

JOURNALS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

FIRST SESSION

OF THE FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SESSION 2003

Begun and holden at Halifax on Thursday, the fourth day of September in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and three in the fifty-second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her Other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

The House opened at 11:00 A.M.

{ The First Session of the 59th General Assembly was opened on an overcast day. }

The Honourable The Premier read the following message from Her Honour, the Honourable Myra F. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia:

“Hon. John F. Hamm
Premier of Nova Scotia

GREETINGS:

WHEREAS the present General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia was summoned to meet on Thursday, the fourth day of September next, then to be begun and held at Halifax, from which date the said General Assembly will meet for the dispatch of business;

AND INASMUCH as I cannot conveniently be present in the said Legislature until the Members who have been elected to serve in the House of Assembly have elected their Speaker;

NOW THEREFORE I have thought fit to require and command you, and do hereby require and command you, to convey and declare to the Members of the House of Assembly that I will defer declaring the causes for which I have summoned them to assemble until the House of Assembly has elected a Speaker who shall be presented in the said House for my approbation.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal at Arms this 4th day of September, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and three in the 52th year of Her Majesty's Reign.

Myra A. Freeman
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

The Chief Clerk then tabled the Returns of the most recent General Election and reported that 52 members had taken the Oath and signed the Roll.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Chief Clerk then stated that he would now accept nominations for the position of Speaker.

The Hon. The Premier then moved the nomination of Murray Scott, Member for Cumberland South for the Office of the Speaker.

There being no further nominations, the Chief Clerk declared Mr. Murray Scott, Member for Cumberland South, elected Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker thereupon addressed Honourable Members as follows:

“I thank the House for the great honour that has been bestowed upon me today. I will do my best to uphold the prestige and high tradition of the Speaker’s Office. I respectfully ask the assistance and co-operation of all Members, as I have had in the past.”

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Pursuant to the order, the Hon. Mr. Russell, Government House Leader then called upon the Leaders of the three parties to bring the name of their nominee for Deputy Speakers forth.

The Hon. The Premier, submitted the name of Mr. James DeWolfe, Member for Pictou East.

Mr. Dexter, Leader of the New Democratic Party submitted the name of Ms. Joan Massey, Member for Dartmouth East.

Mr. Graham, Leader of the Liberal Party submitted the name of Mr. Russell MacKinnon, Member for Cape Breton West.

The question being put by Mr. Speaker, the motion for the appointment for all three Deputy Speakers was carried.

At 11:15 a.m. Her Honour, the Honourable Myra A. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia, came to the Chamber of the House of Assembly and took was seated in the Speaker’s Chair.

The Hon. The Premier then addressed Her Honour as follows:

“May it please Your Honour, the House of Assembly, agreeable to Your Honour’s command, has proceeded to the choice of a Speaker and has elected Murray Scott, Member for the electoral district of Cumberland South, to the Office and by its direction, I present him for the approbation of Your Honour.”

The Lieutenant Governor: “I approve of the Speaker whom the House of Assembly has chosen.”

Mr. Speaker then addressed Her Honour as follows:

“Your Honour’s ready approval of the choice with which I have been honoured by the House, having constituted me, in due form Speaker of the House of Assembly, it has now become my duty in the name of the

representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of this Province, respectfully to demand all their accustomed rights and privileges and that they shall have freedom of speech in their debates, that they may be free from arrest during their attendance in Parliament, and that I, as their Speaker, may have free access to Your Honour's person."

The Lieutenant Governor: "I most cheerfully grant your request and declare that this House is now in session."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Attorney General, pursuant to leave given, introduced the following bill and the same was, on motion, read a first and ordered to be read a second time on a future day:

An Act Respecting Oaths of Office

(Hon. Mr. Baker - Minister of Justice)

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 1 - Rules of the House: Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker {Rule 11} - Suspension - Hon. The Premier

Res. No. 2 - Standing Committees: Special Committee Appointed {Rule 60} - Hon. The Premier

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to meet September 25th, at 2:00 P.M.