the House on the status of the discussions between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Abitibi Consolidated Inc. on the future of its operations in Stephenville and Grand Falls-Windsor.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Dianne Whalen) made a Statement to advise Members regarding the effect of the one year freeze on automobile insurance rates and other reforms during the past year.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Ed Byrne) made a Statement to inform the House that the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board had announced details of the 2005 Call for Bids in the Newfoundland and Labrador

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Offshore Area.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) presented the Interim Report of the Standing Orders Committee. The Honourable the Government House Leader moved, seconded by the Member for Signal Hill -Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris), the following amendments to the Standing Orders:

- “1. That the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly be amended by the insertion immediately after Standing Order 2(2) of the following:

“(1.1) Following a General Election the Members shall elect a Speaker immediately after the administration of the oath or affirmation of office.”
2. That Standing Order 7(1) be revoked and the following substituted:

“7(1) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide questions of order. No debate shall be permitted on any such decision and no such decision shall be subject to an appeal to the House. In explaining a point of order or practice, the Speaker shall state the standing order or authority applicable to the case.”
3. That Standing Order 24(1) be amended by the insertion immediately after paragraph (d) of the following:

“(d.1) Tabling of Documents;“
4. That Standing Order 46(4) be revoked and the following substituted:

“46(4) The Member speaking immediately in reply to the Minister of Finance in giving the Budget Speech shall be limited to twice the amount of time used by the Minister or three hours, whichever is greater.”
5. That the following be added immediately after Standing Order 60(3):

“60.1 A motion that the Speaker leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House shall be decided without debate or amendment.”

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6. That Standing Order 74(1) be amended by the insertion, immediately after the words and figures "Standing Order 72.", of the following:

"Such motion shall be decided without debate or amendment."
7. That Standing Orders 119-128 be revoked upon the enactment of legislation.
8. That Practice Recommendation 1(1) (a) be amended by the insertion immediately after the words "break from" of the following: "the end of the sitting day on".
9. That the traditional parliamentary rule of Anticipation no longer apply in the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador
10. And that the Clerk of the House of Assembly be authorized to renumber and reprint the Standing Orders making all necessary adjustments and revisions in order to carry out the spirit and intent of the above noted changes to the Standing Orders."

After some debate the Speaker put the question on the above noted motion and declared the motion carried.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) tabled the following Special Warrant for 2004-05:

- (a) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2005-061 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$7,300,000 to be expended under the Department of Health and Community Services Head of Expenditure.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder), pursuant to section 39 of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Act*, tabled the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission Annual Report for the period April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004.

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

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a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider certain Resolutions for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty (Bill No. 2).

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 on Supply to consider certain Resolutions for the Granting of Supply to Her Majesty (Bill No. 4).

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to request that Government reinstate funding for the Grand Falls-Windsor Committee Against Violence.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid):

“WHEREAS the Dunne Report recommended the development of a raw material sharing system only when, “processors can satisfy the Minister that there are or will be, no substantive and reasonable objections from plant workers and harvesters”;

AND WHEREAS it is obvious that substantive and reasonable objections exist among harvesters and plant workers;

AND WHEREAS in the Speech from the Throne last year Government stated that it would consult before it acted and would be inclusive when it consulted;

AND WHEREAS harvesters and plant workers have clearly not been consulted nor included in this process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly calls upon Government to only impose production quotas if it is agreed.”

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution and declared the Resolution defeated.

It being Wednesday, the Speaker adjourned the House at 4:53 o'clock in the

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afternoon until tomorrow, Thursday, March 17th, 2005 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.