THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th October, 1964.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, (Q.C.) *(Speaker);* Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, *(Minister of Development, Trade Labour and Social Security);* Mr. F. C. GODDARD, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Communications and Works);* Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education);* Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries);* 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.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 13th October, 1964, have been circulated, and unless there is any objection, I will declare them to be confirmed.

There being no objection, I declare those Minutes duly to be confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded to lay Message No. 12/1964 re the visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh to Barbados.

The Message is as follows:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will be visiting Barbados from 13th – 14th of November, 1964.

It is proposed that His Royal Highness accompanied by His Excellency should visit the Legislature and address members at a Joint Session at 10.30 a.m. on 14th November, 1964.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to place the sum of $13,660 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1964-65, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65, No. 34 which forms the Schedule to this Resolution.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I 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 Resolution of which notice was given today.

I also beg to give notice of my intention to move the suspension of certain Standing Orders before the business of the House commences.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has given notice of his intention to move the suspension of certain Standing Orders, so far as this day's meeting is concerned.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

"WHEREAS the people living in the districts known as Arch Hall and Porey Spring in the parish of St. Thomas do encounter much inconvenience while awaiting transportation due to the lack of proper sheltering facilities, especially during the rainy season;

BE IT RESOLVED that Government pay some attention to such a grievance with a view to accommodating the said districts with Bus sheds in the not too distant future."

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

"WHEREAS Government pensioners have great difficulty in living out the remainder of their lives in dignity and comfort owing to the meagre pittance they receive;

AND WHEREAS busfares have recently been increased thus causing them added transportation expenses;

AND WHEREAS legislation has recently been introduced in England to ease the lot of pensioners by granting them the privilege of cheaper transportation;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to introduce legislation to the effect that Government pensioners be permitted to travel on all public transportation vehicles at half-price."

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. Michael, I ' g to give notice of the following Resolution:-

"WHEREAS there has been a steady increase in the flow of traffic over the past five (5) years in this Island;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Department of Highways and Transport appointed to inspect and test motor vehicles is hard pressed and cannot keep up with the overwhelmingly large increase in vehicles in this Island;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request Government to increase the number of posts of Inspector, Highways and Transport to double their present complement."
2.55 p.m.

QUESTIONS

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

Will Government consider the possibility of providing uniforms for the employees of the Waterworks Department who work at the several pumping stations in this Island?

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Accountant General his Accounts and Statement for the month of May, 1964.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be suspended for today's Sitting.

It was intimated last Tuesday that it would be likely that a Resolution of some importance and urgency which has not been made ready yet would have reached this House today; otherwise, we would have adjourned for two weeks. In view of that Resolution being not yet ready, I think the Order Paper as it is can be disposed of within the next half hour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second the motion.

The question that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be suspended for today's Sitting, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before we commence our normal proceedings, it is my sad duty to direct the attention of hon. members to the passing last week of the mother of the hon. senior member for St. George. I beg to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its sympathy with the Honourable Senior Member for St. George at the passing of his mother.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to her sorrowing relatives.

The sad circumstance, Mr. Speaker, is that the mother of the hon. senior member for St. George, having reached the ripe age of 88 years, passed away after a brief illness last week. If we are to judge the character of the deceased by the large concourse of people that followed her final remains to their resting place, the deduction is that she must have been a personality of a very high exemplary character to have attracted during her lifetime such a large number of friends and relatives who obviously held her in their highest regard and affections. I can say, Sir, that it was one of the largest funerals to be seen at the Cemetery for some time and the interment rights had actually begun before the entire cortege had reached the Cemetery. I am sure that it must have been very heartening to the hon. senior member for St. George, her son, and other relatives to witness the demonstration of such marked respect towards their relative, and I am sure, that we in this Assembly would like on this occasion to express our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. senior member for St. George and we share in like manner as their numerous friends must their deep sorrow at her passing.

Sir, it must, of course, be regarded that the deceased had lived far beyond the normal span of life since it has been given to only a few to reach the ripe age of 88 years; and even although death is always unexpected yet still, we have to face the fact that it must come; therefore, when anyone has reached the ripe age of 88 years, the passing of someone of that age is by no means one to be regarded as premature.

Be that as it may, Sir, I am sure that all hon. members of this House would want to support the passing of this Resolution and demonstrate by their endorsement of it in some intangible form the deep sorrow and sympathy which we all share over the passing of the mother of one of our members.

I think it is true to say that one is more affected by the loss of a parent than by any other relative, including a wife or husband, because it is not uncommon for a husband or wife to replace his or her partner, but you cannot get another mother or father; and in spite of the maturity of the age of the deceased, and in spite of the fact that she had passed the normal span, we still know that the hon. senior member for St. George must be deeply affected by the loss of his mother. However, I want to assure him that the sympathy of the entire House goes out to him on this sad occasion.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I would like, on behalf of my Party, to offer our sincere condolences towards the hon. senior member for St. George on the passing of his mother. It must have been a source of great gratification and pride to her before her passing to see her son take his place in this honourable Chamber as the senior member for the constituency which he so ably represents.

The passing of a mother has always been a source of sadness and loss which can be felt most fully only by those who have passed through that sad experience.
3.05 p.m.

We, on this side of the Table, would very much like to assure the hon. member that we feel deeply his sense of loss and we offer him our most sincere condolence. It is true that the end will come: and when it comes, despite the fact that it will come, whenever death comes to one of our relatives it is always with a sense of shock. Even although the deceased had reached more than her allotted span, we feel that there is no less the sense of loss borne by her son who is our colleague in this Chamber. It must be a great and lasting sense of loss to the hon. member and so, Mr Speaker, I beg to second the motion which has been moved by the Hon. Leader of the House.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I, too, on behalf of my Party want to associate myself with the remarks which have been made in expressing condolence to the hon. senior member for St. George on the occasion of the passing of his mother. Sir, on an occasion of this kind one's speech is always limited especially when the speaker is not familiar with the person who has passed away. Knowing the hon. senior member for St. George for quite a long time before he entered this House, one can clearly see that he has the real training of a good mother. Up to now, as we all know, a tree is known by its fruit *(Hear! Hear!)* If it is so that many of us here did not know the mother of the hon. senior member for St. George, in seeing him and having to do with him we can clearly see that she was a good mother. I do not think I would have to say anything more, but I hope that she will rest in peace.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I, too, was stunned by the news since we last met of the loss sustained by the hon.

senior member for St. George of one who was so near and dear to him. I would like to convey to the hon. member my deepest sympathy in his bereavement. I am fully aware, Mr. Speaker, that words cannot adequately describe the sense of loss which the hon. member must feel on such an occasion. I hope the hon. member will accept my assurance of my heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention on an occasion like this, to make it more sad by adding more to what has already been said, but it came as a shock to me when I realised that the mother of the hon. senior member for St. George had passed away. Unfortunately, I could not do what some other hon. members have been able to do, owing to circumstances beyond my control, and therefore I take this opportunity of extending to the hon. member my profound and sincere condolence in this sad hour of his. Those of us who have passed through this experience, as the hon. junior member for the City has said, know what it means. It does not matter for how long one's mother has lived, but her passing has all the more meaning because it means that the longer she has lived, the longer you have the presence of one who was so near and dear to you. Those of us who have had this experience really know what it is to have the affection of a mother, and those who have known what it is to have lost that affection will share with the hon. member our sincere condolence and hope that as time passes the grief will be allayed. I would like also to extend my sincere condolence to the hon. member.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks which have been made by previous speakers in connection with the passing of the mother of the hon. senior member for St. George. When I heard of her passing, I was shocked because I did not know she was ill. I quite realise that it will shock any of us when his mother dies because there is no friend which any one of us could regard like his mother. I always remember those kind words of the Master: "Son, behold thy Mother". We never realise the goodness and responsibility of a mother until she is deceased. I can say that in respect of mine. I am still glad to see that the hon. senior member for St. George is keeping the morale of his spirit because he knows that his mother has gone and her works will follow her. As one of the members on the other side has said, the hon. member's mother has lived to see her son rise to membership of this House. I am glad to see that the hon. member is keeping that calm and sober spirit. May the hon. member be strengthened so that he can look forward to the day when he will meet his mother!

Mr. SPEAKER: May I associate myself with the tributes which have been paid by hon. members to the memory of the late Mrs. Lowe and may I join in an expression of sympathy to the hon. member in respect of the grievous bereavement which, since last we met here, he has unfortunately sustained.

A motion has been made by the Hon. Leader of the House, seconded by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and I will ask hon. members in the traditional manner of this Chamber, to signify their assent thereto by standing in their places for a period of two minutes.

Hon. members stood in their places for two minutes as requested by His Honour the Speaker.

3.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk will act in accordance with the terms of this Resolution which has just been passed.

In connection with the intimation which was given to this Chamber when the motion for the Adjournment of the House was made last week, I have given consideration to the suggestion of the Hon. Minister of Education, and further to that there has been given notice of today by the Hon. Leader of the House, the Acting Hon. Premier, Message No. 12/1964 relative to the visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh to Barbados on the 13th and 14th of next month.

I have the honour to request certain members of this Chamber to be associated with myself and His Honour the Deputy Speaker in collaborating with the Other Chamber with a view to finalising arrangements and preparations for that visit, and I am inviting the Hon. Minister of Education, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who, it has been intimated, will be willing to serve, and the hon. junior member for St. James, who I am told, is also prepared to place his services at the disposal of this Committee. Will they consider themselves officially appointed?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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.

RESOLUTION re PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL MOBILE AIR COMPRESSOR UNIT WITH LOADER, ANGLE DOZER AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution in order that the sum of $12,000 provided in the Capital Estimates 1964-65 under Head 4 Water Supplies, Item 4 — Mechanical Equipment, may be used for the purchase of an additional mobile Air Compresser Unit with Loader, angle dozer and ancilliary equipment, and that the note relating to that Item be amended accordingly, and that the Senate be invited to concur therein.

As the Addendum sets out, Sir, in the Capital Estimates 1964-65, Head 4, Water Supplies, Item 4 — Mechanical Equipment the sum of $12,000 is provided and the note relating to the item states "for the purchase of an additional Mobile Air Compressor Unit, with loader and angle dozer, and a loader and angle dozer for existing air compressor Unit." Suppliers have advised that loaders and angle dozers to suit the existing unit are no longer manufactured. It is therefore proposed to proceed with the purchase of the new unit and to outfit it with attachments such as rippers and rotary drills thereby using funds originally voted for the purchase of a loader and angle dozer for the existing air compressor unit.

The breakdown for this amount is as follows:- purchase of Tractor which will cost $4,460; Compressor, $2,975; Tyres and Power Steering, $295; Loader, $2,375; Angle Dozer, $312; two Rippers at $365 each, $730; two Rotary Drills at $425 each, $850, making a total of $1,997, say $12,000.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

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

FINAL APPROPRIATION (1963-64) ACT, 1964

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I should like to request leave of this Chamber to take charge of this Bill standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking its indulgence that he may take charge of Item No. 4 which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted to the hon. member to take charge thereof.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. senior member for St. Philip to take charge of this Bill, which is the second reading to grant an additional sum of money out of the Public Treasury and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1964.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to regularise the position with regard to all the supplementary appropriations which were passed during the financial year 1963-64.

3.25 p.m.

The action is necessary under the Executive Act, 1891. What we are doing, Sir, actually is to embody all of the Supplementary Resolutions passed during the last financial year under the Final Appropriation Act not merely for the sake of conformity but in order to carry out the obligations imposed by the Executive Act, 1891, 1891-22, Section 8.

Section 8 provides that all sums which may have been voted by resolution on supplementary estimates as aforesaid during the course of a session of the Legislature shall at the close of each financial year be embodied in a supplementary Appropriation Act for the financial year or years to which the sums so voted shall have relation.

This Act carries out the purpose enacted in this Section and this is merely the final formality in connection with the Appropriation Act during the past year.

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

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

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

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

The Preamble was postponed.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called separately and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

The Preamble was called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

CLERK GRANTED ONE MONTH'S LEAVE

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members are aware, the Clerk of this Chamber has been selected, along with the Hon. Deputy Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. James, as a member of the local Chapter of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to represent this Association at the forthcoming conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Jamaica.

It is therefore necessary for the Clerk to be given leave to attend this parley and I am moving at this stage that the Clerk be granted leave of absence for the month of November, 1964.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say that the Clerk will be going in his capacity as Secretary of the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

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

DEPUTY CLERK TO ACT AS CLERK

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this makes it necessary to appoint someone to act in his place, and I beg to move that the Deputy Clerk be appointed to act as Clerk of this Assembly for the month of November, 1964.

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

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

3.35 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. Mitchinson Edward Sylvester Hewitt, Solicitor, be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk for the month of November, 1964.

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

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO Mr. CARMICHAEL

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. James, leave from this honourable and ancient Chamber for the month of November, to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Jamaica.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave of absence on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. James, for the month of November for the purpose of attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which will be held in Jamaica. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(After a pause).* There being apparently no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful to hon. members for their expeditious handling of Government measures today. I now beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 3rd November, 1964, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 3rd November, 1964, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3.45 p.m.