

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th November, 1964.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Health Housing, Local Government and Community Development*).

Prayers were read.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meetings of the 29th October, and 3rd November, 1964 have both been circulated and if there is no objection, I will declare those Minutes confirmed. (*A Pause*)

Hearing no objection in respect of the Minutes of either of those two meetings, I declare the same duly confirmed.

LETTER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Director of Public Prosecutions dated 17th November, 1964 and it reads as follows:-

Sir,

Further to our conversation of a week ago, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 7th October, 1964.

On consideration of the article published in the *Advocate* of Tuesday, October 6th, 1964 and the provisions of the Legislature (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 1963, (1963-6), I am satisfied that an offence has been committed by the publishers of the *Advocate* of Tuesday, 6th October, 1964.

The necessary action has been taken to bring the matter before the Magistrate's Court, District A, and I am informed that the date of hearing has been fixed.

I shall be pleased to supply such other information as may be properly given if you so desire.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ERIC H. A. BISHOP,
Director of Public Prosecutions
(Acting)

The Hon. J. E. Theodore Brancker Q.C., M.P.,
Speaker, General Assembly.

Hon. members would appreciate that this matter is now *sub judice*.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier I am commanded to lay the following:

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for seven months ended 31st October, 1964.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am commanded to lay:

Report on the Port Department for the period 1st February, 1961 to 31st March, 1962;

and

The Audit of Accounts for period 1st February, 1961 to 31st March, 1961 and for financial year, 1961-62;

Also,

The Barbados Harbours (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1964.

PETITION

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I beg to present a Petition from Mr. George Sugarman praying that the House pass a Bill authorising him to extend his property at Sand Street, Speightstown, St. Peter, by building in the sea.

I can assure Your Honour that the petition is properly worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:-

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier:

Resolution to place the sum of \$25,500 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate No. 37 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to deal with this matter in all its stages today. This is a question of considerable urgency and copies of the Resolution have been sent to the Clerk and I presume that he will have them circulated.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the Acting Clerk has just received copies of this Resolution and I direct him to circulate them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to place the sum of \$7,275 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate No. 38 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Resolution to approve the lease to the Girls' Industrial Union of a parcel of land situate at Constitution Road in the City of Bridgetown.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise Mr. George Sugarman to extend his property at Sand Street, Speightstown, St. Peter, by building in the sea.
2.55 p.m.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Question No. 17/1964, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and the Oral Reply to Question No. 19/1964, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, are both ready.

I also beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to deal with the Money Resolutions of which notice was given today.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Replies are ready to Parliamentary Question No. 17/1964, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and to Question No. 19/1964, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

DISCOMFITURE CAUSED BY NIGHT CLUBS AND STEEL BANDS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 17 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Government aware of the discomfiture and loss of sleep caused by night clubs and steel bands playing and operating in the thickly populated areas of the City of Bridgetown and the lower part of Christ Church to inhabitants of the said areas?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, can Government cause something to be done by way of regulating the hours of these clubs and bands so as to remove the inconveniences caused by them?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows:-

Complaints have been made to the Police and to the Ministry of Home Affairs against noise and nuisance created by some night clubs operating in the areas mentioned.

The Government is satisfied that some remedy is available under the existing law, but will consider whether it is necessary to provide additional remedies by the enactment of legislation.

PURCHASE OF UNION AND BRANCHBURY TENANTRIES

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 19 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government consider purchasing Union Tenantry and Branchbury Tenantry in the parish of St. Joseph for the purpose of providing security of tenure for, and ultimately sale of the said tenancies to the tenants thereof?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is the answer to the hon. member's question:-

"The question of the purchase of any particular tenantry or tenancies has to be considered by the Government in the context of its policy in respect of territories generally, which is now receiving attention."

Mr. SPEAKER: That brings the consideration of Question Time to an end.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 be taken as the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

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

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

3.05 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the House when in Committee to deal with the money Resolution for \$25,500 of which notice was given earlier today.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply. Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1964-65 No. 36

Head 14 - Inland Revenue - was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 14 stand part.

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

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

Head 17 — Premier — Home Affairs — was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 17 stand part.

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

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

Head 22 — Premier — Cabinet and General — was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 22 stand part.

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

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

Head 24 — Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries — was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 24 stand part.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$3,941 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964 - 65 No. 37

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, what would require perhaps a little explanation is the next Resolution with which we are going to deal, the one which was circulated today. As hon. members will see from the Addendum, this sum is required mainly to meet the cost of additional staff which had to be engaged in consequence of an extra pressure of work in the Ministry of Finance. During consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the current year, we provided the sum of \$40,000 to defray the expenses of the Staff of this Ministry and there has been, hon. members will probably not be surprised to learn, a very heavy demand for temporary staff in the Ministry during the current year. In the month of September alone, the cost of temporary staff in the Ministry was over \$7,000, and the requests which total the sum asked for in this Resolution include the payment of salaries of a number of West Indian University students during their recent summer vacation here on special assignments such as an investigation in connection with the development of the colony's water resources, and they were also doing a survey of the structure of distribution systems and mark-ups. The Government naturally is profoundly concerned over the cost of living in Barbados, and some University graduates were brought in to investigate the prevailing system of distribution at all levels, and also to do a certain amount of research on the question of mark-up on commodities allowed distributors in the island generally. This was in connection with the larger investigation into the structure of distribution of consumer goods and profits margins and things like that, and these students, all graduates, were engaged during the summer to do some of the field work involved in this research.

In addition to these two, the survey in connection with the cost of living and in connection with the development of water resources, there was also in the course of prepara-

tion a revised development plan under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and an additional number of graduates were also engaged on this revision, and it is mainly for these assignments that the money for these students will be re-allocated. Of the \$40,000 approved by the Legislature in the Estimates for the current year, the total expenditure to the end of October was approximately \$36,000 odd, and it is expected that the expenditure for the remaining five months of the financial year will be \$29,200. Since we had \$40,000 and we have spent \$36,000 to the end of October, the amount available, Sir, is about \$3,698 out of the \$29,000 which will be required for the next five months, and therefore supplementary provision of \$25,500 is being sought which will give us somewhere near the \$29,200 which we estimate we will require from now until 31st March.

It is not envisaged, Mr. Chairman, that the extraordinary expenditure during the next five months will in any way parallel the appreciably high expenditure we had in the summer when the students were engaged, and it is confidently hoped that the provision asked for today will be adequate to cope with the total expenditure in this Ministry from now to the end of the financial year.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
3.15 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there were one or two questions which were put by the Hon. Leader of this House and I want to ask him something about them. The Addendum to the Resolution reads as follows:-

"Consequent on the heavy demand for temporary staff during the past seven months, supplementary provision in the sum of \$25,500 is required to meet expenditure on temporary staff for the remainder of the year."

In other words, I would say that the expenditure of the money which was voted under this Head to carry on for the financial year has been expended other than for that authorised in the Estimates before the sanction of this House was obtained. That is what I want to ask the Hon. Leader of the House. Another is that it is customary for us to have a breakdown of this expenditure.

The Hon. Leader of the House talked of paying graduates and undergraduates and what not. He said that they were employed in the carrying out of surveys and so on. Would the hon. member also tell us what they were paid? Were they paid on the basis of a Long Grade Clerk or an Executive Officer? Tell us something of how you spent this money. I heard the Hon. Minister speak of graduates, undergraduates. Before he puts this to the vote, I would wish that he tell us something more on this matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this vote which the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown is referring to is a vote which is administered by the Chief Establishment Officer and it is used for the employment of temporary staff in all parts of the Government Service. From this vote people like our international cricketers---

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for the City says that this money was not spent on graduates.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. Leader of the House would give way, I would just say that I am sure the hon. member heard me. I really did not make any statement of fact. I understood from the statement which he made that graduates and undergraduates and also school teachers were carrying out information which was necessary to the question of the cost of living. I just wanted to know how these people were paid. In other words, did you pay them on the basis of a Long Grade Clerk or on the basis of the work which they were required to do.

There is no point your telling me that this is a vote under the Civil Establishment Officer.

This Item comes under Part 1 - Current - Head 9 - Ministry of Finance, Item 13, Temporary Staff. The Hon. Minister said that this vote is being used by the Civil Establishment Officer. This can hardly be so. If that is so, then this Resolution is worded wrong.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for the City seemed to convey the impression that money which was voted for one purpose has been spent on another purpose. The amount of \$40,000 was voted for the staff of the Ministry of Finance. The staff proved to be inadequate in consequence of the additional commitments in which the Ministry was engaged, therefore, additional staff had to be employed.

It is a matter of establishment and so long as the additional staff is confirmed by establishment, naturally, the Legislature would be asked to make provision to pay it. As I said earlier, an appreciable amount of this money was spent on graduates from the University College of the West Indies who were engaged on special work here during the summer. These students were engaged in surveys in connection with the water resources of the Island, surveys in connection with the cost of living and matters like that.

The hon. senior member for the City said that he wanted to know the level of remuneration which was paid to these students who were employed. I shall give him that information. The graduate who was employed by my Ministry in connection with the survey and distribution system was paid \$294. We had four graduates working with the Water Works Department and they were paid \$200 each. We had one working with the Ministry of Communications and Works and he was paid \$394. In addition to that, there were a number of other posts which were included in this expenditure. There were also six students who were engaged by the Town and Country Planning Office during the summer vacation and they were paid at \$30 a week.

3.25 p.m.

As to the Town and Country Planning Department, they worked during the vacation at \$30 a week. They did some research work and in addition to that there was (ASIDES)..... the total was \$2,160. As I said, they earned \$30.00 a week and they worked for 12 weeks. The Ministry of Education had an Assistant Secretary while the holder of the substantive post was on leave. In addition to that, we had some baggage in the Treasury of additional work. You had assistants in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Hospital who was seconded to do additional work in connection with the Hospital was paid from this vote. Then, Sir, the Ministry of Health and Social Services had undertaken additional commitments dealing with people to which the Minister will eventually refer and they are also going to be employed under this vote. Therefore, hon. members will see that the amount represents an aggregation of additional persons employed, most of them on a temporary basis, by the Ministry of Finance in one way or another.

Since the money which was originally voted will not be enough to carry the Ministry on from now until the end of the financial year, this supplementary provision is being sought today. Some of it is completely unusual, especially the question of the research into the cost of living, but I am sure that hon. members will agree that some investigation into the existing systems of distribution and the levels of distribution in this country is necessary. There are commodities which must be dealt with at certain stages before they are passed to the consumer; they are unusual in this island and the Government is concerned not only with investigating the distribution structure but also the actual levels of profit permitted at each stage of the distribution. We could, of course, bring in experts from outside the Government and pay them a big fee for doing this kind of work, but we have discussed the matter on more than one occasion with Dr. O'Loughlin who is au fait in matters of this sort, and her advice is that we could engage to our mutual advantage and to the advantage of the Govern-

ment and the students themselves, some of the University Graduates during the summer vacation in doing some of the donkey work which is necessary for a proper investigation of this matter. They have been used, we have got the benefit of their knowledge and the time they had in their vacation, and they have been able to acquire some additional funds during the vacation. Therefore, I say the expenditure has been mutually advantageous.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that any hon. member has to entertain the slightest degree of apprehension over any money which is voted for a purpose like this. The establishment people, to say nothing of the Accountant General's Department are meticulous and every single penny which is voted under this head will receive careful scrutiny before it is expended. All the hon. senior member for the City wanted to know is the details of the expenditure but there was no question of principle or vote involved.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to point out that from this vote the Government intends to employ Mr. Seymour Nurse and Mr. Charles Griffith during the interim period between now and the Australian Cricket Tour. It cannot be gainsaid that these international cricketers have placed Barbados on the map and when they return home - Trinidad is now trying to attract most of the West Indian Cricketers - we feel that the services of these two young men could be greatly used in assisting the Primary Schools. As from next Monday both of these young men will be attached to the Sports Department temporarily until the Australian Tour. When we do not have a division or department with a particular vote this block vote is used for a purpose like this.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House was quite correct in what he said. I have not questioned the vote nor the principle. We are entitled to have a break-down and I thank the hon. member very much for his information in this matter.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I now beg to move that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

3.35 p.m.

RESOLUTION re PORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing to approve under Section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960, the sum of \$44,270 required to supplement the Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1964-65 as shown in the schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in moving the passing of Item 37 - Light and Power for the sum of \$12,237, I should like to supply this additional information for the benefit of the House. On the completion of the Deep Water Harbour, the generator sets which had been in use during construction were taken over from the contractors by the Port Department. A quantity of spare parts to these sets

was also subsequently taken over and stored at the Department of Highways and Transport, but no payment was made for it, so that apart from what is set out in the note, there is this question of the payment for spare parts for the generator sets. Then there is an additional cost through the repair of 33 defective lights in the development area which has been a cause of increased consumption, and added to that, there is the operation and use of electricity by the Barbados Molasses Terminals Limited in the Port area from December 1963, the cost of which is, however, recoverable.

I beg to move that this Resolution under Section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960, do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

THE TRANSPORT BOARD (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1964.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Transport Board Act of 1955, 1955-37 in order to provide that no person should be appointed to or dismissed from any post under the Board to which a salary in excess of \$6,000 per annum is assigned, without the prior approval of the Cabinet. Similar provisions exist in respect of the Barbados Development Bank under Section 19 of the Barbados Development Bank Act, 1963, 1963-43.

The object of this proposed amendment is merely to regularise the provisions of the Transport Board Act, 1955, and to bring them in line with similar provisions which obtain in recent legislation, for example, the Development Board Act, the Tourist Board Act and the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. J. C. TUDOR, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded in each case by Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

3.45 p.m.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 24th November, 1964, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

3.47 p.m.