



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 18

THIRD SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK, Bill (No. 11) – The Highway Traffic Amendment and Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route et la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba, was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. DYCK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to strongly consider giving priority for funding to develop and staff a new 100 bed long-term-care facility so that clients are not exposed to unsafe conditions and so that Boundary Trails Health Centre beds remain available for acute care patients instead of waiting placement clients. (S. Peters, S. Wiebe, P. Loepky and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Premier of Manitoba consider how important it is to have the Seven Oaks Hospital provide full emergency services seven days a week 24 hours a day. (K. Coates, H. Enns, R. Waluk and others)

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Health to consider working with the Parkland Regional Health Authority to provide a centrally located ambulance and station in the area of Eddystone, Bacon Ridge and Ebb and Flow First Nation. (J. North, C. Cabak, D. Cabak and others)

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation consider the immediate installation of traffic signals at the intersection of PTH #15 and Highway #206 in Dugald and to recognize the value of the lives and well-being of the students and citizens of Manitoba. (D. Nichol, D. Duma, K. Heard and others)

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON presented:

Communities Economic Development Fund, Quarterly Report, Nine Months, April 1 to December 31, 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 28)

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Hon. Mr. SELINGER delivered to Mr. Speaker a revised message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba as follows:

John HARVARD
Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, estimates of sums required for the services of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 2010 and recommends these Estimates to the Legislative Assembly.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
March 25, 2009

(Sessional Paper No. 29)

Hon. Mr. ASHTON, the Minister responsible for Emergency Measures, made a statement regarding the flood conditions throughout the Province of Manitoba,

Mr. BRIESE and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD commented on the statement.

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mr. EICHLER, Ms. HOWARD, Mr. BRIESE, Ms. BRICK, Hon. Mr. GERRARD and, by leave, Mr. FAURSCHOU made Members' Statements.

Prior to Orders of the Day, Mr. LAMOUREUX rose on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance and moved:

THAT in accordance with Rule 36(1), the regularly scheduled business of the House be set aside to discuss a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, namely, the threat to the health care system posed by this government's plans to limit emergency services in the city of Winnipeg community hospitals.

And Mr. LAMOUREUX, Mrs. DRIEDGER and Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK having spoken.

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled as follows:

I thank the Honourable Members for their advice to the Chair on whether the motion proposed by the Honourable Member for Inkster should be debated today. The notice required by Rule 36(1) was provided. Under our Rules and Practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that the public interest will suffer if the matter is not given immediate attention. There must also be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter.

I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward, however I was not persuaded that the ordinary business of the House should be set aside to deal with this issue today. Although this is an issue that many Members may have a concern about, I do not believe that the public interest will be harmed if the business of the House is not set aside to debate the motion today.

Additionally, I would like to note that there are other avenues for Members to raise this issue, which include the Budget Debate, questions in Question Period and Members' Statements.

Therefore, with the greatest of respect, I must rule that this matter does not meet the criteria set by our Rules and Precedents and I rule the motion out of order as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed that the House will sit on Thursday, March 26, 2009 until 6:00 p.m. to consider Interim Supply.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed to waive the quorum requirement and any recorded votes arising in the House from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Thursday, March 26, 2009.

The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. MCFADYEN having spoken,

And Mr. MCFADYEN moved an amendment as follows:

That the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

- (a) increasing our province's debt to an all time high of \$21.1 billion, which creates a credit card bill of \$18,380, for every man, woman and child in the province. Hard working Manitoba families will be forced to pay off this bill in the months and years ahead; and
- (b) gambling with incomes and social programs by increasing our dependence on Ottawa handouts to a record level of \$3.8 billion, more than double the handouts we received in 1999, which is like a family with a \$60,000 income relying on neighbours for \$22,000 a year, when those neighbours are now in serious financial trouble; and

(c) running a deficit, and misleadingly calling it a surplus, by using the misleading accounting practise of calling Crown income “revenue” when in fact that income is not available to government because it is required to meet obligations such as Manitoba Hydro’s record \$7.4 billion long-term debt; and

(d) attempting to introduce a new misleading accounting practise with a proposal to reduce by over 80 percent the minimum payment on Manitoba’s credit card debt, taking that repayment to \$17.54 per person this year on a bill of \$18,380; and

(e) failing to announce a plan to tackle corruption, waste and mismanagement within government by:

(i) endorsing the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority “brown envelope” tendering scheme; and

(ii) failing to repeal the “vote tax,” leaving the New Democratic Party in line to pocket one million dollars over four years at the expense of Manitoba taxpayers; and

(iii) failing to cancel the reckless and environmentally harmful west side BiPole III project and instead proceed with the east side line, which is supported by the vast majority; would protect the Boreal forest; would protect the Riding Mountain UNESCO biosphere reserve, provide a far more reliable back up to BiPole I and II; save forty megawatts of line loss which will allow for the closure of a coal-fired power plant and save Manitoba Hydro ratepayers a minimum of \$640 million or \$2,000 for every family in the province; and

(f) failing to offer a plan to create opportunity and wealth, so Manitobans can feel hope that we will one day emerge from the hole of debt and dependency and see a brighter future.

As a consequence, the government has thereby lost the confidence of this House and the people of Manitoba.

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment in order.

The debate was, on motion of Hon. Ms. IRVIN-ROSS, adjourned.

Pursuant to Rule 32(5), the debate on the Budget Address was interrupted by the Government House Leader in order to resolve into Committee of Supply to consider Interim Supply.

The House resolving into Committee of Supply.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. KORZENIOWSKI, Chairperson of the Committee of Supply, presented the Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of March 26, 2009 as follows:

IN THE COMMITTEE

The following Resolutions were adopted:

RESOLVED that a sum not exceeding \$4,810,056,480 being 48% of the total amount to be voted as set forth in Part A (Operating Expenditure) of the Estimates, be granted to Her Majesty for the Fiscal Year ending the 31st day of March, 2010.

RESOLVED that a sum not exceeding \$565,306,500 being 75% of the total amount to be voted as set out in Part B (Capital Investment) of the Estimates, be granted to Her Majesty for the Fiscal Year ending the 31st day of March, 2010.

Resolutions were reported and the Report was received.

Hon. Mr. SELINGER moved:

THAT there be granted to Her Majesty on account of Certain Expenditures of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2010 out of the Consolidated Fund, the sums of \$4,810,056,480 being 48% of the total amount to be voted as set out in Part A (Operating Expenditure) and \$565,306,500 being 75% of the total amount to be voted as set out in Part B (Capital Investment) of the estimates, laid before the House at the present Session of the Legislature.

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

On motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER, Bill (No. 10) – The Interim Appropriation Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant affectation anticipée de crédits, was read a First Time and ordered for Second Reading immediately.

Hon. Mr. SELINGER moved:

THAT Bill (No. 10) – The Interim Appropriation Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant affectation anticipée de crédits, be now read a Second Time, and be referred to Committee of the Whole.

And a debate arising,

And Messrs. BOROTSIK, CULLEN, MAGUIRE and GRAYDON having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to Committee of the Whole.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

The House resolving into Committee of the Whole.

Ms. KORZENIOWSKI, Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, presented the report on progress of the Committee's consideration of Bill (No. 10) – The Interim Appropriation Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant affectation anticipée de credits.

The House then adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 27, 2009.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.