

Wednesday, May 18th, 2005

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

The Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon) made a Statement to recognize volunteers of the Town of St. Jacques - Coombs Cove.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement to recognize National Police Week.

The Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to recognize nine Canadian Rangers in her District who were presented with medals to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's reign.

The Member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Ms. Johnson) made a Statement to congratulate eight students of Woodland Elementary School in Dildo who are members of the Trinity Eagles Wrestlers who placed second in a competition in Quebec.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Howard Bonnell who has been presented with a 2004 Newfoundland and Labrador Recreation Award by the Newfoundland and Labrador Parks & Recreation Association.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Hickey) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Meghan Perry from Churchill Falls who received the Premier's Athletic Award.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (Ms. Dunderdale) made a Statement to inform the House that St. John's will host the 7th International Marine Biotechnology Conference from June 7th to 12th, 2005.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) tabled the 2004-2005 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Members' Interests.

The Member for Grand Falls - Buchans (Ms. Thistle) presented a Petition calling on the House of Assembly to request Government to halt discussions with Abitibi on power development on the Exploits River until government gets a commitment from Abitibi for a two - machine operation at the Grand Falls Mill.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Collins) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to increase funding for problem gambling, strictly to enforce the existing VLT regulations, at the very least remove VLTs from venues frequented by individuals under 19 years of age and to hold a province wide referendum on banning video lottery terminals in conjunction with municipal elections in 2005.

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The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) presented a Petition calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to repair Harvey Street in Harbour Grace.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) advised the House at 3:00 p.m. that pursuant to Standing Order 63(7) the House should proceed to Orders of the Day.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) advised that according to the agreement reached with all Members, the House would continue with Routine Proceedings until they had concluded.

The Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition calling on the House to request the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to invest royalties from the Upper Churchill Recall Power in a fund for Labrador Infrastructure.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) 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 Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition calling on the House to request the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to disregard the Hay Report 2005, ensure medical and specialty services are maintained in the Grenfell Region and publicly make known its commitment to the people of the Labrador-Grenfell Region.

The Member for Grand Falls - Buchans (Ms. Thistle) presented a Petition calling upon the House to request the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provide funding for the necessary road work on the Buchans Highway this summer.

Pursuant to order and on motion the following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Teachers' Pension Act" (Bill No. 40);
A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Lobbyists Registration Act" (Bill No. 38).

On motion it was ordered that the above noted Bills be read a second time on tomorrow or presently.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) the

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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 a Bill entitled, "An Act To Revise The Law Respecting Smoking In Public Places And The Workplace" (Bill No. 20).

The Committee passed Clauses 1 to 3.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) proposed an amendment to Clause 4(1)(t).

The Chair ruled the amendment in order.

The Chairperson put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment defeated.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) proposed an amendment to Clause 4(2)(b).

The Chair ruled the amendment in order.

The Chairperson put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment defeated.

The Committee passed Clause 4 without amendment.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes) proposed the following amendment to Clause 5(1):

"That Clause 5(1) of the Bill be amended to add "and patrons" at the end of the clause after the word "employees".

After some debate, the Chairperson put the question on the amendment.

The Committee divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Grimes; Mr. Parsons; Mr. Butler; Mr. Barrett; Ms. Jones; Ms. Thistle; Mr. Reid; Mr. Andersen; Mr. Sweeney; Ms. Foote; Mr. Joyce; Mr. Harris.

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Against: Mr. Edward Byrne; Mr. Rideout; Ms. Dunderdale; Mr. Taylor; Mr. Hedderson; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Jack Byrne; Mr. Shelley; Ms. Sheila Osborne; Mr. O'Brien; Ms. Burke; Mr. Tom Osborne; Ms. Whalen; Mr. Hickey; Mr. Wiseman; Mr. Denine; Mr. French; Mr. Harding; Mr. Young; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Jackman; Ms. Johnson; Mr. Ridgley; Mr. Skinner; Mr. Oram.

The Chair declared the motion defeated.

The Committee passed Clause 5 without amendment.

The Committee passed Clause 6 of Bill No. 20.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee (Mr. Fitzgerald) reported that the Committee of the Whole had considered the matters to it referred, had made some progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion the report of the Committee was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 19th 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.