



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 34

THIRD SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

By leave, it was agreed for the House to deal with Second Reading of Bill (No. 218).

Mr. BOROTSIK moved:

THAT Bill (No. 218) – The Balanced Budget, Fiscal Management and Taxpayer Accountability Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'équilibre budgétaire, la gestion financière et l'obligation de rendre compte aux contribuables, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. BOROTSIK, Hon. Mr. RONDEAU, Messrs. CULLEN and REID, Hon. Messrs. GERRARD and SELINGER and Mr. MAGUIRE having spoken,

And Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK speaking at 11:00 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

Mr. PEDERSEN moved:

Resolution No. 5: Lack of a Long Term Plan for Manitoba's Economic Growth

WHEREAS in its 2009 Budget the Provincial Government did not provide Manitobans with a long-term vision of how it plans to curb Manitoba's growing dependency on federal transfer payments, how it will pay down the provincial debt and how it will meet the needs of the present generations without sacrificing future generations; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has put off economic decisions it should be making this year until next year, a year that will be even tougher to budget for than 2009; and

WHEREAS claims by the Provincial Government stating that its 2009 provincial budget is balanced are untrue and misleading given that the government is running a deficit with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$88 million; and

WHEREAS Manitobans cannot increase their personal debt by more than 10 percent, reduce debt repayment by more than 80 percent and deplete their savings account by over 20 percent and still call their annual household budgets balanced; and

WHEREAS from Budget 2008 to Budget 2009 the Provincial Government increased the province's debt by over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS according to the 2009 Budget Manitoba's debt to GDP ratio grew to 23 percent, surpassing British Columbia's at 15 percent and Saskatchewan's at 6.3 percent; and

WHEREAS from 2008 to 2009 the Provincial Government drained Manitoba's savings account by \$184 million; and

WHEREAS in its recent budget the Provincial Government continues Manitoba's unhealthy dependence on financial support from Ottawa while it fails to provide any commitment to making Manitoba self sufficient; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government cannot operate under the premise that it will always be able to rely on taxpayers from the rest of the country for nearly 40 percent of its provincial revenues, especially not when some of the "have" provinces are themselves struggling with the impacts of the recession including growing unemployment, reduced revenues and negative economic growth; and

WHEREAS further evidence that Manitoba is falling behind the rest of Canada is demonstrated by the fact that a family of four in Manitoba with two earners making a combined income of \$60,000 pays the second highest income taxes in Canada; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is a diverse, vibrant province with tremendous assets -- from its vast natural resources to its people who continually demonstrate an enviable entrepreneurial spirit and an unparalleled work ethic -- but sadly this government is holding it back from fulfilling its full potential.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to acknowledge that Manitoba requires a long term plan for economic growth if it is going to compete and thrive nationally and internationally with the goal of ultimately becoming fiscally self-sufficient.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. PEDERSEN, Hon. Mr. SWAN, Messrs. BOROTSIK, JHA and GRAYDON having spoken,

And Hon. Mr. RONDEAU speaking at 12:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

Thursday, April 30, 2009

In accordance with Rule 31(9), the Opposition House Leader announced that the Bipole III: One Project, One Environmental Review Resolution will be considered next Thursday, May 7, 2009.

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following Bills were severally read a First Time and had their purposes outlined:

(No. 30) – The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2009/Loi d'exécution du budget de 2009 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité

(Hon. Mr. SELINGER)

(No. 31) – The Manitoba Floodway Authority Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Commission du canal de dérivation du Manitoba

(Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX)

(No. 32) – The Centre culturel franco-manitobain Act/Loi sur le Centre culturel franco-manitobain

(Hon. Mr. ROBINSON)

(No. 222) – The Justice for Victims of Child Pornography Act/Loi sur l'indemnisation des victimes de pornographie juvénile

(Mr. GOERTZEN)

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. DYCK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to strongly consider giving priority for funding to develop and staff a new 100 bed long-term-care facility so that clients are not exposed to unsafe conditions and so that Boundary Trails Health Centre beds remain available for acute care patients instead of waiting placement clients. (T. Allen, K. Dalke, D. Lumgair and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Premier and the NDP Government to call a meeting of a Standing Committee of the Legislature and invite representatives of the WRHA to appear before it. (D. Robinson, E. Hadaller, E. Hryshko and others)

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation consider the immediate twinning of the PTH #15 Floodway Bridge for the safety of the citizens of Manitoba. (M. Campbell, C. McKay, J. Devisser and others)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. SARAN and GOERTZEN, Hon. Mr. BLAIKIE, Messrs. DYCK and JENNISSEN made Members' Statements.

Thursday, April 30, 2009

The House resolving into Committee of Supply.

The House then adjourned at 4:57 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2009.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.