

The House met at 4:00 P.M.

Prayers.

SPEAKER'S RULING

“On Wednesday, April 13th, the honourable Government House Leader rose on a point of order with respect to the second supplementary question that had been posed by the member for Richmond to the Minister of Justice in Question Period that day.

The first question and the first supplementary question both had been with respect to increased user fees for the services delivered by the Department of Justice. The second supplementary was whether there was double-bunking going on in the upper level of the Burnside correctional facility. The honourable Government House Leader said that his understanding was that supplementary questions should be on the same subject as the original question.

While it was acceptable to pose supplementary questions to different ministers, those questions had to flow from the same subject matter as the original question. The position was disputed by the member and his caucus' House Leader.

I indicated at the time that I have always felt that the supplementary questions generally flow from the first question but I thought there might have been some switching of topics in the past. I took the matter under advisement so that I could do some research and carry out this task. Luckily, we didn't have to go very far back through a Speaker's Ruling to find an answer as the very point was subject of a detailed ruling by my predecessor in this Chair only 18 months ago on October 15, 2009. In that ruling the Speaker reviewed previous Speaker's Rulings going back through the 1990s to the 1970s. I have copies available of that ruling if members wish to review it.

In a 2009 ruling, the Speaker quoted from an earlier ruling by then Speaker Fogerty on December 3, 1997:

‘I will permit a certain amount of preamble and set-up to the first original question. All honourable members know the two supplementary questions should follow and remain on the subject that was presented in the initial question. The two supplementaries should follow from that original question. The subjects were changed here in midstream a moment ago and

I will not permit it indefinitely. I want a question and the supplementaries on that same topic.’

The Speaker then referred to the text of Marleau and Montpetit, Pages 430 and 431, before affirming that, in this House, the guiding principle is that a supplementary question is meant to flow from the initial question and be based upon the information given to the House in the response by the minister to the initial question.

I know that there may have been occasions in the past on which there was some switching of topics that may not have been noticed by the Chair and which were not objected to by other members at the time. But the rulings by Speakers here are consistent that the practice in this House is that a supplementary question is meant to flow from the initial question, or be based upon the information given to the House in the response of the minister to the original question. Thank you.”

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

M. Whynott, Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville, tabled a petition requesting amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act regarding Children’s Day Care Centres.

J. Boudreau, Guysborough-Sheet Harbour, tabled a petition requesting the paving of 11 kilometres of Highway #224 which is used extensively.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 546 - Hon. B. Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal - acknowledging the passing of Allan Blakeney and the great contributions he had made.

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

Res. No. 547 - Hon. P. Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, on behalf of Hon. D. Dexter, Premier - congratulating the Yarmouth Junior A Mariners’, et al, on their bid to host the 2011 and/or 2012 World Junior A Hockey Challenge.

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

Res. No. 548 - Hon. Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health and Wellness - recognizing Donor Awareness Week in Nova Scotia.

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

Res. No. 549 - Hon. P. Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism - congratulating Guenther and Susan Reibling of Stellar Investments on being named 2010 Business of the Year.

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

Res. No. 550 - Hon. J. MacDonell, Minister of Agriculture - recognizing the work done by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada.

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

Res. No. 551 - Hon. D. Wilson, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage - congratulating the organizers and partners of WOW! Reading Challenge on encouraging our youth to read.

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 bill was introduced by the following Member, read a first and ordered to be read a second time on a future day:

No. 29. An Act to Amend Chapter 380 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Public Utilities Act

(A. Younger - Dartmouth East)

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 552 - Hon. Manning MacDonald, Cape Breton South - Member of Guysborough-Sheet Harbour admit his action will lead to increased property taxes and another broken NDP promise.

Res. No. 553 - Hon. J. Baillie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party - congratulating Robert Kelly on being inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame.

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

Res. No. 554 - Hon. B. Estabrooks, Timberlea-Prospect - congratulating the coaches and players of the Sir John A. Macdonald High School boys hockey team, the Flames, on winning silver.

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

Res. No. 555 - D. Whalen, Halifax Clayton Park - acknowledging National Organ and Tissue Donation Week.

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

Res. No. 556 - A. MacLeod, Cape Breton West - congratulating Morgan MacPhail on her fundraiser for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for Japan.

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

Res. No. 557 - Hon. D. Peterson-Rafuse, Chester-St. Margaret's - congratulating Robin Bond on being named Male Coach of the Year for Special Olympics.

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

Res. No. 558 - A. MacMaster, Inverness - remembering Jeremy Harris in the opening of a new library in L'Arche, Cape Breton.

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

Res. No. 559 - Hon. R. Jennex, Kings South - congratulating Emma Duinker on being awarded the Jean Marsh Female Athlete of the Year Award.

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

Res. No. 560 - K. Regan, Bedford-Birch Cove - congratulating NewPace Technologies on being named one of the best new businesses in 2011.

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

Res. No. 561 - K. Bain, Victoria-The Lakes - applauding Kathryn Bridgeland on being awarded the first Theatre on the Hill Triple Sensation Bursary.

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

Res. No. 562 - V. Conrad, Queens - congratulating Queens Manor on funding for a Tai Chi program for seniors.

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

Res. No. 563 - Hon. K. Casey, Colchester North - congratulating Gerald Bates on being the grand prize winner of the trip to Pittsburgh.

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

Res. No. 564 - A. MacLeod, Cape Breton West - congratulating Danica Forgeron on being selected to attend the Forum for Young Canadians.

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

Res. No. 565 - M. Whynott, Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville - congratulating Nathan Murtha and Douglas Sheppard on being chosen to go to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Toronto.

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

Res. No. 566 - Z. Churchill, Yarmouth - congratulating Arcadia Consolidated School team on winning the 12th Annual Grade 5 Science Film contest.

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

Res. No. 567 - A. MacMaster, Inverness - acknowledging the Zutphen Group of Companies on receiving the 2010 Nova Scotia Family Enterprise of the Year award.

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

Res. No. 568 - H. Theriault, Digby-Annapolis - recognizing Roberta Potter on donating two quilts to the Bundle of Joy project in Venezuela.

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

Res. No. 569 - K. Bain, Victoria-The Lakes - recognizing the outstanding service of the North Sydney Rotary Club on donating \$40,000 to various programs.

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

Res. No. 570 - K. Regan, Bedford-Birch Cove - congratulating Pete's Frootique on receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Award for employing people with disabilities.

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

Res. No. 571 - Hon. K. Casey, Colchester North - thanking Ed and Lana MacDonald of Maritime Auto Salvage on their effort for recycling auto parts and employing eighteen people.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days'

notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 572 - Z. Churchill, Yarmouth - member for Queens admit her actions will raise the property taxes and apologize to the Municipalities and people of Nova Scotia.

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: D. Whalen. 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.
STOOD.

On motion, the following Resolution was called:

No. E6, relating to Department of Energy. ADJOURNED.

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

PUBLIC BILLS

On motion, the adjourned debate on second reading of the following bill was then resumed:

No. 7. Justice Administration Amendment (2011) Act

The debate resumed with A. Younger, K. Bain and Hon. R. Landry in Reply. The question being put by Mr. Speaker, the bill was forthwith read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

Hon. C. Parker, Minister of Energy, moved second reading of the following bill:

No. 15. Electricity Act

A debate ensued during which the following took part: A. Younger, A. MacLeod and Hon. C. Parker in Reply. The question being put by Mr. Speaker, the bill was forthwith read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

On motion, the adjourned debate on second reading of the following bill was then resumed:

No. 19. Nova Scotia Business Incorporated Act

A debate ensued during which the following took part: Hon. P. Paris spoke in Reply. The question being put by Mr. Speaker, the bill was forthwith read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

Hon. Manning MacDonald, Minister of Health and Wellness, moved second reading of the following bill:

No. 17. Fair Drug Pricing Act

A debate ensued during which the following took part: Hon. Maureen MacDonald, who adjourned debate.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to meet Tuesday, April 19th at 12:00 Noon.