

Wednesday, December 7th, 2005

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

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) raised a point of order respecting certain comments made by the Member for Grand Falls - Buchans on December 6th.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled the comments unparliamentary and requested a withdrawal whereupon the Member for Grand Falls - Buchans (Ms. Thistle) withdrew the remarks.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Bruce Buffett of the Grand Bank Lions Club who received the "Melvin Jones Fellowship Award" at the club's 54th Annual Charter Night on November 25th, 2005.

The Member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Karen Paddle who was awarded a Canadian Millennium Scholarship.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Kelsey Morrissey, age 13, of Shearstown who won the Newfoundland Equestrian Association's Horsemanship Award.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Hickey) made a Statement to advise the House of a lobby which had been started to request that the recently announced new Canadian Coast Guard Vessel be named after the late Lawrence O'Brien.

The Member for Humber Valley (Ms. Goudie) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Susan Francis, a resident of Deer Lake, who recently won a national award for the highest score in the Province on the Tests of General Education Development (G.E.D.) for 2004.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) made a Statement to inform the House of progress made in developing a provincial branding strategy to improve government's image and the way in which the Province's image is projected to the outside world.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Marshall) made a Statement to honour the Province's veterans as the year dedicated to veterans draws to a close.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) raised a point of privilege with respect to certain comments made by the Honourable the Premier.

Wednesday, December 7th, 2005

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) raised a point of order with respect to certain comments made by the Honourable the Premier.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Ottenheimer) tabled the following:

- (a) the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Community Services for 2004-05;
- (b) the Activity Report of the Medical Consultants' Committee for 2004-05;
- (c) the Annual Report of the Mental Health Review Board for 2004-05;
- (d) the Annual Report of the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee for 2004-2005.

The Honourable the Speaker tabled the Report of the Commission of Internal Economy respecting Matters Relating to Mr. Fraser March, the Citizens' Representative.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair:

“WHEREAS Labradorians must be the primary beneficiaries of any development of the hydro resource on the Lower Churchill River;

AND WHEREAS the Premier promised during the 2003 election campaign, “We will not develop the Lower Churchill unless the primary beneficiaries are Labradorians. You have my assurance on that”;

AND WHEREAS the government party promised during the 2003 election campaign that, “a Progressive Conservative government will make use of the hydroelectric potential of the Lower Churchill to promote industrial development and meet domestic energy demand in Labrador”;

AND WHEREAS Labrador communities must have electrical power which is affordable and reliable to sustain and grow the local economy;

AND WHEREAS Labradorians expect a heritage fund will be established to ensure future investment into Labrador and its people;

Wednesday, December 7th, 2005

AND WHEREAS there must be respect and inclusion for all of Labrador's aboriginal peoples - the Inuit Nation, the Metis Nation and the Inuit must be consulted and engaged in meaningful discussions on the development;

AND WHEREAS local business procurement and local employment opportunities must be a fundamental part of any plan to develop the project - a Labrador First Policy must be adopted;

AND WHEREAS environmental concerns must be considered and addressed through environmental assessments - Labradorians must be provided with intervener status;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly calls upon the Government to ensure that Labrador receive the maximum benefit of the development of the Lower Churchill Power Project;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a deal on the Lower Churchill not be concluded unless the electrical needs of Labrador are met and a Labrador Development Fund is established to ensure that Labradorians are the primary beneficiaries of the export of their hydro electric resources".

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

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

Against: Mr. Rideout; Ms. Dunderdale; Mr. Ottenheimer; Mr. Hedderson; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Jack Byrne; Mr. Shelley; Mr. Fitzgerald; Ms. Sheila Osborne; Mr. O'Brien; Ms. Burke; Ms. Whalen; Mr. Jim Hodder; Mr. Hickey; Mr. Wiseman; Mr. French; Mr. Young; Mr. Hunter; Ms. Johnson; Mr. Ridgley; Ms. Goudie; Mr. Skinner; Mr. Oram; Ms. Elizabeth Marshall.

The Speaker declared the Resolution defeated.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Wednesday, December 7th, 2005

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