



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 23

FIFTH SESSION, THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following the Prayer, Mr. LAMOUREUX rose on a Matter of Privilege and moved:

THAT the Premier shows respect for the role of Opposition Members and the duties they perform and apologize for the behaviour for his Chief of Staff.

And Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK and Mr. GOERTZEN having spoken.

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

On motion of Hon. Ms. ALLAN, Bill (No. 17) – The Employment Standards Code Amendment Act (Leave for Reservists)/Loi modifiant le Code des normes d'emploi (congé à l'intention des réservistes), was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Premier and his NDP Government to cooperate in uncovering the truth in why the Government did not act on what it knew and to consider calling a public inquiry on the Crocus Fund Fiasco. (J. Maître-Morton, A. Morton, R. Hilton and others)

Mrs. TAILLIEU – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister charged with the administration of The Liquor Control Act to consider allowing the owners of Headingley Foods to sell alcohol at their store, thereby supporting small business and the prosperity of rural communities in Manitoba. (J. Henteleff, L. Pankratz, R. Henderson and others)

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

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

By unanimous consent, it was agreed to allow ten Members to make Members' Statements, with the understanding that the rotation process will be the same as set out for Wednesday and Thursday.

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. MCFADYEN, ALTEMEYER and GOERTZEN, Ms. BRICK, Hon. Mr. GERRARD, Ms. KORZENIOWSKI, Messrs. EICHLER, SWAN, DYCK and JENNISSON made Members' Statements.

Prior to Orders of the Day, Mrs. DRIEDGER 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 desperate state of maternity care in the Province of Manitoba as outlined in the "Report of Manitoba Health's Ministerial Working Group on Maternal Newborn Services" which has sat on the shelf of the Minister of Health since May 2005.

And Mrs. DRIEDGER and Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK having spoken to the urgency of the motion,

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 Charleswood 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. 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 also 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.

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 speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.