

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers.

SPEAKER'S RULING

“On Thursday, March 28, the honourable Member for Argyle rose on a point of order respecting remarks made by the honourable Minister of Community Services on the previous day in answering a question during Question Period.

It was the position of the Member for Argyle that the Minister had revealed personal information about a client of her department and that this amounted to a breach of the law and the custom of the House. He went on to give a number of examples of cases in various jurisdictions in which Ministers had resigned after having disclosed personal information respecting individuals.

My first consideration is the right of all Members of the House to freedom of speech. Members are free to say whatever they wish in the House subject only to a few restrictions such as not disparaging the Sovereign or the judiciary, or using unparliamentary expressions.

My next consideration is whether a failure to follow what the Member for Argyle alleges is a custom respecting Ministers is something that falls under my jurisdiction as Speaker of this House.

I have considered this matter very carefully and have examined a ruling by Speaker Donahoe, made on June 18, 1981, in which he dealt with an allegation that the Minister of Transportation had acted in a manner unbecoming a Minister and had broken his oath of office. In considering the issue, Speaker Donahoe referred to previous rulings by Speakers Lamoureaux and Mitchener of the House of Commons respecting allegations against Members.

Speaker Donahoe concluded that there was a distinction between a Member's conduct and his or her execution of the duties of a Minister. I agree with his conclusion. What a Minister does, or fails to do, falls under the area of ministerial responsibility. It is a matter falling under the executive branch.

Speaker Donahoe stated: ‘If a minister breaches his oath of office as a minister, which I believe has not been established in this case, it is my opinion that it is not a function of this House to discipline the minister for

such breach.’

Speaker Donahoe went on to say that the House was free to express its displeasure with the activities of a Minister in various ways by substantive motion, including by a substantive motion of censure, but that this was not what had happened.

It is my conclusion that if the Minister did something she should not have done as a Minister, and I am certainly not saying that I have found that she has, that would be a matter falling under the executive branch and that there is not a valid point of order.”

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

J. Morton, Kings North, tabled a petition demanding the repaving of Jakeson Street in Port Williams during the 2013 paving season.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 62 – Hon. D. Wilson, Minister of Health and Wellness – recognizing April 2nd as Oncology Nursing Day and the dedication of the oncology nurses.

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

Res. No. 63 – Hon. R. Jennex, Minister of Education – recognizing April 2nd as Autism Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day and the dedication of Autism Nova Scotia.

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

Res. No. 64 – Hon. L. Preyra, Minister of Community, Culture and Heritage – congratulating the winners and nominees of the Theatre Nova Scotia Merrit Awards for their contributions.

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

Res. No. 65 – Hon. D. Wilson, Minister of Health and Wellness –

recognizing April as Daffodil month for cancer awareness and supporting the efforts of the Canadian Cancer Society.

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. 31. An Act to Amend Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2010, the Finance Act, Respecting the Full Disclosure of Accounting Changes

(Hon. J. Baillie - Cumberland South)

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 66 – Hon. D. Dexter, Cole Harbour – recognizing Beverly Barker and her staff the Beverly Barker Insurance Agency on their award and for their community spirit and thanking them for their valuable volunteer work.

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

Res. No. 67 – L. Glavine, Kings West – acknowledging April 2nd as the 10th Annual Oncology Nursing Day.

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

Res. No. 68 – Hon. J. Baillie, Cumberland South – recognizing the remarkable career and many achievements of the late Ralph Kline and remembering his many years of public service.

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

Res. No. 69 – Hon. B. Estabrooks, Timberlea-Prospect –

recognizing the efforts of area residents in remembering the sinking of the *SS Atlantic* on April 1, 1873.

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

Res. No. 70 – A. Younger, Dartmouth East – taking a moment to honour the passing of Justice W. Andrew MacKay and for his contributions to Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia and Canada.

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

Res. No. 71 – Hon. C. d'Entremont, Argyle – recognizing April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day and educating others about autism spectrum.

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

Res. No. 72 – K. Regan, Bedford-Birch Cove – sending our condolences to Arnold Jones' family on the passing of this gentleman who will be missed by all.

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

Res. No. 73 – K. Bain, Victoria-The Lakes – recognizing the contributions of Fred Lavery and his team and on receiving the ECMA Studio 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. 74 – Hon. K. Casey, Colchester North – calling on the NDP government to take meaningful action and address the needs of people living with autism.

Res. No. 75 – A. MacLeod, Cape Breton West – congratulating Defence Minister and Central Nova MP Peter MacKay and his wife, Nazanin on the birth of their son, Kian Alexander MacKay.

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

Res. No. 76 – Hon. K. Colwell, Preston – recognizing Justine Colley for her contributions to the sport of basketball and receiving the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Player 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. 77 – E. Orrell, Cape Breton North – congratulating Joe Peck and recognizing his community service to the youth.

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

Res. No. 78 – Z. Churchill, Yarmouth – congratulating the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School basketball team on their extremely successful season.

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

Res. No. 79 – E. Orrell, Cape Breton North - saluting various community leaders for helping children at risk and making our communities a much better place to live.

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

Res. No. 80 – L. Glavine, Kings West – acknowledging April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day and ensure adequate early intervention.

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

Res. No. 81 – Hon. C. d'Entremont, Argyle – congratulating Morgan Messenger for earning the Rookie of the Year Award by the Maritime Junior Hockey League.

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

Res. No. 82 – A. Younger, Dartmouth East – recognizing the 7 Sevens Team and manager on their outstanding efforts so far in raising almost \$2500.00 for Margaret's House.

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

Res. No. 83 – K. Regan, Bedford-Birch Cove – congratulating Harris Sullivan, retired broadcaster-poet, on his new career.

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

Res. No. 84 – A. MacLeod, Cape Breton West – congratulating Chris Culligan on receiving the Don Wells Trophy and wish him success in his future endeavours.

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

Res. No. 85 – Z. Churchill, Yarmouth – congratulating Basketball Nova Scotia Yarmouth Maple Grove Panthers on their success basketball season.

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

EMERGENCY DEBATE

A. Younger, Dartmouth East, moved the adjournment of business to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the timeline for the review of the Maritime Link by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Comments were made by Hon. F. Corbett and Hon. J. Baillie. More than ten members rose in support and leave was granted. The debate will take place at the moment of interruption.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

M. Raymond, Halifax Atlantic, rose on a point of privilege respecting the House of Assembly as a court of record.

Hon. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. F. Corbett, Government House Leader, rose on a point of order respecting imputing motive by A. Younger in Question Period.

Hon. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

On motion, the adjourned debate on the Address in Reply was then resumed. The debate continued with Hon. J. Baillie and Hon. D. Dexter, who adjourned the debate.

PUBLIC BILLS

Hon. F. Corbett, Government House Leader, moved second reading of the following bill:

No. 3. Support for Parents of Critically Ill or Abducted Children Act

A debate ensued during which the following took part: Z. Churchill, K. Bain, Hon. M. Samson and Hon. F. Corbett in Reply. The question being put by Madam Deputy Speaker, the bill was forthwith read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

On motion, the adjourned debate on the Address in Reply was then resumed. The debate continued with D. Whalen, who adjourned the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to meet Wednesday, April 3rd at 2:00 P.M.

EMERGENCY DEBATE

As requested earlier by A. Younger, Dartmouth East, the Emergency Debate began with the following taking part: Hon. C. Parker, C. Porter, L. Glavine, M. Whynott, Hon. J. Baillie, Hon. M. Samson, G. Burrill and E. Orrell.

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32

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

Res. No. 86 – C. Porter, Hants West – commending Terri Lynn Blanchard for the creativity she brings to her Ellershouse photographic

business.

Res. No. 87 – C. Porter, Hants West – complimenting Ivan Christensen of Centre Burlington for his talents in oil and acrylic paintings and wishing him all the best in his future.

Res. No. 88 – J. Boudreau, Guysborough-Sheet Harbour – congratulating Canso Bluefins Atom B hockey team on winning the Jackie MacAulay Memorial Tournament.

Res. No. 89 – Hon. J. Baillie, Cumberland South – congratulating the Oxford Senior Lady Golden Bears on winning the Northumberland Regionals.

Res. No. 90 – Hon. J. Baillie, Cumberland South – congratulating Oxford Junior Lady Golden Bears on winning their second consecutive basketball title.

Res. No. 91 – Hon. J. Baillie, Cumberland South – congratulating the Junior Golden Bears basketball team on bringing home the championship banner and wishing them continued success.

Res. No. 92 – Hon. K. Casey, Colchester North – congratulating Harvey Gullon and Home Hardware Eastern Distribution Centre for their patience over the last seven years regarding their expansion.