

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1959

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 21st July, 1959.

Pursuant to the adjournment the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock noon today.

PRESENT

His Honour Mr K N R HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Hon Dr R G H CUMMINS, C B E, M D, C M, (*Premier*); His Honour Mr L E SMITH, J P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Hon R G MAPP, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr T O BRYAN, (*Chairman of Committees*); Hon F E MILLER, (*Minister of Social Services*); Hon D D GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr C B SEARLES; Hon L St A THORNE, (*Minister of Education*); Mr G E S STRAUGHN and Mr J W CORBIN.

Prayers were read.

Mr. BRANCKER entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meetings held on the 7th and 14th July, 1959, respectively, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members, and unless there be any objection, those Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed. (*After a Pause*). There being no objection, those Minutes are taken as read and confirmed.

INTERFERENCE BY POLICE BAND WITH BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that in reply to the letter which I forwarded to the Commissioner of the Police in connection with the passing of the Police Band along the highway facing this House, I have received the following:-

THE BARBADOS POLICE
Office of the Commissioner,
Bridgetown.
13th July, 1959.

Sir,

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th July, in connection with an interruption of the Business of the House caused by the Police Band passing along Rickett Street while the House was in session on that day.

I very much regret any interruption of the Business of the House caused by the Police Band. The Director of Music assures me that he was unaware that the House was in session.

The necessary instructions have been given to ensure that such an incident does not occur again.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

R. A. STOUTE
Commissioner of Police.

PAPERS LAID

By command, Papers were laid as follows:-

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for three months ended 30th June, 1959.

An account of the transactions in Rum in the several districts of the Island for the quarter ended 30th June, 1959.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Reply to question No. 22/1959 asked by the hon. senior member for St. George (Mr. H. A. Dowding) on survey of water services in the Island.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Reply to Question No. 2/1959 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. J. E. T. Brancker) on the performing of operations in brain surgery at the General Hospital.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:-

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$68,964 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1959-60, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, No. 12 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of \$187,525 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1959-60 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, No. 13, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to authorize the Water Board to appoint an Inspector of Wells.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: A Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of

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Supply at its next meeting in order to deal with the Money Resolutions of which Notice has just been given.

QUESTIONS

Mr. BRYAN: To enquire of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

1. Is Government aware of the problem which faces working mothers viz: the care and safety of their young children during working hours?

2. Will Government as a step towards the establishment of Day Nurseries throughout the island instruct the Housing Authority to provide necessary accommodation for same on their existing and future housing estates?

Is Government aware of the plight of the tenants of that portion of Fields Tenantry, Westbury Road, St. Michael (which includes Parris Gap, and the surrounding area) the proposed sale of which was drawn to Government's attention by means of a Question on 15th January, 1957, and a Petition from the said tenants on the 6th March, 1957?

2. Is Government aware that final notices which include the price of spots have been served on the tenants?

3. Is Government aware that these tenants are unable to purchase these spots they now occupy?

4. What steps, if any, does Government intend to take so as to assist these unfortunate tenants?
12.25 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959" be now read a first time.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, be now read a first time.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MR. SPEAKER REFERS TO PRIVILEGES OF HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the House begins its business, I should like to inform hon. members that, for some time now, I have been observing, and have had reported to me, certain incidents, some of minor importance and others of major importance, that in my view the House is not yet competent to deal with. These matters, in my view, are offences against the dignity of this House. In my opinion I think that this Honourable Chamber should in the very early future set up a Standing Committee of Privileges that will, from time to time, make examination of instances, and, if necessary, draw up some manual of procedure that makes the House competent enough whenever these cases should arise to deal with them. I think it is very necessary.

In the British House of Commons there is a Standing Committee of Privileges, and there are Rules that are made by this Committee which enable the House to deal with offenders, whether they are inside the Chamber or outside. I think the time has come when there should be a Standing Committee of Privileges to control such matters. I have the honour to make this announcement at this time, and I would like hon. members to think upon it and at the very earliest possible opportunity set up a Committee of Privileges.

RESOLUTION re LOAN TO NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 1 is a Resolution to authorise the Governor-in-Executive Committee to raise a loan of \$700,000 under the Public Loan Act, 1957 and re-lend to the Natural Gas Corporation.

I think hon. members will remember that in 1955 the Natural Gas Corporation was empowered to raise a loan of \$1 million by instalments by the issue of debenture stock for certain purposes. The Corporation has raised \$300,000 of that stock, and has since then been getting advances from the Government; these advances come to a total of \$567,000.

It is now proposed that the Government should raise the whole \$700,000 by debenture in order that the Natural Gas Corporation may pay back to the Government the \$567,000 which they have had advanced from time to time; the rest of it to be utilised by the Natural Gas Corporation to carry on its programme.

The reason for the Corporation coming to the Government, Sir, is because they find it difficult to raise the money, and have considered that it would be much easier for the Government to do so. As I said, the Government is now asked to raise the whole \$700,000, and the Corporation will pay back \$567,000 to the Government which it has advanced from time to time, and the balance of \$143,000 should be raised by loan.

That, Sir, briefly, is the history of this Resolution. I commend it to the House. I think it is quite evident that the Corporation is making every effort to carry out its programme. They are now operating in the vicinity of Bay Street, and I think they have a fairly extensive programme which will extend into next year.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE: I beg to second that.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I am not against voting this money, but I should like, when this money is granted to see the Natural Gas Corporation extend its mains to places like Speightstown and other places. There should be a main running through these places in order that the people in those districts might be able to have gas for their purposes.
12.35 p.m.

Now, Sir, if we can have the gas mains extended throughout this island as a whole, it will help the inhabitants of the island because the Electric Company has so far failed to extend its service of electricity throughout the island. We have the Natural Gas available and if the Corporation wishes to extend its mains, we would be willing to come into the House at any time to pass a Resolution for that purpose so that the inhabitants of the various districts who stand in need of the service would be able to obtain it.

There are a lot of people who are suffering for electricity but if we get the service of gas, we will not have to use electricity for the purpose. Electricity should be extended through this little island of Barbados. I do not know what is the reason that prevents it from being extended. My hand can pretty nearly touch a pole, yet the Company says that they do not have this and that to make it available. However, if we get gas extended throughout the island we would not have to depend on electricity. The people can burn gas for cooking and go on burning kerosene oil in their lamps.

Mr. Speaker, I do not see there would be any objection to the passing of this Resolution for \$700,000 in order that the Natural Gas Corporation will be able to extend its mains through the districts in which they are most needed. There is no opposition which can be made now to this Resolution. I am using these few references merely to enlighten hon. members of what the inhabitants of this

island stand in need. I also wish to say that we of the Opposition unanimously support it.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GALL HILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education: To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve compulsory acquisition of land at Gall Hill, Christ Church.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, in moving this Resolution which seeks the approval of this Hon. House for the acquisition of land in the parish of Christ Church in the area known as Gall Hill, I wish to say that this land will be used for the purpose of providing a playground for the new Foundation School. I think that hon. members are very much in agreement with the idea so there is no need for much ado to be made about it. This is something on which all hon. members long before today have voiced their approval.

I may say that with the approval of this Resolution, it will mark the end of stage one of this matter. These two spots of land together with five other spots would have been more or less acquired before, but as the Addendum sets out, the owners did not have proper titles, therefore, we have found it necessary to come down to the House to get permission to acquire them through the Land Acquisition Act in order to establish proper titles.

I, therefore, beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister who introduced this Resolution is known to be most careful and

full in his explanations on the matters he introduces. Today, he surprised me by the brevity of his introduction and, as a matter of fact, I could not catch every word which he said. Of course, I have an idea why this has been done.

I would just like an intimation from him as to whether there has been any difficulty with the present owners of this land over the acquisition of it; or is it simply that it is a question of getting a proper title to both of them? Is it simply what lawyers term as passing the matter through the Courts to get a proper title? (Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: Yes.)

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say one thing more. I wish his colleagues would follow his example. We would be able to get through the work of this House very expeditiously if other hon. members of the Cabinet were as co-operative and as helpful as himself, and realise that they are the servants of the people and not their masters.

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

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, that finishes Government Business.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week, 28th July, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

12.45 p.m.