

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers.

SPEAKER'S RULING

“Before we begin the daily routine, I wanted to rule on an issue that was brought forward by the Honourable Member for Cape Breton South. The Honourable Member for Cape Breton South rose on a point of privilege last Friday and the matter was taken under advisement by myself, and I would like to deal with the matter this afternoon.

The thrust of the Honourable Member's complaint was that an advertisement placed in a local newspaper was to the effect, that certain government policies were described as being implemented, rather than yet to be considered by this House. I believe the Honourable Member presented that case at that time. His complaint was that the advertisement was akin to the situation that presented itself in Ontario in 1997.

I reviewed both the Honourable Member's complaint and as well, the decision of the Speaker in Ontario. I am satisfied at this point there was no prima facie breach of privilege based on that newspaper advertisement at the time. The advertisement was clearly for information purposes only and does not obstruct or impede either the House or its members from discharging their duties.

The other point of privilege brought forward by the Honourable Member for Cape Breton South was to the effect that the Premier's announcement outside the House on the date for the delivery of the budget was in fact, again - in his estimation - a breach of privilege. Again, for the reasons I have stated earlier, I find the announcement to be in essence informational only, as opposed to being a prima facie breach of privilege.”

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

Pursuant to the order, Mr. Taylor, Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, tabled a petition concerning Route 289.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Pursuant to the order, Mr. Estabrooks, Timberlea-Prospect, tabled the following report:

Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for 2001-2002.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

Pursuant to the order, the following notice was passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 342 - Hon. Mr. Purves, Minister of Health - commending all nurses for their dedication.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced by the following Members, read a first and ordered to be read a second time on a future day:

No. 23. An Act to Encourage Public Participation and Dissuade Persons from Bringing or Maintaining Legal Proceedings or Claims for an Improper Purpose and to Preserve Access to the Courts

(Mr. Steele - Halifax Fairview)

No. 24. An Act Respecting the Protection of Public Services in the Province

(Ms. M. MacDonald - Halifax Needham)

**No. 25. An Act Respecting the Appointment and Duties
of a**

Commissioner on Resources and Environment

(Mr. MacDonell - Hants East)

**No. 26. An Act to Amend Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-
96,**

**The Education Act, to Ensure Air and Water
Quality in Schools**

(Mr. Estabrooks - Timberlea-Prospect)

**No. 27. An Act to Amend Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-
96,**

The Education Act

(Mr. Deveaux - Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

NOTICES OF MOTION

Pursuant to the order, the following notices were passed in at
the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 343 - Mr. Dexter, Leader of the Opposition -
congratulations to CUPW on publication of the book Moving
Mountains.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days'
notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 344 - Mr. M. MacDonald, Cape Breton South - the
Premier has stalled growth in the offshore industry.

Res. No. 345 - Mr. Morash, Queens - gratitude to Bowater
Mersey Paper Company for preserving wilderness areas.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days'
notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

No. 346 - Mr. MacDonell, Hants East - congratulations to the

Colchester-East Hants Health Authority and groups for access to diagnostic imaging equipment.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 347 - Mr. Steele, Halifax Fairview - congratulations to Bayers Road Baptist Church on its 50th anniversary.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 348 - Mr. Wilson, Glace Bay - congratulations to emergency workers for their efforts.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 349 - Mr. DeWolfe, Pictou East - congratulations to Westville Curling Club on its 102nd anniversary.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 350 - Mr. Epstein, Halifax Chebucto - welcoming supporters of the Tobeatic Wilderness Area.

Res. No. 351 - Mr. Wilson, Glace Bay - congratulations to the Athletes in the 2003 Canada Games.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 352 - Mr. Carey, Kings West - congratulations to the Kings County band Cuckoo Moon on the release of a CD.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 353 - Hon. Mr. Muir, Minister of Justice -

congratulations to the Truro Irving Timberwolves on their basketball success.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 354 - Mr. Ron Chisholm, Guysborough-Port Hawkesbury - congratulations to Sarah Ackermann on her air pistol success.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 355 - Mr. Barnet, Sackville-Beaver Bank - congratulations to the Sackville Blazers on their hockey success.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 356 - Hon. Mr. Christie, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations - congratulations to Nicole Doucet on being chosen flag bearer at the Canada Games.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 357 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to John Allan Cameron on being named to the Order of Canada.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 358 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Terry Kelly on being named to the Order of Canada..

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 359 - Hon. Mr. Muir, Minister of Justice - congratulations to Tara French on being chosen flag bearer for Team Nova Scotia.

Res. No. 360 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Debbie Boudreau on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 361 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Derrick MacDonald and Glen Martin on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 362 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Warden Keith Hunter on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 363 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Toni Kennedy on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 364 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Darcy Snell on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 365 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Margolians Maritime Ltd. on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 366 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Krista Tate on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 367 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Ski Wentworth on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 368 - Hon. Mr. R. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to the Truro Tulip Festival on a Tourism Award.

Res. No. 369 - Mr. Hurlburt, Yarmouth - congratulations to owners and staff of Delmar Construction Ltd. on receipt of a Better Business Bureau Award.

Res. No. 370 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Alex Henwood on being crowned Mr. Congeniality.

Res. No. 371 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Al Hart on being named Top Coach.

Res. No. 372 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Stan Hunter on 25 years of firefighter service.

Res. No. 373 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Gene Cloney on receipt of the Wilcox Fire Service Award.

Res. No. 374 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Warrant Officer Jeremy Dobson on passing a certification exam.

Res. No. 375 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Karen Dickerson on receipt of a Golden Jubilee Medal.

Res. No. 376 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Alicia Curry on being crowned first princess of the Springhill High School Winter Carnival.

Res. No. 377 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Mary Jean Colwell and the Girls @ the Junction Group.

Res. No. 378 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Sergeant Dalena Cole on passing her certification exam.

Res. No. 379 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Brenton Colborne on his service to the Town of Oxford.

Res. No. 380 - Mr. Parent, Kings North - commending Jenelle Morien for doing her part to further cancer research.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS BUSINESS

Pursuant to the order, Mr. Corbett, Cape Breton moved the following Resolution:

Res. No. 289 - Insurance: Premiums Reduction - Solutions

A debate ensued during which the following took part: Hon. Mr. Russell, Hon. Mr. Baker, Messrs. M. MacDonald and Epstein. The debate was deemed to be adjourned.

PRIVATE MEMBERS PUBLIC BILLS

Pursuant to the order, Mr. Corbett, Cape Breton Centre, moved second reading of the following bill:

No. 2. Workers' Compensation Act

A debate ensued during which the following took part: Hon. Mr. Russell, Messrs. Carey, MacEwan and Mr. Epstein. The debate was deemed to be adjourned.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 5(5)

Mr. Speaker interrupted the business having received notices of motion under Rule 5(5).

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to meet Thursday, April 3rd at 2:00 p.m.