



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 20

SECOND SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Hon. Mr. STRUTHERS, Bill (No. 17) – The Environment Amendment Act (Permanent Ban on Building or Expanding Hog Facilities)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'environnement (interdiction permanente visant la construction ou l'agrandissement d'installations réservées aux porcs), was read a First Time.

On motion of Mr. LAMOUREUX, Bill (No. 223) – The Non-Smokers Health Protection Amendment Act (Protecting Children From Second-Hand Smoke in Motor Vehicles)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection de la santé des non-fumeurs (protection des enfants contre l'exposition à la fumée secondaire dans les véhicules automobiles), was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mrs. TAILLIEU – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to consider making the completion of the dividing of the Trans Canada Highway in Headingley in 2008 an urgent Provincial Government priority and to consider evaluating whether any other steps can be taken to improve motorist safety while the dividing of the Trans Canada Highway in Headingley is being completed. (A. Au, V. Olson, W. Capri and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Premier and his Government to recognize and acknowledge how important immigration is to our province by improving and strengthening the Provincial Nominee Program. (A. Dela Cruz, A. C. Torres, V. R. Torres and others)

Mr. PEDERSEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to abandon the NDP Detour on the basis that it will result in massive environmental, social and economic, and damage to Manitoba and to consider proceeding with the route originally recommended by Manitoba Hydro, subject to necessary regulatory approvals. (R. Sprott, G. Simpson, L. Sprott and others)

Mr. MAGUIRE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to consider taking serious action to fill the nursing vacancies at personal care homes in the Town of Virден and to consider reopening the beds that have been closed as a result of this nursing shortage and to consider prioritizing the needs of those seniors that have been moved out of their community by committing to move those individuals back into Virден as soon as beds become available. (P. Brennand, I. Forrest, J. A. Heaman and others)

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Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider adequate funding for the PAA on a long-term basis to ensure that the current retired teachers, as well as all future retirees, receive a fair COLA. (O. Phillips, S. Nelson, M. Shaw and others)

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. (H. Thiessen, M. Penner, B. Penner and others)

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON, the Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport, made a statement to recognize the accomplishments of Manitoba's Provincial curling teams over the past few months.

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

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mrs. MITCHELSON, Ms. BRICK, Messrs. FAURSCHOU and JENNISSEN, Hon. Mr. GERRARD and, by leave, Ms. MARCELINO, Mrs. TAILLIEU, Ms. BLADY, Messrs. BOROTSIK and MARTINDALE made Members' Statements.

Prior to Orders of the Day, Mr. MCFADYEN 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 extreme challenges facing Manitoba's pork and cattle sectors, including factors such as low commodity prices, the impact of the high Canadian dollar, rising input costs, the pending Country of Origin Labelling, and the extension of the moratorium on the hog industry.

And Mr. MCFADYEN and Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK having spoken.

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.

Ordinarily, this matter would be ruled out of order on the basis that there are other opportunities available to debate the matter, but given that there appears to be a willingness to debate the matter today, despite the procedural shortcomings, I shall put the Question to the House.

"Shall the debate proceed?" It was agreed to.

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And a debate arising,

And Mr. MCFADYEN, Hon. Mr. DOER, Mr. EICHLER, Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK, Mr. GOERTZEN, Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. DERKACH, Hon. Messrs. ASHTON, GERRARD and STRUTHERS, Mrs. TAILLIEU and Hon. Mr. SWAN having spoken.

The debate was terminated in accordance with Rule 36(6).

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 11, 2008.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.