



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following the Prayer, Mr. Speaker made a statement to the House regarding the recent passing of Hon. Jobie Nutarak, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. GOERTZEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Premier of Manitoba and the Minister of Health to consider providing CancerCare Manitoba with the appropriate funding necessary so that they may provide leading edge care for patients in the same manner as other provinces and to consider accelerating the process by which new cancer treatment drugs are approved so that more Manitobans are able to be treated in the most effective manner possible. (S. Holden, D. Jeanson, G. Peck and others)

By leave, Mr. CULLEN for Mrs. STEFANSON – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Premier of Manitoba and the Minister of Health to consider providing CancerCare Manitoba with the appropriate funding necessary so that they may provide leading edge care for patients in the same manner as other provinces and to consider accelerating the process by which new cancer treatment drugs are approved so that more Manitobans are able to be treated in the most effective manner possible. (G. Hnatiuk, L. Peixob, K. Wood and others)

Mr. EICHLER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Family Services and Housing and the Premier to consider amending legislation to improve the process by which grandparents can obtain reasonable access to their grandchildren. (A. C. Anderson, L. Anderson, C. Mazur and others)

Mr. ROCAN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to strongly urge the Premier to consider calling an independent public inquiry into the Crocus Investment Fund scandal. (J. MacDonald, B. Gass, C. MacDonald and others)

Mr. MAGUIRE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to strongly urge the Premier to consider calling an independent public inquiry into the Crocus Investment Fund scandal. (E. Dickson, B. Rowat, M. Kostuik and others)

Mr. CUMMINGS – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Provincial Government to consider stopping the removal of these positions from our community (Neepawa), and to consider utilizing current technology (ie: Land Management Services existing satellite sub-office in Dauphin, MB) in order to maintain these positions in their existing location. (J. Beaumont, D. Beaumont, B. Provost and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to consider the need to seek clarification on why the Government did not act on fixing the Crocus fund back in 2001 and to urge the Premier and his Government to cooperate in making public what really happened. (M. Singh, J. Rapose, E. M. Rapose and others)

Hon. Ms. ALLAN, the Minister responsible for Multiculturalism made a statement regarding today, April 25, 2006 being Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day,

Mr. MURRAY and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD commented on the statement.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker made the following ruling:

Following Members' Statements on April 11, 2006, the Honourable Official Opposition House Leader raised a point of order regarding the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food, and noted that the Committee had not been called to transact business since May 9, 2001. He concluded his advice to the Chair by recommending that the Government House Leader be instructed to call the committee for the purpose of undertaking a review on the state of agriculture in the province, hear witnesses and travel throughout the province and report back to the House by December 1, 2006. The Honourable Government House Leader, the Honourable Member for Inkster and the Honourable Member for Lakeside also offered advice to the Chair on the point of order. I took the matter under advisement in order to consult the procedural authorities.

I would note for the House that there is no requirement in our rules which dictates how often committees meet, and that by practice, the Government House Leader schedules meetings of standing committees, often in consultation with other Members such as House Leaders or critics.

Also, Speaker Rocan ruled in 1989, 1993 and in 1994 that the opinion of the Speaker cannot be sought in the House about matters arising in committee and that it is not competent for the Speaker to exercise procedural control over committees.

After considering the submissions of Members and also considering the advice of procedural authorities, I would rule that there is no point of order. What has been raised is an issue of negotiation and scheduling between the House Leaders, which should not be raised as a point of order in the House. I would encourage the House Leaders to discuss the issue, and then if they so wish, take the appropriate steps after their negotiations.

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mrs. DRIEDGER, Messrs. MARTINDALE, EICHLER, ALTEMEYER and PENNER made Members' Statements.

Following Members' Statements, Mr. MURRAY rose on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance and moved:

THAT in accordance with Rule 36(1), the regularly scheduled business of the House be set aside to discuss a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, namely, the issue of the Devils Lake outlet set to open on May 1, 2006, and this Premier's ongoing fear-mongering over the presumed risk that the water from Devils Lake poses to the Lake Winnipeg ecosystem and the province's multi-million dollar fishery, and his assertion that an agreement existed at the Federal level to construct an advanced filtration system – an agreement that has been proven fictitious. Additionally, the Premier's comments of yesterday when he indicated that the United States Government was working with the Canadian Federal Government on a proposal to install a permanent filter at Devils Lake.

And Mr. MURRAY, Hon. Mr. ASHTON and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD having spoken to the urgency of the motion,

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled as follows:

I thank the Honourable Members for their advice to the Chair on whether the motion proposed by the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition should be debated today. The notice required by Rule 36(1) was provided. Under our Rules and Practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that the public interest will suffer if the matter is not given immediate attention. There must also be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter.

I do not doubt that this matter is one that is of serious concern to Members, as water is an essential resource, and clean and safe water is important to all.

I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward, however I was not persuaded that the ordinary business of the House should be set aside to deal with this issue today.

Additionally, I would like to note that there are other avenues for Members to raise this issue, including questions in Question Period, raising the item under Members' Statements, and raising the issue during the Budget Debate.

Therefore, with the greatest of respect, I rule the motion out of order as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Subsequently following Members' Statements, Mr. DERKACH rose on a point of order regarding comments concerning the Sessional Order quoted by the Honourable Government House Leader in last Saturday's Winnipeg Free Press article.

And Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK, Mr. LAMOUREUX and Mrs. MITCHELSON having spoken to the point of order,

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker informed the House he would take the matter under advisement.

Subsequently following Members' Statements, Mr. DERKACH rose on a point of order to move that this House do now adjourn.

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled that there was no point of order.

From his decision, Mr. DERKACH appealed to the House,

And the Question being put, "Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?" It was agreed to, on the following division:

YEA

ALLAN	MARTINDALE
ALTEMEYER	MCGIFFORD
ASHTON	MELNICK
BJORNSON	NEVAKSHONOFF
BRICK	OSWALD
CALDWELL	REID
CHOMIAK	ROBINSON
DEWAR	RONDEAU
DOER	SALE
IRVIN-ROSS	SANTOS
JENNISSEN	SCHELLENBERG
JHA	SELINGER
KORZENIOWSKI	SMITH
LATHLIN	STRUTHERS
LEMIEUX	SWAN
MACKINTOSH	WOWCHUK..... 33
MALOWAY	

NAY

CULLEN	GOERTZEN
CUMMINGS	HAWRANIK
DERKACH	LAMOUREUX
DRIEDGER	MAGUIRE
DYCK	MITCHELSON
EICHLER	REIMER
FAURSCHOU	TAILLIEU..... 14

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Subsequently following Members' Statements, Mr. DERKACH rose on a point of order regarding the responses provided by the Honourable Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth during Oral Questions.

And Mr. DERKACH speaking at 5:00 p.m. The matter was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2006.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.