

The House met at 9:00 A.M.

Prayers.

SPEAKER'S RULING

On Tuesday, April 12th, the member for Richmond rose on what he described as a point of order, or possibly, he said, a point of privilege, as it went to the Rules of this House. It is a point of order as it deals with the rules and usages of the House, but it does approach the area of privilege known as contempt.

The member's complaint was that a person whom he understood to be a political staff person for the governing Party had posted a comment on the Web site known as Twitter regarding activities here in the Legislature, and had included a photo of the floor of this Chamber taken from the gallery.

The House passed a resolution in 1991 respecting the use of television or camera equipment in this House. That resolution set out a number of rules that have remained in effect to this day.

As the member for Richmond pointed out, Item No. 6 in those rules states: **“Only media personnel accredited by the Speaker in consultation with the Press Gallery are permitted to shoot still or TV film from the galleries.”**

The seating chart available at the entrance to the gallery area sets out several rules, in bold print, in a highlighted box on the front of the brochure, and one of those rules states: **“Photographs or recordings are not permitted.”**

The member delivered a printout of the Twitter posting to me and it contains a photo taken from the galleries, in direct contravention of the rule passed by the House and set out on the seating brochure. For a person to flout the rule and deliberately take a photo, knowing it is against the rules, could be considered contempt of Parliament, so it is a grave matter. Further, the posting on Twitter and the comment used could be considered embarrassing.

I am not satisfied that the person in question set about with intent to flout our rules, but I am very disappointed at what has taken place, largely because it involves a staff person for one of our political Parties

whom I would have expected to be aware of the rules in place here. I am very disappointed that the person involved did this.

I've asked all members, ministers, and caucus chairs to make any staff who come to this place on their behalf clearly aware of the decorum and rules expected in this place. And, further, I do not want this type of occurrence to happen again, and I take anything like this very seriously.

I thank you for your attention in this matter.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

Hon. G. Steele, Minister of Finance, tabled the Order-in-Council respecting Additional Appropriation for 2010-11.

Hon. M. More, Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Act, tabled the 2010 Annual Report of Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia.

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. 27. An Act Respecting Certain Financial Measures

(Hon. G. Steele - Minister of Finance)

No. 28. An Act to Amend Chapter 371 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Public Highways Act

(K. Regan - Bedford-Birch Cove)

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 516 - Hon. M. Samson, Richmond - Minister of Justice admit his government's action will lead to increased property taxes and another broken promise.

Res. No. 517 - Hon. J. Baillie, Cumberland South - urging government to stop blaming municipalities for financial mismanagement.

Res. No. 518 - H. Theriault, Digby-Annapolis - remembering tragic event of the 99th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

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

Res. No. 519 - Hon. K. Colwell, Preston - Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations admit another broken NDP promise and his actions will increase taxes.

Res. No. 520 - K. Regan, Bedford-Birch Cove - congratulating the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on their creative commemoration of the sinking of the Titanic 99 years ago.

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

Res. No. 521 - Z. Churchill, Yarmouth - Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism admit another broken NDP promise will increase taxes.

Res. No. 522 - L. Glavine, Kings West - calling on Minister of Finance to give pro bono services to Canadian Press to ensure secrecy not become a permanent feature of his government.

Res. No. 523 - Hon. S. McNeil, Annapolis - Premier admit his actions will lead to increased taxes for yet another broken NDP promise.

Res. No. 524 - G. MacLellan, Glace Bay - Minister of Community Services admit the government's action will lead to increased taxes.

Res. No. 525 - A. Younger, Dartmouth East - Minister of Energy admit the government's action will lead to increased taxes.

Res. No. 526 - H. Theriault, Digby-Annapolis - Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture admit the government's action will lead to increased taxes.

Res. No. 527 - Hon. S. McNeil, Annapolis - extending appreciation to Nova Scotia Volunteers.

SUPPLY UNTO HER MAJESTY

On motion that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply, a debate arose during which the following took part: A. Younger, C. Porter, M. Whynott and Hon. K. Colwell. The question being put by Mr. Speaker, the motion carried nem com.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

The Chairman took the chair of the Committee.

On motion, the adjourned debate on the following Resolution was then resumed:

No. E11, relating to the Department of Health and Wellness.
ADJOURNED.

On motion, the Committee rose and Madam Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair. The Chairman reported that the Committee had made progress and begged leave to sit again.

PUBLIC BILLS

Hon. Mr. Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, moved second reading of the following bill:

No. 19. Nova Scotia Business Incorporated Act

A debate ensued during which the following took part: Z. Churchill, C. Porter and A. Younger, who adjourned debate.

ADJOURNMENT

Madam Speaker adjourned the House to meet Monday, April 18th at 4:00 P.M.

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32

The following notices were passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 528 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Taylor Cotter for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 529 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Shelby Cotter for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 530 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Taylor Townsend for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 531 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Charlotte Scott for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 532 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Alex Dash for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 533 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Alyssa Young for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 534 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Ashley Scott for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 535 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Blair Acker for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 536 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Brandon Stuart for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 537 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Brandon Williams for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 538 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Emily Atwood for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 539 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Emily Stephens for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 540 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Hailey Cotter for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 541 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating James Hanf for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 542 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Jevin Hamilton for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 543 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Marissa MacIntosh for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 544 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Meagan Cameron for her involvement in National Volunteer Week.

Res. No. 545 - Hon. S. Belliveau, Shelburne - congratulating Morgan Cotter for his involvement in National Volunteer Week.