



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 29

FIFTH SESSION, THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petition was presented:

Mr. EVANS (Interlake) – Minister of Highways consider making the upgrading of a section of Provincial Road 326 North a project in the 1999-2000 provincial highways budget (E. Plett, W. Reimer, M. McClinton and others)

Mr. LAURENDEAU, Chairperson of the Committee of Supply, reported progress having been made on May 17, 1999. Report was received and the Committee of Supply obtained leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. REIMER presented:

Supplementary Information for Legislative Review 1999-2000 – Departmental Expenditure Estimates – Seniors Directorate.

(Sessional Paper No. 115)

By unanimous consent, Hon. Mr. STEFANSON, introduced Bill (No. 27) – The Essential Services Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services essentiels, which was read a First Time.

Following Oral Questions, Madam Speaker made the following ruling:

I took under advisement on April 28 a point of order raised by the Honourable Minister of Education respecting words spoken in debate by the Honourable Member for Crescentwood. The words in question were “you know, if he were a little more forthright with the truth”. The Minister of Education asked that the words be withdrawn”.

I have reviewed Hansard and also Beauchesne citation 486(1) respecting unparliamentary language which reads in part:

“It is impossible to lay down any specific rules in regard to injurious reflections uttered in debate against particular Members...much depends upon the tone and manner, and intention of the person speaking...”

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

I would say that strictly speaking, there was not a point of order in the matter raised on April 28 but I would encourage the Honourable Member for Crescentwood to be judicious in his choice of words.

Pursuant to Rule 20 (1), Messrs. HELWER, STRUTHERS and DYCK, Ms. WOWCHUK and Mr. LAMOUREUX made Members' Statements.

By leave, Hon. Mr. STEFANSON moved:

THAT Bill (No. 27) – The Essential Services Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services essentiels, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Mr. STEFANSON, Messrs. DOER, KOWALSKI, ASHTON, REID and LAMOUREUX, having spoken,

And the Question being put,

It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of this House.

On motion of Mr. HELWER:

ORDERED that the composition of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments as follows:

Wednesday, May 19, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.:
Hon Mr. STEFANSON for Hon. Mr. TOEWS
Mr. LAURENDEAU for Hon Mr. TWEED
Mr. McALPINE for Mrs. DRIEDGER (Charleswood)

On motion of Mr. HICKES:

ORDERED that the composition of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments as follows:

Wednesday, May 19, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.:
Ms. BARRETT for Mr. DEWAR
Mr. SALE for Mr. MALOWAY
Mr. REID for Mr. MACKINTOSH

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Madam Speaker having left the Chair and the House resolving itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty;

And the House continuing in Committee, the Proceedings were interrupted at 5:00 p.m. for Private Members' Business.

Ms. McGIFFORD moved:

Resolution No. 8: Extension of Compensation to Include all Victims of Hepatitis C, Acquired Through Contaminated Blood or Blood Products

WHEREAS the victims of contaminated blood and their families have suffered, and continue to suffer, human tragedy, pain, and a variety of losses as a result of the use of blood or blood products; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has a responsibility to reduce the repercussions of the tragedy, implement compassionate social policy, and adopt a leadership position nationally; and

WHEREAS the dates – January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1991 – adopted by Federal Health Minister Alan Rock as the time frame for compensation to victims of Hepatitis C acquired as a result of contaminated blood or blood products are, Mr. Rock's position to the contrary, both artificial and arbitrary since tests to detect Hepatitis C were available and were used in other jurisdictions long before 1986; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government supports this artificial and arbitrary time frame; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Blood Committee, of which Manitoba was an active member, made a decision in Winnipeg on May 19, 1989 to destroy all records of its 1982 to 1989 meetings, so eradicating critical information, and possibly incriminating evidence, on its positions on, decisions about, and knowledge of contaminated blood and its victims; and

WHEREAS Justice Horace Krever in the final Report of The Inquiry into the Canadian Blood System both recognizes and identifies the many responsibilities of provincial Governments in the contaminated blood scandal; and

WHEREAS the first recommendation of Justice Krever's report states, "It is recommended that, without delay, the provinces and territories devise statutory no-fault schemes for compensating persons who suffer serious, adverse consequences as a result of the administration of blood components or blood products,"; and

WHEREAS both the Ontario and Quebec Provincial Governments have recognized their responsibilities in these matters, but the Manitoba Government has failed to do so.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider adopting a no-fault compensation plan which would cover all victims of Hepatitis C, infected as a result of receiving contaminated blood or blood products; and

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider developing this plan so that primary and secondary victims are included, without compromising other social benefits; access to care and equitable benefits are established according to the severity of the disease; and individuals and groups representing victims are fully consulted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to take full advantage of all funding offered by the Federal Government, including any funds designated for the direct care and treatment of victims of Hepatitis C.

And a debate arising,

And Ms. McGIFFORD, Mrs. DRIEDGER (Charleswood) and Messrs. McALPINE and LAMOUREUX having spoken,

And Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK speaking at 6:00 p.m.

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Hon. Louise Dacquay,
Speaker.