

JOURNAL
of the
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of the Province of
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
2007
Friday, July 6
4:00 p.m.

The Clerk and Clerk Assistant entered the Assembly Chamber, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Clerk read the following letter:

Government House
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
July 6, 2007

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Province House, Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island

Dear Mr. MacKay:

I am directed by Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, to indicate through you to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly that Her Honour is constrained from opening the First Session of the 63rd General Assembly of this Province until such time as Honourable Members have elected one from among their numbers as Speaker of the House.

Further, Her Honour is anxious for the Honourable Members to know that she will proceed immediately to the opening of the Session when one such Member is duly elected as Speaker.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant

(sgd.) Cindy Cheverie
Executive Assistant

The Clerk then advised the House that, pursuant to Rule 8(3) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly that the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly had received one written notice of intention to seek the Speakership of the Legislative Assembly. Notice had been received from Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point). The Rules of the Legislative Assembly envisage a secret balloting procedure and do not address the situation of only one Member seeking the Speakership. As a servant of the House, the Clerk sought direction from Honourable Members.

Honourable Premier advised the House that given that there was only one eligible candidate for the Speakership, a secret balloting procedure was unnecessary. Honourable Premier then moved, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the Honourable Member for Charlottetown-Lewis Point be declared elected by acclamation as Speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

The Clerk put the Question which was **Carried Unanimously**.

Kathleen Casey being duly elected, she was taken out of her place by the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and conducted to the Chair. Standing on the upper step, she addressed the House as follows:

“Honourable Members:

It is my pleasure today to express my grateful acknowledgement of the honour conferred on me by the House in electing me to be its Speaker. Conscious as I am of my comparative inexperience in parliamentary procedure, I would have hesitated in accepting a position involving so much responsibility were it not for the fact that I know I shall be able, at all times, to rely with confidence upon the courtesy, forbearance and kindness of every Member of the Assembly. Again, my thanks to you and I now submit myself to the House.”

On Motion of the Honourable Premier, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition,

Resolved that Paula Biggar (Tyne Valley-Linkletter) be appointed Deputy Speaker of this House.

On Motion of the Honourable Premier, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition,

Resolved that Warrant Officer J.A. McDonald, C.D. be appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms of this House.

On Motion of the Honourable Premier, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition,

Resolved that Sergeant Maurice R. Fitzpatrick be appointed as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of this House.

On Motion of Honourable Premier, seconded by Honourable Government House Leader,

RESOLVED that a **Special Committee on Committees** be appointed, said Committee to prepare and report back with all despatch, a list of Honourable Members to compose the Standing Committees now Ordered pursuant to the Rules of this House, and, that the said Committee on Committees be composed of the following Members:

Robert Vessey (Government House Leader), Chair
Honourable Pat Binns, (Leader of the Opposition)
Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer)
Jim Bagnall (Opposition House Leader)
Paula Biggar (Tyne Valley-Linkletter)

Honourable Madam Speaker made reference to the letter read earlier by the Clerk from Her Honour, indicating that she would proceed to Province House to open this Session of the Assembly when a Speaker had been duly elected. Honourable Madam Speaker then left the Chair in anticipation of Her Honour’s arrival.

The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, having escorted Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Chamber Doors, knocked three times on the door with the Black Rod and requested, on behalf of Her Honour, permission to enter the Assembly Chamber. Permission having been granted, Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor assumed the Chair and the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

Honourable Madam Speaker then spoke to the following effect:

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

It is my duty to inform you that the Legislative Assembly has been pleased to elect me to the important and time-honoured position of Speaker, and I hereby present myself for your Honour's approval."

The Clerk of the House then said:

"Mrs. Casey:

I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that she is fully sensible to your zeal for the public service and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the Office to which you have been elected by this Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, she doth now readily approve of its choice, and, allow and confirm you to be its Speaker."

Honourable Madam Speaker then addressed Her Honour in the following words:

"Your Honour having been pleased to approve the choice of the Assembly in electing me to be its Speaker, it now becomes my duty, in the name of and on behalf of the Assembly, to CLAIM and DEMAND that they have all of their ancient and accustomed rights and privileges, most especially.

- freedom from arrest
- freedom of speech in debate
- access to Your Honour when they think the welfare of the public service demands it, and,
- that the most favourable consideration be put on all of their proceedings.

And, on my own behalf, I beg to request that any wrong of mine not be imputed to the Assembly."

To which the Clerk of the House replied:

"Madam Speaker,

Her Honour has the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's person and Government in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all its proceedings. She doth most willingly and readily grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

And, with respect to yourself, Madam Speaker, though Her Honour is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, Her Honour will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions."

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor greeted all Members on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen and wished all success. She then advised that her Government was not prepared to formally commence a legislative session at this time.

The Clerk then informed the House as follows:

"Honourable Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that it is her pleasure that this Legislative Assembly attend

before Her Honour in this Assembly at a time to be determined by the Speaker at which time Her Honour will formally proceed with further sessional business of the 63rd General Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island.”

On Motion of Robert Vessey (Government House Leader), seconded by Honourable Premier, the House adjourned to the call of the Speaker.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly