

Wednesday, April 27th, 2005

The House met at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) rose to ask leave of the House to debate the following motion:

“Notwithstanding the statement made by the Speaker on April 26, 2005 regarding closure of the Public Galleries of this House, be it resolved the Public Galleries of the House of Assembly remain open to the public and that Standing Orders 22-23 continue to be used to govern the conduct of strangers.”

After some debate, leave was not granted.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) rose on a point of order to advise the House that the Members of the Official Opposition would not participate in the proceedings while the Public Galleries remained closed.

The Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) advised the House that the NDP Opposition Members would not participate in the proceedings while the Galleries remained closed.

By leave the Honourable the Minister of Transportation & Works and Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Rideout) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Gordon MacDonald, former deputy minister of Highways and Chair of the Public Utilities Board.

The Member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement to congratulate participants in an evening with the Arts at Marystown Central High School.

The Member for Windsor-Springdale (Mr. Hunter) made a Statement to congratulate Y2C in Grand Falls-Windsor on their second anniversary.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Mr. Hedderson) made a Statement to inform the House of the opening of the Landmark Graphics Visualization Laboratory at Memorial University.

The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) moved pursuant to Standing Order 36 that the Orders of the Day be set aside by means of an adjournment motion to debate a matter of urgent public importance.

There was some debate on the procedure whereupon the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) suspended proceedings in order to consider the request of the Opposition House Leader.

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The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker ruled that the request for an emergency debate was not in order as the House had already determined not to give leave to debate the matter earlier in the sitting.

The proponent of the Private Members' motion to be debated the Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler), did not rise to introduce the motion of which notice had been given on April 26th.

Whereupon the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) asked leave of the House to proceed to Government Business.

Leave being denied, the Speaker adjourned the House at 2:50 o'clock in the afternoon until Thursday, April 28th, 2005.

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