



SUPPLEMENT TO The Official Gazette

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, 25TH OCTOBER, 1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 30th September, 1948.

A special meeting of the House of Assembly was held at 1 p.m. to-day.

Present:

His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Deputy Speaker*) Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*) Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Dr. J. A. LeV. WILSON, Messrs. M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, D. A. FOSTER, A. E. S. LEWIS, E. D. MOTTLEY, V. C. GALE, K. N. R. HUSBANDS, S. A. WALCOTT, R. G. MAPP, and H. D. BLACKMAN.

Prayers are read.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that this is a special meeting summoned by me by virtue of the power conferred on the Speaker under Rule 292 as I am satisfied that the public interest requires that the House shall meet before Tuesday of next week in order to deal with a matter which is the only matter on the agenda for today, namely, a Resolution relating to the subsidization of certain commodities. Honourable Members are aware that the period for which the money was voted for this purpose expires to-day, consequently it is necessary to deal with the matter and that matter alone will be considered at this meeting.

EXCUSE FOR ABSENT MEMBER

Mr. MOTTLEY offers an excuse for the absence of the honourable junior member for St. James (Mr. Wilkinson) who is indisposed and cannot attend this meeting on medical advice.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY WITH DR. CUMMINS IN HIS BEREAVEMENT

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—Before we proceed to the business of the meeting I want to crave your indulgence as well as the indulgence of other honourable members of this House to draw attention to an incident which took place a short while ago, namely, the death of the mother of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas. I am sure that I am creating no precedent when I state that this honourable House would like to express

its sympathy with the honourable member in the loss which he has sustained. There can be no greater loss which a human being can sustain than the death of his mother and if I am in order, Sir, I beg to move that this House record its expression of sympathy with the honourable senior member for St. Thomas who has been a member of this House for many years.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second the motion of the honourable senior member for the City. I do not think I can add to what he has said and I feel sure that this House would like to express its sympathy with the senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. SYMMONDS enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this House express its sympathy with the honourable senior member for St. Thomas in his recent bereavement. I will ask honourable members to stand while they resolve the question.

Honourable members stand as the question is resolved *nemine contradicente*.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—This expression of sympathy has certainly taken me by surprise and I suppose that from that point of view it is all the more sincere. I thank the House for this kind expression of sympathy with me in my bereavement.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The business on the agenda is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider a Resolution for the sum of £128,500 to supplement Resolution No. 16 of the 13th April, 1948, to provide for the subsidization of flour, salt fish, salt pork, and balanced animal feed to the 31st March, 1949, in order that the prices of these commodities may be stabilized at such prices as may be fixed by the Competent Authority.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

SUBSIDIZATION OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—In moving the passing of this Resolution I would like to say, as His

Honour the Deputy Speaker stated, that the period for which the last amount which was voted for the subsidization of these commodities expires at midnight to-night, hence the urgency for dealing with this Resolution. If it is not passed to-day, the prices of these commodities would be increased to-morrow. I have had copies of the Resolution circulated among honourable members and it will be seen that the last amount which was voted by Resolution No. 16 of the 13th April, 1948, for this purpose was £129,350. That amount has been overspent and there is a deficit of £11,793, on account of the fact that more flour was imported after there was a shortage of other commodities in the island. Fortunately the price of flour has gone down or the deficit would have been greater. This amount of £128,500 includes the deficit and the sum of £116,729 which is required for the period 1st October 1948 to 31st March, 1949. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that this Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Resolution and asks leave to sit again.

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case, the Resolution is read a first and a second time and is agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before this House is adjourned I would like to remind honourable members that we adjourned on the last occasion until Tuesday of next week. As honourable members appreciate, that is the day after a bank-holiday and it has usually been found difficult to obtain a quorum of this House on the day after a bank-holiday; so I would remind honourable members of Rule 48 which states that every member is bound to attend the House unless leave of absence be given to him by the House. This House is now adjourned.