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The 28th Legislature
First Session

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The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 28th Legislature

First Session

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Party standings:

Progressive Conservative: 61

Wildrose: 17

Alberta Liberal: 5

New Democrat: 4

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: Please be seated.

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 12 Fiscal Management Act

[Debate adjourned March 13]

The Deputy Speaker: I'll recognize the next speaker, the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Mr. Rowe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to add my comments to the debate over Bill 12, the Fiscal Management Act. Like many of my colleagues here, I want to take a minute just to explain how I've arrived here. I have 35 years of business experience. I'm not an accountant, I'm not a lawyer, but I have 35 years of successful business experience.

Ms Calahasen: That's a long time.

Mr. Rowe: Thank you.

I know how to read a financial statement, but I have to say that this budget is the most confusing document I've ever tried to absorb. Like my colleagues, I'm going to explain why I'm here. In addition to 35 years of business experience I have 11 years of municipal politics experience: 11 years on council, eight of those years as mayor. We did budgets each and every one of those years. I had no trouble understanding them. But I do have some serious concerns about this piece of legislation, as do many of my constituents and as do many, many Albertans all across the province.

Last week the government released its back-in-debt budget. Now here we are debating a piece of legislation that will make the government's new, questionable accounting system the law. Bill 12 would repeal the Government Accountability Act and the Fiscal Responsibility Act, and I find that rather odd. This government brought in a brand new ministry this year, accountability and transparency. I find it odd that now we're doing away with accountability and fiscal responsibility. Let me repeat that. It will repeal the Government Accountability Act and the Fiscal Responsibility Act. In effect, the government is removing accountability and responsibility with this legislation.

What would repealing these pieces of legislation mean? It would remove the strict rules around debt that we have in Alberta. We need to remember that these are some of the same rules that made it possible to become a debt-free province in 2004. Now the government wants to remove these rules in order to move ahead with their borrowing plans that will see the province accumulate nearly \$17 billion worth of debt by the 2016 election.

This legislation would also allow the government to limit the interest payments on the debt to 3 per cent of the average revenue for the fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years. In other words, the government has no real plan to get out of debt. We estimate that because of the actions this government is taking, it could be 2097 before Alberta is once again debt free. When I read that and I put this together, I'm thinking: my wife and I took a trip

to Phoenix and to Dallas to visit with our grandkids over Christmas holidays.

Mr. Dorward: Right on.

Mr. Rowe: Thank you.

About the middle of January I got my Visa bill, and it was pretty substantial. I happened to notice that just underneath the balance it said that if you make the minimum payment on this Visa card, it will take you 43 years to pay that off. That's what we have here. So I said to my wife: "Why would we bother paying it off? We're going to be dead in 43 years." Makes sense to me. I told you I wasn't an accountant.

Bill 12 also makes changes to the heritage fund act, and we would remove the requirement that the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund review and approve the annual business plan for the heritage fund. In fact, if Bill 12 passes, the heritage fund won't even be required to have an annual business plan. Does removing the ability of a committee of the Legislature made up of members from all parties to review the plans for a heritage fund sound like the actions of a transparent and accountable government? Albertans sure don't think so, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 12 will remove capital spending from the government's bottom line. Again, that is not a measure that will allow Albertans to hold the government to account because it will make it much tougher for Albertans to see what the government's real bottom line is. Along the same lines, Bill 12 will drop the reporting requirement for nonoperating numbers that are important to a budget, the total revenue and borrowing details.

Mr. Speaker, Budget 2013 and, by extension, Bill 12 are committing Alberta to a \$17 billion debt load by 2016 and reducing our savings fund to almost nothing. The current budget is a result of this PC government doubling the size of the entire provincial budget in the last 10 years because of their chronic overspending year after year. Bill 12 is a clear indication that the government has learned nothing and are still unable to budget responsibly. Instead, they plan to change the rules of budget reporting and what constitutes a deficit in order to continue on with their wasteful spending habits but at the same time try to make their numbers look better than they actually are.

That is why my colleagues and I in the Wildrose Official Opposition put forward the financial recovery plan. Our plan would restore the Alberta advantage and eliminate the provincial deficit in two years. We would prevent any new tax or tax increase from being introduced without a provincial referendum, period. We have always been up front about this with Albertans unlike the Premier, who still refuses to make a commitment on no tax hikes before the next election. No tax hikes this year, but no guarantee that they won't come before the next election.

Our plan would implement 25 cost-saving recommendations focused on cutting wasteful spending, targeting government bureaucracy and AHS waste while at the same time protecting front-line services. I won't go into further detail because the members opposite can read all the details of our plan for themselves. To be honest, I spent so much time trying to figure out your budget that I haven't had time to absorb ours.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to reiterate that Albertans did not ask for a return to debt. They asked for bold leadership with the moral fortitude to pay our bills, stay out of debt, and provide the high-quality services that Albertans deserve. We in the Wildrose will continue to stand up for Albertans, and I ask that the government finally start to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. The Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Dorward: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to stand. I don't think I can take a whole lot of time, but I know I have five minutes. I'm aghast. As a professional accountant who has reviewed budgets my whole life, I grant that. I understand that. I understand that 35 years of business experience wherein a person has reviewed budgets the whole time, as he stated, is not the same thing as being a professional accountant. I'm still amazed that there hasn't been research by individuals or people. I don't know how a person can stand up and make comments on a budget and then on legislation which is fairly complex. It's not simple legislation. Person after person says: "We don't understand it. We don't get it." Now they comment that even their own detailed financial recovery plan is not something the good member understands.

A simple question: should Alberta stay stuck in the past, or should it move into a more organized, simpler way of telling the citizens of Alberta what their debt situation is by having an operational plan and a capital plan and a savings plan? Should Albertans be stuck in the past?

Mr. Rowe: Thank you for that. I don't have a problem with a capital plan, an operational plan, and a savings plan. I just wish there was somewhere in that budget that I could put it all together and find out just what our real situation is. If you want to know what we would do about it, it's right on our website. You can print it off, and it's all right there.

If I've learned anything in this House since I came here, it's how not to answer questions, and I learned that from over there.

7:40

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

I'll recognize the next speaker, the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Mr. Hehr: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is truly a privilege to add my comments about the new fiscal framework for this province, the Fiscal Management Act, Bill 12. The bill repeals both the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Government Accountability Act and replaces them with a single statute that changes the way government administers and reports the province's finances.

I guess one of the key features of the new legislation is that the government will now be required to have a distinct operational plan, a distinct savings plan – I'll get to that more later – and a distinct capital plan as part of its overall annual fiscal plan. In creating this new fiscal management structure, the government is reversing the Klein-era restrictions on debt and deficits, relaxing financial reporting requirements, and ultimately demanding, in my view, less accounting and transparency from the Minister of Finance.

I guess this is a slightly positive note on the legislation. It does commit the government to saving a portion of the nonrenewable resource revenue annually by 2017-18 and to retaining 100 per cent of the heritage savings fund's net income in the fund, I think also at a later date, but those are minor accomplishments when it comes to the magnitude of fossil fuel resources that we are actually bringing in as a province.

I must go back into history as to why the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Government Accountability Act actually were brought in. They were brought in after we saw budgets brought in in 1987 to 1993 that were notoriously wrong. They were inherently inaccurate. They were made with unbelievable assumptions and

really did not require the real, true bottom line as to what the government's actual finances were. I rarely speak positively of Mr. Klein's record, but here it is. He brought in the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Government Accountability Act to actually allow for that to happen. It was a way to move away from the fudge-it budgets of the Dick Johnston and Don Getty era.

In fact, if you talk to people at that time who were involved in coming in in 1993, they say that there was a mess in the accounts. It took a while for them to balance. They couldn't reconcile the figures, and thus they said: we have to get rid of this voodoo accounting and present things in a reasonable, rational fashion if we're going to be able to have any credibility with the Alberta people after what has just happened over these six years. So that was the birth of the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Government Accountability Act, and I will give Mr. Klein credit for that as well as some members of his administration who did that. It really, actually allowed us to see things in a true bottom-line fashion. Whether we liked that bottom line or not, you got a clear picture.

Also, I see this as a political document more so than an accounting document. Clearly, the ways of the past, how we were outlining debts and deficits and the like, which was also a political document, by the way, have gone by the wayside. The government no longer sees that as being in their best interests or in this province's best interests. I'm becoming increasingly cynical about which one they actually see as being more important. This allows them to hopefully get us out of this fiscal pickle that we currently find ourselves in. To me this is more of a political document than actually a way of changing business. There was no reason why we couldn't have accomplished a lot of these things under the old act. Nevertheless, since we want to go back into borrowing, something that given the state of our finances I tend to agree with, I think it's a good move given the situation we find ourselves in that we change that rule to be able to borrow.

Back to the politics. I remember in '08, when I was running against my competitor in Calgary-Buffalo, that was his calling card: we will never go into debt again. I guess that just shows how quickly things change. I guess that's probably why I would consider that we get a handle on our savings plan so that maybe one time we or future governments can actually make that claim.

In any event, one of the troubles I see is that there is less accounting in this act than there was in the last act. Conspicuously absent from the new legislation are those sections of the Government Accountability Act that required some measure of accountability from the Minister of Finance. Section 11 obligated the minister to include statements of responsibility with the consolidated fiscal plan and consolidated annual report. Section 12 required the minister to make a public or written statement explaining any omitted information or any noncompliance with the act in producing those two documents. I see the minister here, and he's shaking his head, so maybe he'll correct me on what I'm saying, but in my reading of the act – and maybe it's included elsewhere – those responsibilities are gone.

Also gone is section 6, which required the inclusion of major economic assumptions that the Minister of Finance made in preparing the province's consolidated fiscal plan and anticipated economic condition of the fiscal years which the plan relates to. I know we do have a forecast of oil and gas revenues based on a multitude of private-sector opinions out there. Nevertheless, by my reading and in comparison to the two acts this appears to be somewhat stripped down. I guess it's a new way of accounting.

One thing that I would have liked to have seen – you know, frankly, I don't really mind too much if there's an operational, a savings, or a capital plan. Those are fine. I did find it difficult, especially in lock-up and maybe at other times, where we have

three political parties – the other side of the House may disagree with this, but actually we're probably reasonably intelligent people for the most part. I saw that smirk, Minister. I did. But in the main we are reasonably intelligent people, and despite being there for a couple of hours, it was very difficult to come up with an actual deficit and debt number as to where we were. That, to me, is troubling. I think this act would be much better, much more clear, much more open and transparent if on the final page of said document we implemented something like we did in the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Government Accountability Act.

Like I said, say what you want about Ralph. This was generally a reasonable way and painted things in a pretty clear picture. I don't see that as necessarily being as clear, open, or transparent. Nevertheless, that would be my suggestion for the government to be able to try and rectify, and maybe they would like to do so at this time or include it in future plans. I don't know if anything stops them from doing that, but I would like to see that included in the plan.

7:50

Now, returning not only to this act but to what the future actually entails for Alberta, I am very disappointed in the savings plan of this document. Despite the fact that over the last 25 years we've taken in and spent all of the \$150 billion in nonrenewable resource revenue – in fact, in our 42 some-odd year history of this government we have only managed to save roughly \$16 billion of the \$350 billion in nonrenewable resource revenue we've brought in. This has been a shame. Like I've said before – and I'll probably continue on this rant for quite some time, so I apologize to members out there who are getting frustrated by it already – it's amounted to, essentially, intergenerational theft. If we are truly interested in leaving this province with something more, something tangible to hang on to from these vast riches that we have been blessed with, I think a savings plan has to be given a real kick-start.

We as a population, in fact, all political parties, have to develop a plan with rugged fiscal structures in place to save a large portion of these fossil fuel resources. Lougheed targeted 30 per cent. I might suggest that 50 per cent would be more reasonable. Simply put, it's fairly easily done. You know, it's a political problem, not necessarily one of reality. I pointed out many times that if we adopted Saskatchewan's tax code, the second-lowest taxed jurisdiction by a country mile, we would bring in \$12 billion more in revenue.

Talking about being able to do what the government wants to do, allegedly build Alberta – something I support, by the way, and something that I see the need for debt for possibly at the time. Nevertheless, we have to develop a process whereby we take a more conservative approach to accounting. By conservative I mean pay for what we use. It seems to be a fair comment, that if we use the services, if we want the services – public health care, public education, decent environmental standards, good roads, and the like – we have an obligation to pay for them as a society. We've had the luxury of simply saying: "Well, we'll spend all this oil wealth in one generation. Why ask the citizens to pay for it today when we can just use this nonrenewable revenue for our benefit?"

I can tell you what. It's great politics. You know, you don't ask anyone to pay for anything and you provide all these services. Well, it's pretty successful. We can see that. I don't deny that. Nevertheless, is it right? That is another thing. No. If you look at the overarching last 42 years and you look at that record of fiscal stewardship of our nonrenewable resource revenue, I believe even the government will admit they have failed. They have failed

dramatically, and unless we change something as to what is going on – in my view it's the tax structure to do that – we will not get ahead of this curve. We'll not get ahead of us saving some of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity we've had.

The easy days of doing this may actually be gone, Mr. Speaker. You know, in the days when we had the barrels of oil that were more easily obtained from the ground, not the oil sands, maybe that was a time that we could have done a little better. You know, in the days when we were getting upwards of – I believe one year \$16 natural gas was our high, and that was with a 62-cent dollar, you know, which is like getting \$24 natural gas, when you have a 62-cent dollar. Maybe we should have done a lot better then. I guess we can always say: "That was then; this is now. We're hitting reset on this plan. We really got a handle on it." But I think we're kidding ourselves if we believe that. I think we're really denying ourselves what virtually every economist has said out there. I will say that the minister was right yesterday when he said to me in question period that not every economist has said this, but I'll stick with the thing virtually.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. I'll recognize the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Horner: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Having listened attentively to the hon. member across the way, I have three questions I'd like him to address if he may. The first is that he talked about how we're changing the accounting rules and we're going to voodoo accounting or something to that effect. I'm curious because, you know, we're following generally accepted accounting principles and the international standards for public-sector reporting. I'm curious whether he would consider that the municipalities in the province of Alberta today are doing voodoo accounting and voodoo presentations. That's the first question.

Mrs. Forsyth: You already asked that question.

Mr. Horner: But I never got an answer, hon. member, from your party. I'm hopeful I'll get one from them.

The second one is that the content of the new act includes in the annual report a fiscal plan analysis that includes a statement of the actual operating revenue and actual operating expense, the debt-servicing costs to the government, the amount of nonrenewable resource revenue not allocated to or from the contingency account, the prescribed savings, comparison of actual performance results to the desired results included in the business plan, the consolidated financial statements of the province, the Auditor General's report. I'm curious. What information did he say that we're no longer going to be providing that we used to provide? The second thing is on the content of the quarterly reports, where we're actually going to be providing Albertans with the actual results to the budget that we presented in this House so that they can see how well we've been doing to it, not to some projection that we think might happen because something has changed in the last three months.

The third question. He was saying that while he was in lock-up, he couldn't figure out what the old number was. Well, hon. member, the old number was simply stated as a change in our net financial assets, or our net worth. If you want to know what that is: page 135, the line net assets for fiscal policy purposes. The difference between the 2013 forecast and the 2014 estimate is the change in our net worth, which was \$1.975 billion. If you go back and look, that's what we used to report as the change. It's still there, Mr. Speaker. It's still a representative number of all of the

changes, but it's not a representative number of the operating capability of the province.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Mr. Hehr: Well, I'll try and do my level best to answer those, and I'm glad the minister didn't want to debate me on the fiscal record in terms of trying to save some of this vast oil wealth over the last 25 years. That would've been a more interesting debate and a more able one. I'd like him to get up and defend the government's record over the 25 years of that policy. That would be something interesting and something that would actually move this forward as to how we're going to change that from happening again, change that intergenerational theft from occurring again, because right now this plan doesn't quite do that for me. I will try.

I think the minister might have come in a little bit late. I was referring to many people suggesting that the Dick Johnston and Don Getty years of financial accounting were in fact voodoo accounting. The budget's estimates were notoriously wrong and not easy to rectify. It's my understanding from people who came into power shortly after that, frankly, the numbers didn't add up. You may or may not have seen that.

What I would like there, hon. President of the Treasury Board, is something that actually shows – I guess you point to that \$1.97 billion. You read the papers, sir. You read what Graham Thomson has said about the numbers. You read what Don Braid said about the numbers. I'm not the only one to suggest that this is not the easiest thing to understand, so please don't consider me a partisan hack on this. Other people are having the same struggle that I am. Clearly, other people, probably with greater acumen in this area than myself, have concerns with this. I think what we would like is something like the entire consolidated statement. I know you say that it's on page 135, that it says \$1.97 billion, but the true number of our deficit debt position is allegedly somewhere between \$5.5 billion and \$6.3 billion.

Mr. Horner: No.

Mr. Hehr: Well, see, no. That's what you say. Everyone else who seems to do this math comes out to \$6.3 billion.

8:00

The Deputy Speaker: It's not a debate, hon. member, please.

Mr. Hehr: I'll take everything with a grain of salt.

That was reflected in the final consolidated debt statement of the Klein . . .

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

I'll recognize the next speaker, the Member for Edmonton-Calder. [interjections] The Member for Edmonton-Calder has the floor, hon. members.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you keeping order over some of these people, you know, talking out of turn, throwing me off my strategy here.

I'm very happy to speak this evening, Mr. Speaker, to Bill 12, the Fiscal Management Act. I have a number of comments and perhaps some questions as well in regard to this bill. My understanding of it is that this act would repeal the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the Government Accountability Act. This bill seems to have provisions to save a certain percentage of resource revenues and heritage fund contributions, increasing that percentage over time, starting in 2015. It's also outlining the rules around financial reporting and giving us the sense that we cannot

have an operating budget in the province. It limits the amount of debt financing as a percentage of the province's operating budget that we take on altogether.

It's interesting to choose to restructure the reporting and accounting of finances in this way. I have, I guess, not entirely criticism in that regard although I see a fundamental underlying problem, and that's the fact that this bill does very little to change the structural revenue problem that we have here in the province, Mr. Speaker. We need to reverse the Klein cuts that allowed an unreasonably low corporate tax rate for very wealthy corporations and the extraordinary wealth tax as well for individual taxation.

Another problem that I see is that the savings portion of this bill doesn't kick in until 2015. Now, of course, if you don't have money to save, then you can't save it, but I guess that in relation to that, without reforming the revenue side of our finances in this province, then this whole thing about savings is a moot point. Really, it's, as I see it, unlikely that we'll save any significant money until after the next election, so the savings part of this bill I think is less than meaningful without a revenue reform analysis.

You know, I was just looking at the targets of where we could be if we had our royalty rates, for example, at a level that would approximate during the Lougheed regime. We would have saved billions more dollars than we have. In fact, really, since we changed those royalty structures, we haven't really saved anything at all. We've just maintained the heritage fund at a certain level but at the cost of letting billions of dollars in royalties slip away. I mean, that's globally my main concern, and I think it's the concern of most Albertans.

We know that our population is growing quite dramatically, and we know that our economy is doing well, too, in almost all regions in the province, so the budget and this supporting bill to the budget seem out of step to the other fiscal realities that are happening around the province. You know, when you apply economic measurements to any given economy around the world, Mr. Speaker, you'll see that the population is growing in a reasonable sort of way, not explosively, and that the economy, the GDP, is growing commensurate with that population growth or exceeding that growth. You would consider that to be a healthy economy, so for us to be looking at a deficit and a cutting budget during this point in time in our history is out of step with the reality that surrounds us.

I just have a couple of other things I wanted to look at here. The Fiscal Responsibility Act, which this act is replacing, actually made it illegal for actual expenses to exceed the actual revenue plus what was contained in the sustainability fund. In the Fiscal Responsibility Act, for example,

“actual expense” means, with respect to a fiscal year, actual expense of the Crown for all purposes as reported in the consolidated annual report for that year but does not include increases or decreases in liabilities respecting pensions.

Due to this government's version of accounting it no longer has to include capital spending and grants under these operating expenses.

The idea of actual expenses or actual revenue has more or less been removed and replaced with such terms as “operational expense.” This makes this promise to not have an operational deficit ring somewhat hollow or at least less than entirely clear when you can simply take money out of the capital plan to make up the difference, if you see what I mean.

You know, my question is then: at what point are we just going to be moving these goal posts again if the government doesn't find that it has enough revenue to pay for the levels of service that Albertans require from this government? Indeed, without revenue reform, that seems entirely possible or even likely.

The other question is: when will this government recognize that this revenue problem is, in fact, the underlying issue that needs to be resolved?

Mr. Speaker, there are lots of interesting changes here, and I certainly like the idea of having a savings plan built into the structure of our budgeting, but certainly we need to have the money there to actually be able to save.

Further, I find that it's refreshing to see that the government is recognizing the need to borrow at favourable rates, at the best rate possible, for certain capital projects. We know that you do have to build those things over time. I remember for years listening to how this was, defying all logic or reason, just vehemently rejected by a very similar government to what I see across from me right now. Something happened. Someone was struck on the road to Damascus and realized that you can in fact borrow at favourable rates as a government and build the capital projects that you need.

Further to that, I guess I question this government's reliance on P3 projects to make those capital investments. I don't think that a P3 contract is always actually giving you the best value for that public money just because of the requirement of the P3 contractor to make that profit, that extra money. Perhaps part of a further reform with Bill 12 is that we can use a comparative chart or a very clear, transparent system to show how we might be able to build any given project publicly or as a P3 and make the best, most prudent decision based on the facts around savings and what the best value for money is, whether it's a public project or a P3 project.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to leave it there. I'm going to speak at each opportunity in regard to Bill 12. I welcome any answers to my questions that the government might be able to offer.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Seeing none, other speakers? The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate.

[Motion to adjourn debate carried]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

8:10

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 64(2) in order to proceed with Committee of the Whole on Bill 13, the Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2013.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole

[Mr. Rogers in the chair]

Bill 13 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2013

Hon. Members: Question.

The Chair: Shall the committee rise and report the bill? Agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? That's carried.

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: I'll recognize the Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Ms Kennedy-Glans: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration certain bills. The committee reports the following bill: Bill 13.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the House concur in the report?

Hon. Members: Concur.

The Deputy Speaker: That's carried. So ordered.

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 11 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2013

[Adjourned debate March 13: Ms Blakeman]

Hon. Members: Question.

The Deputy Speaker: The question has been called. The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance has moved third reading of Bill 11.

[Motion carried; Bill 11 read a third time]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Campbell: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing that we've made such great progress tonight, I would suggest that we adjourn until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 8:13 p.m. to Thursday at 1:30 p.m.]

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