

Tuesday, April 26th, 2005

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

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) rose on a point of order with respect to comments made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) on April 21st. The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled that there was a valid point of order and asked the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the comments. The Leader of the Opposition then withdrew the unparliamentary language.

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Jarrett Rose of Victoria and Mr. Gerald Winsor of Harbour Grace who were with twenty-two Newfoundland and Labrador soccer players who were in Manchester, England to represent the Province in competition.

The Member for Bonavista South (Mr. Fitzgerald) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Rebecca Russell of Lethbridge, Bonavista Bay on her outstanding hockey career with the St. Lawrence University Saints in New York State.

The Member for Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon) made a Statement to honour the volunteers of the St. Jacques-Coomb's Cove Volunteer Fire Department.

The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Ridgley) made a Statement to congratulate the successful teams and individual winners in the provincial bowling championships.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Cayley Linehan of Grand Falls-Windsor who won first place honours for her project at the 19th Annual Central Newfoundland Regional Science Fair.

The Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Harding) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Matthew Button of Wareham who won first place in the Provincial Air Cadet League of Canada Effective Speaking Contest.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Tom Marshall) made a Statement concerning the opening of the new Supreme Courthouse in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Because of disorder in the Public Galleries, during Oral Questions, after warning visitors the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ordered the Galleries cleared for the remainder of the day at 2:15 o'clock in the afternoon.

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The House resumed sitting at 3:04 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS many municipalities in this province are currently experiencing severe financial difficulties;

AND WHEREAS this province has already experienced the out-migration of 2700 young people from rural communities in the past eighteen months;

AND WHEREAS the unemployment rate in many communities is at an unacceptable level;

AND WHEREAS Government policy has compromised the delivery of Government services in rural communities, having a detrimental effect on the rural economy;

AND WHEREAS, despite the promises made during the last election, the current Government has not taken the action necessary to deal with the immediate crisis which exists in rural parts of this province;

AND WHEREAS the Government has created a crisis in fishing communities around the province through the imposition of ill-conceived policies;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence that this Government has any plan to deal with the crisis facing rural communities in this province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly recognizes the seriousness of the situation facing rural areas of this province and calls on the Government to finally take action against the crisis facing the future of rural Newfoundland and Labrador."

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, April 28th, 2005.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to impose production quotas only if it is agreed

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upon by the FFAW and the processors as recommended in the Dunne Report.

The Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to impose production quotas only if it is agreed upon by the FFAW and the processors as recommended in the Dunne Report.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to reconsider their decision on the Health Care Centre in Grand Bank and provide funding to complete this facility.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) presented a Petition from residents of Grand Bank and Fortune calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to provide a CT scanner and dialysis unit for the Burin Peninsula Regional Hospital at Burin.

The Member for Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to impose production quotas only if it is agreed upon by the FFAW and the processors as recommended in the Dunne Report.

The Member for Carbonear - Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to impose production quotas only if it is agreed upon by the FFAW and the processors as recommended in the Dunne Report.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) made a Statement to advise the House of Assembly that in view of recent instances of disorder in the Public Galleries, the Galleries would remain closed until the Speaker could be assured by the Sergeant-at-Arms that there would not be further disorder.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) rose on a point of order concerning the Speaker's statement. After some debate, the Speaker ruled that the matter was not a point of order and stated he could not be engaged in a debate on the subject of security and the disorder in the Galleries.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) rose on a point of privilege concerning the Speaker's statement. The Speaker ruled that once a ruling was made on a point of order, the Member could not raise the same issue as a point of privilege.

Debate continued on the motion "That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government" (the Budget Speech).

The Members of the Opposition left the Chamber.

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On motion debate on the Budget Speech was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 27th, 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.