

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

The House met at 10:00 o'clock in the morning pursuant to adjournment.

By leave the Member for Labrador West (Mr. Letto) presented the Report of the Select Committee struck to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Debate commenced on the following motion "that the Report of the Select Committee to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be adopted" and on motion the debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

During the debate the Member for St. John's East - Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) raised a point of order regarding language used by the Member for Placentia West – Bellevue (Mr. Browne).

The Speaker took the matter under advertisement.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b) the sitting was suspended at 12:05 p.m. The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Member for Harbour Grace – Port de Grave (Ms. Parsons) made a Statement to inform the House about the strength of Curtis Bullen in the face of a serious illness and ask Members to keep Curtis and his family in their prayers.

The Member for Lewisporte – Twillingate (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to congratulate recipients of awards presented at the 15th Annual Volunteer Incentive Programme Ceremony of the Student Volunteer Bureau at Memorial University.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to congratulate retired Air Force Veteran Michael Jackman who was awarded his 60 year pin as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to congratulate Wilson Bridger on his Kinsmen Club of Canada Life Membership Award.

The Honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women (Ms. Coady) made a Statement to inform the House that she had joined parliamentarians from around the world at the 62nd Session of the United Nations.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to recognize March as Nutrition Month.

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (Mr. Mitchelmore) made a Statement to inform the House that the Province had surpassed 553,000 non-resident visitors for the first time in 2017.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Trimper) ruled on the point of order raised by the Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael). The Speaker ruled that there was no point of order.

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to commit to a new state-of-the-art K-12 school for the students of Bay D'Espoir.

The Honourable the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (Mr. Kirby) replied to the Petition.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Cape St. Francis (Mr. Parsons):

“BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House urges the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to consider eliminating the sales tax on insurance.”

During the debate the Honourable the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (Mr. Kirby) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment (Mr. Joyce) the following amendment:

“That the Resolution be amended by deleting the following words: ‘eliminating the sales tax on insurance’ and substituting the following: ‘the results of the Independent Tax Review in determining whether to reduce or eliminate the sales tax on insurance when the province’s finances recover from previous mismanagement’.”

The Speaker (Mr. Reid) suspended the proceedings at 3:22 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Reid) resumed the Chair at 3:42 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Resolution and the Resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment.

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Andrew Parsons, Ms. Coady, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Haggie, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Crocker, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Mitchelmore, Mr. Warr, Mr. Bernard Davis, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Letto, Mr. Browne, Mr. Bragg, Ms. Haley, Mr. Derek Bennett, Mr. Finn, Mr. Reid, Ms. Parsley, Mr. King, Mr. Dean, Ms. Pam Parsons, Mr. Holloway.

Against: Mr. Paul Davis, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Brazil, Ms. Perry, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Petten, Mr. Lester, Ms. Michael, Mr. Lane.

The Speaker declared the amendment carried.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution as amended.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Andrew Parsons, Ms. Coady, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Haggie, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Crocker, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Mitchelmore, Mr. Warr, Mr. Bernard Davis, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Letto, Mr. Browne, Mr. Bragg, Ms. Haley, Mr. Derek Bennett, Mr. Finn, Mr. Reid, Ms. Parsley, Mr. King, Mr. Dean, Ms. Pam Parsons, Mr. Holloway.

Against: Mr. Paul Davis, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Brazil, Ms. Perry, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Petten, Mr. Lester, Ms. Michael, Mr. Lane.

The Speaker declared the motion carried.

The Speaker then adjourned the House until Thursday, at 1:30 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 9.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.