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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, 19th November, 1948.

A special Meeting of the House of Assembly is held at 11.15 a.m. to-day.

Present:

His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Dr. J. A. LeV. WILSON, Messrs. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, F. D. McD. SYMONDS, F. L. WALCOTT, R. G. MAPP, H. D. BLACKMAN, W. A. CRAWFORD, E. D. MOTTLEY, H. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., and E. L. WARD.

Prayers are read.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER EXPLAINS THE OBJECT OF THE MEETING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This meeting has been summoned for one purpose only, namely, to present to His Excellency the Governor the Address which was passed by this House at our meeting on Tuesday this week in respect of the enforced retirement of Colonel O. St. A. Duke, M.B.E., M.M., Commissioner of Police, and which, it was agreed, would be presented by the whole House by virtue of the provisions of Rules 205 and 206. We now await word informing us of His Excellency's arrival and his readiness to receive us.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS

At 11.30 a.m., the Sergeant-at-Arms enters the Chamber and informs Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER that His Excellency the Governor awaits the House in the Council Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received word that His Excellency awaits the House in the Council Chamber. We shall now proceed thither.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, and the other honourable members proceed to the Council Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Excellency,—I have the honour to present to you an Address from the Honourable House of Assembly which, if I may, I shall read as follows:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly have learnt with surprise that the Commissioner of Police, Colonel

O. St. A. Duke, M.M., has been required to retire under Section Eight Subsection (2) of the Pensions Act 1947-20.

The House would be glad to be informed in what way this is a special case as required by the aforementioned section.

The House understand that the Commissioner is only 52 years of age and is not desirous of retiring.

The House desire to place on record and draw to Your Excellency's attention the high respect in which the Commissioner is held by all ranks of the Police and by the public in general.

The House can only come to the conclusion that Your Excellency is being badly advised by persons without the requisite knowledge in this matter.

The House have the honour to ask that Your Excellency will cable in full the text of this Address to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to his annulling his decision in this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER, on bended knees, presents a copy of the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

HIS EXCELLENCY: This Address will be carefully considered and will be telegraphed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The opportunity is taken by Messrs. CRAWFORD and GALE to present the Address which the House passed on Tuesday in reply to His Excellency's Message No. 38 of 1948 on the subject of the appointment of alternate nominees to represent Barbados on the Standing Closer Association Committee and by Dr. CUMMINS and Mr. WILKINSON to present the Address which was passed also on Tuesday last expressing the pleasure of the House at the birth of a son to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER and honourable members, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, return to the Assembly Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that, accompanied by honourable members, I presented the Address to His Excellency the Governor after reading same and His Excellency was graciously pleased to state that he would give it his usual careful consideration and that he would, in accordance with the request contained in the last paragraph, telegraph the Address to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

There being no further business, the House now stands adjourned.