

Wednesday, May 20th, 2009

On Friday, May 20th at 11:30 o'clock in the morning the Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) and the Clerk of the House of Assembly attended upon the Honourable John C. Crosbie, PC, OC, ONL, QC Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador at Government House.

The Speaker addressed His Honour as follows:

“It is my agreeable duty on behalf of Her Majesty’s dutiful and loyal subjects, Her Faithful Commons in Newfoundland and Labrador, to present to Your Honour a Bill for the appropriation of Supply granted in the present Session.”

Whereupon the Clerk read the following Bill:

A Bill, “An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending March 31, 2010 And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service” (Bill No. 2).

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then said “In Her Majesty’s Name I thank Her Loyal Subjects, I accept their benevolence and I assent to this Bill.”

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.

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

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate Jamiee Thomas of L'Anse au Clair on becoming Canada's first Karaoke Star Jr.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Peach) made a Statement respecting the Vista Regional Schools three-day Drama Festival which took place in Trinity recently.

The Member for St. John's West (Ms. Osborne) made a Statement to congratulate the Matthew Blandford Curling Team which recently won the Provincial Mixed Curling Championships.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Loder) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Fred Humber of Benoit's Cove who was presented with a certificate of Commendation from the Governor General of Canada for saving the life of his brother Eric on March 5, 2008.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Mr. King) made a Statement respecting the implementation of the recommendations of the Skills Task Force report: *All the Skills to Succeed*.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ms. Whalen) made a Statement respecting Municipal Awareness Day.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) 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 Supplementary Supply to Her Majesty (Bill No. 34).

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Liquor Control Act" (Bill No. 32).

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Mr. King) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Memorial University Pensions Act" (Bill No. 33).

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Burke) gave notice that she 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, May 21st, 2009.

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The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to establish a satellite dialysis unit at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre in the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province requesting that the House of Assembly urge Government to undertake measures to construct a fixed link between Long Island and Pilley's Island in Green Bay.

The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to support the residents of Ramea, Grey River and Francois in their request to have adequate health care/nursing services made available at the Ramea and coastal clinics.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge):

“WHEREAS Members of the European Parliament decided on May 5, 2009 – by a vote of 550 in favour, 49 against and 41 abstentions – to ban the commercial trade of seal products in European Union countries, with two derogations:

- (a) The import of seal products shall also be allowed where it is of an occasional nature and consists exclusively of goods for the personal use of the travelers or their families. The nature and quantity of such goods may not be such as to indicate that they are being imported for commercial reasons;
- (b) The placing on the market shall be allowed for seal products that result from by-products of hunting that is regulated under national law and conducted for the sole purpose of sustainable management of marine resources. Such placing on the market shall only be allowed on a non-profit basis. The nature and quantity of such products shall not be such as to indicate that they are being placed on the market for commercial reasons.

AND WHEREAS the next step to bring this ban into effect is a decision by the Council, representing each of the 27 EU national governments; and the Council is expected to consider the matter in June 2009;

AND WHEREAS it is the height of hypocrisy for European Union countries to ban the commercial trade of products from the Canadian seal harvest – which is ecologically sustainable, economically sustainable, tightly regulated and humane – while permitting the harvests, culling and hunting of animals within their own jurisdictions and the commercial trade of products from such activities;

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AND WHEREAS the Council of the Federation on May 11, 2009 discussed the proposed trade ban on seal products by the EU at the request of Newfoundland and Labrador's Premier and Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak, and expressed a strong objection to the EU's proposed ban, which is not based on fact or on scientific information and could be inconsistent with World Trade Organization obligations and with the commitment made by Leaders at the G-20 meeting on April 2, 2009 to refrain from imposing new trade barriers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly, by way of letters from the Speaker on our behalf, calls on the Government of each European Union country to direct their representatives on the Council to vote against the ban on the trade of seal products within the European Union;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House calls on the Government of Canada to challenge the ban immediately, vigorously and persistently before the World Trade Organization if such a ban is finally imposed".

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 21st at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.