

Wednesday, October 24th, 2018

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

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Trimper) ruled on the point of privilege raised on October 23rd by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Crosbie). The Speaker ruled that there was a *prima facie* case of privilege by way of contempt.

The Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Crosbie), seconded by the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hutchings), moved the following Resolution:

“WHEREAS the Member for Mount Scio has admitted to releasing to the news media investigative reports into that Member’s conduct by the Commissioner for Legislative Standards before those reports have been tabled in the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the release of such reports of an Officer of the House is an indignity to the complainants that threatens to compromise the integrity of the investigative process and the public perception that justice is being served, and prejudices the ability of the Members of this House to fulfill their responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS the Member’s attempt to use these leaked reports to influence perceptions of the reports’ conclusions before they have been presented to Members for debate affects, not just the integrity of the process, but our ability to fulfill our adjudicated responsibilities;

BE IT RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for an investigation and a recommendation of an appropriate action to censure the Member for Mount Scio for what he has done.”

Debate commenced on the Resolution.

The Member for Mount Scio (Mr. Kirby) raised a question of personal privilege.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 10:16 o'clock in the morning to consider the matter.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 10:52 o'clock in the morning and ruled that there was no point of personal privilege but allowed the Member to give an explanation of his actions which had led to the raising of the point of privilege.

Debate continued and concluded on the Resolution.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

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The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Ball, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Ms. Coady, Mr. Haggie, Mr. Byrne, Ms. Dempster, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Crocker, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Gambin-Walsh, Mr. Warr, Mr. Bernard Davis, Mr. Edmunds, Ms. Haley, Mr. Letto, Mr. Browne, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Derek Bennett, Mr. Reid, Ms. Parsley, Mr. King, Mr. Dean, Ms. Pam Parsons, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Paul Davis, Mr. Brazil, Ms. Perry, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Petten, Mr. Lester, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Michael.

Against: Mr. Joyce, Mr. Kirby.

The Speaker declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b) the sitting was suspended at 11:00 a.m. The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Member for Virginia Waters – Pleasantville (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to congratulate recipients of the Silver Duke of Edinberg Award Aluel Acheiek and Caitlyn Menchion.

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) made a Statement to congratulate the 2922 Vimy Ridge Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps award recipients who were honoured at the 2018 Annual Ceremonial Review.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to commend the Botwood Mural Arts Society on hosting the successful Global Mural Conference in September of this year.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Simon Kohlmeister on his project of salvaging and restoring discarded bicycles to be given to children in the community.

By leave, the Member for Corner Brook (Mr. Byrne) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Craig Kennedy.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Public Safety (Mr. Parsons) made a Statement to inform the House that Government had made an agreement with the University of Saskatchewan to provide for two seats in the College of Law Programme for Indigenous students from Newfoundland and Labrador.

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The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Works (Mr. Crocker) made a Statement to inform the House about enhancements Government has made to the Province's highway transportation network.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to recognize Foster Families Week and thank foster families for their contribution to the future of our Province.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Coady), the Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Dempster), the Member for Bonavista (Mr. King) and the Member for Harbour Grace – Port de Grave (Ms. Parsons) each raised a point of order regarding comments made by the Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry).

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to ensure the safety of all children by removing the 1.6 km busing policy where safety is a concern.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry):

“WHEREAS some Members have concerns about the process the Commissioner for Legislative Standards followed in producing investigative reports of harassment complaints against Members;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker has informed Members of the House of Assembly Management Commission that the Commission does not have the authority to summon the Commissioner but the House does;

AND WHEREAS questions about the process must be dealt with before the House can properly deal with the reports the process has produced;

AND WHEREAS ensuring the integrity of the process is paramount in assuring the public that justice is done in matters of harassment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House summon the Commissioner for Legislative Standards prior to debate on any of the investigative reports in order to answer questions and provide clarity on the process so Members can have a full

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understanding of the process and have any questions answered before they deal with the reports' findings and recommendations”.

During the debate the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Ms. Coady) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Haggie), the following amendment:

“That the Resolution be amended by adding immediately after the words, “Commissioner for Legislative Standards” the words and commas “and Rubin Thomlinson, as investigators”.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 3:28 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:38 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

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

The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the motion carried.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution as amended and 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.