



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 24

THIRD SESSION, THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mrs. TAILLIEU – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation and Government Services consider paving Highway 200 between Highways 205 and 305 to ensure a smooth, safe and uninterrupted use of Highway 200. (J. Papas, A. Gunter, B. Peloquin and others)

Mrs. ROWAT – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Premier to consider ensuring that acute care and emergency services are available to the residents of Rivers and surrounding areas in their local hospital and to live up to his promise to not close the Rivers Hospital and to request that the Minister of Health consider developing a long term solution to the chronic shortages of frontline healthcare professionals in rural Manitoba. (B. Schlosser, N. Taylor, H. Lepp and others)

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Provincial Government to consider providing East St. Paul with local ambulance service which would service both East and West St. Paul and to consider improving the way that ambulance service is supplied to all Manitoba's by utilizing technologies such as GPS in conjunction with a Medical Transportation Co-ordination Center (MTCC) which will ensure that patients receive the nearest ambulance in the least amount of time and to consider ensuring that appropriate funding is provided to maintain superior response times and sustainable services. (S. Intrater, M. Intrater, B. Intrater and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Provincial Government to consider adopting generally accepted accounting principles in reporting Manitoba's budgetary numbers. (L. B. Polvorosa, M. Acosta, A. Polvorosa and others)

Hon. Ms. MCGIFFORD presented:

Annual Report of the Adult Learning Centres for the year ending June 30, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 42)

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

On motion of Hon. Mr. ROBINSON, Bill (No. 3) – The Recreational Trail Property Owners Protection Act (Occupiers' Liability Act Amended)/Loi sur la protection accordée aux propriétaires de biens à l'égard des sentiers récréatifs (modification de la Loi sur la responsabilité des occupants), was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

During Oral Questions, Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH rose on a point of order regarding the use of an exhibit in the Chamber by the Honourable Member for River Heights.

And Hon. Mr. GERRARD having spoken to the point of order,

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker informed the House he would take the matter under advisement.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker made the following ruling:

Following Oral Questions on December 8, 2004, the Honourable Official Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order regarding events that had taken place during Question Period where the Member for River East requested that the House observe 33 moments of silence. In speaking to the point of order, the Honourable Official Opposition House Leader stated that it was not Manitoba practice to ask for leave to request a moment of silence, nor were negotiations necessary in order to request a moment of silence. The Honourable Deputy Government House Leader, the Honourable Member for River East, and the Honourable Member for River Heights also spoke to the point of order. I took the point of order under advisement.

In looking at past Manitoba practice, my research uncovered that moments of silence were requested for the following items and issues: Ministerial Statements on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on violence against women, on the subject of Holocaust awareness day; the day of mourning for workers killed on the job, on the topic of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and World Aids day. In addition, a moment of silence was requested at the conclusion of debate on a Private Members' Resolution on the Ukrainian famine. Also, it is customary that a moment of silence is observed when condolence motions are considered in the House. In none of these cases was leave asked for.

Turning to the events of December 8, 2004, where the Honourable Member for River East requested a moment of silence, she did so during Oral Questions, and we have never had that occur during Oral Questions before. Given that this appeared to be a departure from the usual practices of the House, I asked the House if there was leave for this request, as it is customary to request leave when undertaking an action that is at odds with the rules or usual practices of the House.

I would therefore rule that there is no point of order, however I do suggest that this issue is one that could be taken up with the House Leaders or with the Standing Committee on the Rules of the House, in order to further discuss the matter and decide whether there should be any restrictions on when a moment of silence can be requested, and whether leave would be required.

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. HAWRANIK and JHA, Mrs. DRIEDGER, Messrs. SANTOS and MAGUIRE made Members' Statements.

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

The House resolving into Committee of Supply. The Proceedings, by leave, were temporarily interrupted to permit Mr. Speaker to resume the Chair.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed to waive the quorum requirements and any recorded votes arising in Committee of Supply for the duration of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs on Tuesday, March 22, 2005.

And the House continuing in Committee. The Proceedings, by leave, were temporarily interrupted to permit Mr. Speaker to resume the Chair.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed to waive the quorum requirements in Committee of Supply for the duration of the meeting of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission on Tuesday, March 22, 2005.

And the House continuing in Committee.

The House then adjourned at 5:31 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.