THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 14th November, 1964.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., *(Speaker)*; Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, *(Minister of Development, Trade, Labour and Social Security)*; Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. F. E. MILLER; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education)*; Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., *(Premier)*; Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries)*; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees)*; Mr. N. W. BOXILL and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to have to inform hon. members that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA and Mr. WEEKES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 69 be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the Hon. Leader of the House for that motion. That Standing Order applies to strangers, that is, persons who are not members of this Chamber. I would request strangers not to leave their seats until after the House has been formally adjourned. What is to take place is that His Royal Highness will have presented to him certain Officers of the House when he enters here accompanied by me. Every one will please stand. After the presentation, and signing of the Visitors' Book with a pen specially provided for the purpose, with ink of royal purple, His Royal Highness will leave. Then hon. members of the House will re-assemble and conclude the business of the day. After hon. members re-assemble, then and only then may visitors, that is, strangers, leave the building. I am looking forward to your co-operation, and anticipatorily I say thanks for that co-operation.

Senators E. S. ROBINSON and C. L. BRATHWAITE entered the Chamber.

SENATOR E. S. ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, we have been instructed by His Honour the President of the Senate to invite Your Honour and hon. members of the Assembly to come to the Senate Chamber in order that a meeting of both Houses of the Legislature be held.

Mr. SPEAKER: With hon. members, I shall accede to the request of the President of the Senate.

10.25 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and followed by hon. members in pairs according to seniority proceeded to the Senate Chamber and awaited His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness entered the Senate Chamber accompanied by His Excellency the Governor.

The President of the Senate invited His Royal Highness to address the Joint Session of the Legislature as follows:—

"Your Royal Highness: It is indeed a great pleasure and honour to welcome you to our Senate and to ask you to address a joint session of the Legislature of Barbados. During our long history there have been many occasions when Barbados has been visited by members of the Royal Family, but this is the first time that someone so closely related to our Sovereign has honoured us with a visit. For this reason you are doubly welcomed.

I shall ask you with my humble duty to say to Her Majesty the Queen that it is the unanimous wish of the Members of our Senate, and indeed the wish of the inhabitants of this Island, that she should in the very near future pay a visit to Barbados where she will receive a real royal welcome. *(Cheers)* And now, Sir, I respectfully ask you to address this joint session of the Legislature of Barbados."

His Royal Highness then addressed the Joint Session of the Legislature as follows:—

Your Excellency,
Mr. President and Members of the Senate,
Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly.

Thank you very much for your kind welcome and I shall certainly convey your message to the Queen.

I take it as a very great compliment that you have invited me to address this joint session of the Legislature today in this Chamber which is the democratic heart of Barbados.

For over 300 years you have practised and cherished that same free parliamentary system which has been the pride and strength of the British people. This is one of the oldest Parliaments in the Commonwealth today but because it has been under constant development and adapted to the spirit of the times, it combines the traditions and continuity of age with all the vigour and practical activity of the present.

All Government is of necessity a compromise between the need to create and maintain general law and order on the one hand, and the need to respect the views and individual freedom of all the people. There is very little doubt that the parliamentary system provides the best compromise yet devised. However there is one proviso. This is certainly the best system provided the members of the Legislature and all the people really want it to work. Constitutions and laws may be written on paper but unless they are written in the hearts and minds of the people they must inevitably fail. It is not enough to be indifferent to the system or to believe that the system has any power to sustain itself. The Parliamentary system depends for its success upon the people who make it work.

Efficient administration, economic development and social progress can only take place in that climate of confidence which stable and honest political institutions can produce.

It is sometimes suggested that dictatorships are better at making quick decisions and at building great public works. This may well be true. But this misses the point entirely. Material development and the material well-being of the community is very important but fundamentally what is far more important is the freedom of the spirit of the community, the atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence between all sections of the community. It means that true patriotic enthusiasm which makes every individual feel proud of his country and happy to live with his neighbours, helping them in difficulties and sharing their joys.

You cannot legislate for this. This atmosphere comes as a spontaneous reflection of the political institutions. You may try and force people to do what is considered necessary for the good of the nation but that only makes people selfish and concerned with their own prospect, the I-am-alright-jacks. The best and most willing service comes freely and from conviction from people who realise the national need for their service, and who give it happily as a worthwhile contribution to their own community.

Many countries have tried to work the parliamentary system of government and failed so that it does great credit to the people of Barbados that it is still flourishing after more than 300 years.

I think there must be a close affinity between Britain and Barbados. Both countries believe in parliamentary democracy and both countries are devoted to cricket. The West Indian brand of cricket is so popular in Britain that they hardly seem to mind being beaten by the West Indies — as long as it is'nt too often. *(Applause).*

I am most grateful for the very kind welcome which you and indeed a great many citizens have given me. I hope the partnership between Britain and Barbados will prosper and flourish in the years ahead. *(Cheers).*

Mr. SPEAKER then thanked His Royal Highness as follows:—

Your Royal Highness:

You have greatly honoured us by your distinguished presence in this Parliament building and by the gracious words which you have addressed to us in Joint Session of Senate and General Assembly. You, Sir, are visiting a Parliament which, while it concedes seniority only to the Mother of Parliaments in the United Kingdom, and to that of Bermuda, surrenders naught to either in loyalty to — and affection for — Her Majesty Elizabeth II. Thus, in the happy circumstance of your presence this morning amongst Parliamentarians of this ancient territory of Barbados, it is appropriate that we should — as, in fact, we do — request that you convey, on your return home, our most respectful greetings to Her Majesty.

2. Happy is the coincidence that you, Sir, have chosen to be our guest on a day which, for the Queen and yourself, is an occasion of great family rejoicing. Today is the sixteenth birthday of the Prince of Wales, and if I may respectfully do so on behalf of us all, I would join in wishing many happy returns of this day to His Royal Highness. I can assure you that it would afford the utmost pleasure particularly to our young people in this region if, when His Royal Highness comes of age, Her Majesty and you would permit him to be our guest, after his formal presentation to the Welsh people as their Prince. *(Cheers).* You, Sir, may well recall that previously - in the year 1920 - this Island was honoured and delighted by a visit from His Royal Highness Edward Prince of Wales.

3. So far as records reveal, you, Sir, are the first Member of the British Royal Family ever to have addressed this Parliament, and, in this manner, to have participated in our Public occasions. You are, however, not the first Prince of Greek connection, to have interested himself in this Island. Approximately three centuries ago, the last descendant of the Byzantine Emperors made his home amongst us, entered as fully into our Public Life as circumstances then permitted, and became immortalized, *inter alia*, as Churchwarden of Our Parish of Saint John. Prince Ferdinand Paleologus manifested such great affection for us, that he not only died but was buried in that parish. Things are much altered with us now, and we no longer demand from Royalty such histrionic proof of its affection. To live here with us, Sir, would be quite sufficient. *(Cheers).*

4. Sir, in the name and on behalf of the Senate and the General Assembly of Barbados, I thank you most sincerely for the great honour you have conferred upon our Parliament in being its Guest, and in addressing it. This morning's historic proceedings will forever be enshrined in the memories of us all and recorded in Journals of both Chambers, as tangible evidence that you, Sir, have personally provided yet another link between the Crown, and the Parliament of this territory. I am assured that both Senate and General Assembly concur in wishing continued good health and good fortune to Your Royal Highness. *(Cheers)*

5. I now formally declare this Joint Sitting of Parliament adjourned *sine die*.

Mr. SPEAKER then invited His Royal Highness to visit the Chamber of the House of Assembly.

His Royal Highness accompanied by Mr. SPEAKER, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and followed by the Equerry, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Acting Clerk and the Acting Deputy Clerk of the House and the Chaplain of the House left the Senate Chamber and proceeded to the Chamber of the House of Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER then presented to His Royal Highness the Acting Clerk, Mr. H. L. Thomas; the Acting Deputy Clerk, Mr. M. E. S. Hewitt; the Acting Chaplain, Rev. F. A. Cayless; and the Marshal of the House, Mr. G. W. Brathwaite.

His Royal Highness then signed the Visitors' Book of the House of Assembly at the Clerk's Table.

Mr. SPEAKER then conducted His Royal Highness from the Chamber of the House of Assembly to the top of the stairs where the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Bishop, the Premier, the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, Sir Frank Hutson and Sir Frank Holder were awaiting him.

Mr. SPEAKER took leave of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and returned to the House of Assembly.

The House resumed its sitting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th November, 1964, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for the adjournment, I do hope that by the next meeting Your Honour will have something to tell us on the motion of privilege which was passed by this Chamber.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th November, 1964, at 2.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.