

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1961 - 66

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(OFFICIAL REPORT) SECOND SESSION OF 1961 - 66 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st December, 1965

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (Speaker); Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, C.B.E.; (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):

Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. W. R. LOWE; and Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister of Communications and Works);

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I understand that the Minutes of the Meeting of 14th December, 1965 have been printed, but I am not sure if on account of the heavy Christmas mail Hon. members have received their copies; so I will defer confirmation of them.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

A Resolution to place the sum of \$2,400 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1965-66, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1956-66 No.38 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Sir, I should like also to give notice of my intention to ask leave of the House to proceed with this Resolution in all its stages today. Copies of it are available and I am asking the indulgence of the House because of the circumstances which surround it. It is something of which we were only made aware yesterday morning, and it is necessary that the Senate should be able to have it at its last meeting before it recesses for Christmas. I therefore give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply shortly to deal with this Resolution.

Mr. CORBIN entered the Chamber and took his seat. COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Committee of Supply be the first Order of the Day.

Speaking of the motion, I should like to remind the House that we will shortly be receiving a very distinguished

visitor, the President of the Republic of Nigeria, whom we had thought was not visiting us. I thought that the House should know this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second the motion.

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

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph be appointed Chairman of Committees 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.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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 while in Committee of Supply to deal

with the money Resolution for \$2,400 of which notice has been given today.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

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. COWARD in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1965-66 No. 38

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, I must apologise for troubling the House at such short notice with this matter, but it has to do with the new Coat of Arms of Barbados of which the House has previously been in-formed. The College of Arms has had this matter in hand for some months, and it is expected that the Royal Warrant assigning Arms for Barbados will soon receive the Sign Manual and it is now necessary to have reproductions pre-pared. It is proposed to obtain two copies of the Arms ill metal castings, one of which will be placed in this Chamber and one in the other Chamber, and four additional copies to be placed in other Government Buildings.

The cost of preparation of a design of the Arms is \$240, but the cost of the production cannot be determined. We are therefore asking for this sum of \$2,400 to meet the estimated cost of the design, reproduction, castings, pack-ing, freight and contingencies. 12.25 p.m.

I was saying that we know the design, but we do not know the cost and since we want several of mem - one for

each House of the Legislature, one for several other Public Buildings, we thought it safe to ask the Committee for the sum of \$2,400.

I beg to move that this Resolution for \$2,400 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I thought that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had asked for a little time to study the Resolution and you should not put the question now. It does not appear as if the Chamber has heard the hon. member.

I think the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution has given us a very short notice of this Resolution, and although he has apologised, it is just the same as if I strike anyone with a stick and then apologised because the blow is still there.

This Government began this year by railroading Resolutions and Bills in this House, and it appears as if they are going to end it that way. This Resolution is for the sum of \$2,400, the purpose of which is to

provide Coats of Arms, The Hon. Minister does not know the likely cost of these Coats of Arms. He said that he does not know the exact cost.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I said that we know the cost of the design, and we figure that six would come to \$2,400. That is all I said.

Mr. SMITH:

Of course, if we vote too much, the money would still be there.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, part of the hurry is that the warrant for the design was signed by Her Majesty the Queen some time this week and Her Majesty pro-poses to bring two copies to present to the Legislature when she visits here, and unless we consent now it would be too late for the Queen\'s visit.

Mr. SMITH:

Certainly, Sir, the Hon. Minister has taken the wind out of my reply. Why did we not know anything of this before?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

We could not have brought it before because it was only yesterday that the Queen signed the warrant and until the warrant was signed, we had no authority.

Mr. SMITH:

Suppose it was signed, let us say to-morrow, what would have happened? Would you have been able to meet to-day and decide on this Resolution? Suppose Her Majesty had signed it this after noon or tomorrow morning, I wonder if the Minister would be able to tell me what would happen. (ASIDES)

Mr. SMITH:

I wonder if the Hon. Minister means political or otherwise. Of course, that is another question and I would not try to embarrass him now with the answer, but I am sure a life would be for a life. We have a long way to live politically yet but, as I was saying, the present Government began the year by giving us these jet plane Resolutions, and I am appealing to the Hon. Minister, now that we are coming to the close of the year, although we are not sure any of us would be alive but not all of us are going to clear out so soon, to start 1966 right and give hon. members a chance to study the Resolutions and Bills when they are put before us. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas said that a period of five minutes is good enough for him to study anything.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to oppose this Resolution or vote against it, but I am warning the present Government to let us start 1966 in the right way. Sir, you must remember that the Government moves Resolutions or Bills alter they have seen them, perhaps, six months before. During that time they may have been amending them, taking in this thing and taking out that thing and trying to do what you would call \'lick it into shape\' before it gets to us; there-fore, when it gets to us we should have a chance to study it

although we cannot do anything to it. Most Governments do the same thing, I am not saying that this

Government is the only one. Most Governments do it.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member gives way, I just want to say that all his criticisms are taken, and I do ask him to let us get out of Committee now in view of our other engagement. 12.45 p.m.

I would ask the hon. member if he would not mind allowing us to get out of Committee almost immediately. I would be glad if he would favour us with that,

Mr, SMITH:

Very well, Sir, this is the end of the year and we must all end up in a nice, cool atmosphere. (Laughter).

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put 2nd resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

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.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

On motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON in each case, the Resolution passed in Committee was read a first and second time and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think that it might well be your desire to greet our distinguished visitor when he arrives at the precincts of this House. I therefore beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for 15 minutes. The purpose for that is that when we come back in, we will exchange the formal Christmas Greetings and move the adjournment of the House.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that. MEETING THE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before I announce the formal suspension of this Sitting, I would like it to be known that I would appreciate if certain hon. members would accompany me to meet His Excellency the President of

Nigeria, the Right Honourable Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. Those hon. members whom I now invite to accompany me are the hon. Leader of the House, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Deputy Leader of the Minority Party in Opposition, and the hon. senior member for St. Peter, who is the senior of the Independent members in this Chamber, I take it that those hon. members whom I have mentioned will accompany me to meet His Excellency the President of Nigeria?

MEMBERS:

As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am grateful to hon. members for the assurance of their co-operation.

The question is that this sitting be now suspended for 15 minutes, Hon. members in favour of that, will please say \"AYE\" hon. members against, will please say \"NO\". I think the \"AYES\" have it. This sitting now stands suspended for 15 minutes. 12.45 p.m.

On Resumption;

Mr. SPEAKER accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and His Excellency's A.D.C. entered the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Your Excellency, I am Availing myself of the privilege which is mine in changing the normal order of procedure. I do not know whether Your Excellency will agree with me that even a Speaker may be privileged to break the Standing Orders of the Chamber of which he is regarded as the principal guardian, in order to say how greatly each and every hon. member of this Chamber appreciates the signal honour which has been accorded this Branch of the Parliament of Barbados, by having Your Excellency Dr. Azikiwe, President of the Federation of Nigeria, sitting with us in this Chamber. (Cheers)

On behalf of us all, I welcome you, and I assure you that we wish your stay in this island could be longer than we had been led to anticipate. Perhaps it is due - I have no doubt -- more than anything else to our Prayers, when we received the bad news on Saturday that you would not be able to, visit us, that through God's grace, you have been permitted to afford to us this unique opportunity of meeting and greeting you in our Parliament, (Cheers)

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, about eighteen years ago I last set eyes on the President of the Commonwealth country of Nigeria. At that time he did not hold the awful position which he now occupies. A person who has been more responsible for the liberation of the African peoples than any other person in the history of our race; a person who came from these parts, and to those of us who knew him, was a father figure to those people who were looking forward to the liberation of the peoples who had been held for such a long time in a state of second-class citizenship and a state of subjection.

The person who arranged my meeting with him was no less a person than the late George Padmore, born in Trinidad, sprung from Barbadian grandparents, and a leader in the fight for Colonial freedom; and

we were very glad to have with us at that time Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and the Rev. Walter Scott, a Church of England Clergyman who has recently been hounded out of South Africa for standing up for the rights of the African peoples. There were no other speakers, as far as I can remember, but these two gentlemen, and when Dr. Azikiwe came to the end of his peroration, the whole assembly assembled fittingly in Friends House, the headquarters of the Quakers of England, stood to its feet and gave Dr. Azikiwe prolonged and sustained applause. Dr. Azikiwe was not then fulminating against the Imperial wrongs; he was stating a case for the liberation of the African peoples and of the rest of the subjected peoples. You cannot imagine how delighted I was, just two years ago, to renew my acquaintance with persons like Lord Brockway, then Fenner Brockway, in no less a place than East Africa, in Nairobi with Dr. Walter Scott, with Seretse, Khama: Mr. Kenneth Kaupda. Mr. Milton Obote and Mr. Julius Nyerere and all of those, with me, were dreaming in those distant days of something we did not think would be realised in our lifetime.

The wheel has come full circle and my cup was full and over-running with joy when I received a telephone call this morning that the president of the Commonwealth country of Nigeria who is with us here today was not lying on his bed in a foreign country stricken with illness, but that he had made a marvelous recovery and had decided after all to come over and visit us in Barbados.

It is not for me, Mr. Speaker, to recite the long struggle which his country has had. I can only say that with people like Dr. Azikiwe in the forefront, and with the national leaders who have been able to hold their own around the tables of international conferences, that a country with the vast area of Nigeria with the teeming population and with the great wealth which it enjoys, has a very great future before it.

Earlier this morning I discussed with His Excellency the President the problem of communications how, we can get our people in the West Indies to fully appreciate and realize that they too have a national heritage, a national heritage whose roots are firmly embedded in the soil of Africa. There are those of us whose roots are embedded

in other soils. We accept their heritage, but they must accept ours as well.

In asking His Excellency to come here today and visit us as you have done, Mr. Speaker, you are merely giving the stamp of approval to something which we all acknowledge, and we are proud of it. The lot has fallen unto me on fair ground; I have a common heritage especially when that heritage is the heritage of Nigeria and of West Africa as a whole, and as Leader of the Government, I have great pleasure in joining with you, Mr. Speaker, in issuing a very warm welcome to the President, Dr. Azikiwe, and I sincerely hope that the next time that he visits us again - and he has already given me the assurance that if we will only take our destiny into our own hands - that he will be remaining with us a little longer to join with us in our own celebrations, and that day, we hope, will not be very far off, (Cheers).

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, as Leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, it is a very pleasant duty for me to associate myself with the Hon. Leader of the Government in welcoming His Excellency the President of Nigeria, Dr. Azikiwe. Those of us especially of African descent in these parts have followed with great

interest the fortunes of our brothers across the seas and in the Continent of Africa, and we feel proud that you. Sir, having acquired your teaming in the United States of America, having had the experience of being a banker, having the experience of being a newspaper editor, and having the experience of being Governor General, should now be the first President and be responsible for bringing more closely together the Commonwealth of Nigeria.

I could hardly express myself without stating that this little unit of the Commonwealth of Nations has played some part, when one of its sons in the person of the Rev. Mr. Blackett left here and came to Nigeria as a catechist, at whose feet, I understand, you received part of your early education. For that we in Barbados are Justly proud, and we are proud that we have been able to send more of on people to help our brothers to rise to the position to which you have risen.

The Rev. Blackett has gone, but I hope that if you are travelling through these islands you will meet his son who is in Trinidad, whom, we hope, will be able to show you around in that country. We are indeed very proud, Mr. Sicker, that we in Barbados have made our contribution in this respect.

When we heard a few days ago that you had to make a detour due to your health, sir, we were somewhat worried; but when we heard a few hours ago that you had decided to come with us, we were very glad, and I feel we are honored to have such a distinguished personal as you with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in associating myself with the remarks of the Hon. And Learned Premier, (Cheers).

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Barbados, Labor Party, I am proud of having the honor of welcoming the President of Nigeria here amongst us to day. It is a great pleasure to know that when looking around at him and looking around at the people of Barbados we are seeing ourselves last sure, sir, that he did not have & bed of roses to achieve his position as President of Nigeria, but honesty of purpose, loyalty and ability have caused him to do where he is. My only rogers is that stay here will be so short, and that the majority of our people in Barbados will not have the opportunity of seeing him.

1.05 P.m.

Sir, it would be a pleasure for everyone of the people of Barbados to see you go around the country districts so

of Nigeria and see what you look like because our people always look forward to the day of seeing one of you. When

you go around, the people would see one of our own, smiling as you are, and I am sure that the people of Barbados would fall for you in the same way as your people.

Sir, I do not think that I have any more to say than to say to His Excellency, the President of Nigeria: \"Welcome to Barbados, our little Island,\"

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be un-gracious on my part if I did not say how much I associate myself with all that have been said by the previous speakers.

I think I have the rare distinction and privilege of being the only sitting member in this Chamber who has had the privilege of visiting Nigeria in the capacity as a parliamentarian. Only three years ago I was one of the guests of Nigeria having been nominated by the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and I enjoyed the hospitality of that country and met the President and many of the other members of the Parliamentary Association.

I sat and listened to the Hon. Premier, and my mind went back to my early meeting with my good friend, the late Mr. George Padmore, who a few years ago, visited London for the first time and made us aware of the situation in Africa.

I have had these associations with His Excellency and even as regards what the Hon. Premier said, there are so many people I have met of my relatives who shared university life with the President and spoke in glowing terms of the genial manner of the President. After the President left the University he went back home to fight for the freedom and redemption of his country, and in doing so, he has been able to express all the qualities of a leader.

Sit, at this time of the year when we are showering good wishes on everyone, it is very appropriate that His Excellency's visit has coincided with this meeting which we are having. So doubly, we not only extend to him a hearty, warm and sincere welcome for his visit to this little island, but we extend to him also the Season's Greetings. (Cheers)

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, I listened very patiently to those who paid their tribute to His Excellency, Doctor Nnamdi Azikiwe, and my colleague who has just sat down has put it in such a way that if I did not rise from my seat and make some little contribution to the welcome which has been accorded to His Excellency, I would not feel very proud of myself.

When I was a very young man, just as I was leaving school, I was fired with what little I could read of Africa,

As the hon. member said, I do not think there is any-one of us who has known very much of the tremendous struggle for the liberation of Africa which has been put up by His Excellency. It was going on for years and years. Therefore, Sir, I feel happy that I have had the good fortune of seeing the position in which the President now finds himself, and I think he richly deserves all the honours which now come to him.

Mr. Speaker, I am moved very greatly by seeing with us today the President of the Nigerian Federation and I again say that feeling has moved me more when I remember those dark days which that country passed through. Mr. Speaker, you know that those were dark days, and they were days when some of us thought that the people of Africa would never see that light shine. But that light is shining now. We of Barbados are very proud of the position which the President has been able to put his country in, and we ourselves are now striving to gain independence for our country and we hope that a little light would shine here. I also hope that His Excellency would be still alive to see the day when we too would

become a nation when everybody would be able to meet as one.

Mr. Speaker, I am Just proud that I am able to stand on my feet in this Honourable Chamber to make my little contribution of welcome to His Excellency, the President of the Nigerian Federation, on behalf of the people of this country. (Cheers),

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, as a backbencher, I do not think I can sit here without rising to congratulate His Excellency, the President of Nigeria. I have heard a lot of Africa and it was my desire of seeing! someone from the African mainland and behold. today, we have seen one and a very worthy one. It has put me in remembrance of the time when the eunuch left Ethiopia and came down to Jeri Salem.

I have heard of all that the President has suffered in Ms fight for the liberation of Africa from bondage and slavery. I believe that he has fought a good fight. I know that he could not have won a battle unless Almighty God was on his side. I want all men to realise that God represents all powers, and it does not matter what kind of colour nations are, God is the Rider of us all, and He reigns in every kingdom and He has the power to give the kingdom to whomsoever he desires.

Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that I have met the President of Nigeria and, speaking personally, I hope Almighty God would strengthen him, preserve him and keep him fully in His favour.

I know that he could not win the battle unless Almighty God was on his side. I want all men in the World to realise today that God represents all colours - Black, White, Brown or whatever colour you may be, God is the Ruler of every nation and he reigns in every kingdom and it is in his power to give the kingdoms to whomsoever he will I know that the people of Ethiopia will stretch forth their hands in order to free themselves from slavery and bondage. That is the cause of all Wars today - to liberate our people from slavery and bondage. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to meet the President of Nigeria today. You, Sir, have fought the good fight of faith and I hope that Almighty God will preserve strengthen and keep you continually in your position. I hope He will be gracious with you and enable you to fight hard in the cause of the liberation of the people. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I bid the President of Nigeria God's speed and a safe return.

Mr. LYNCH:

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would very much like to extend a very hearty welcome to His Excellency the President of Nigeria on behalf of the sport-loving public of this island. We know only too well that His Excellency is keenly interested in sport. In 1934 he was being trained in London to take part in the Empire Games during that year (Cheers). We know also of his love of music, of his attachment to such composers as Chopin, Beethoven and Schubert, which is not usually spoken of too often. But there is also quite another field of human endeavour in which His Excellency has taken part, and indeed a glorious and gracious part - as master of Arts, University of Lincoln, Master of Science, University of Pennsylvania and Student of Anthropology and Philosophy, and we honour his presence among us today. When we heard of his illness, in the words of Euripides we said \"Sad news about great men takes more common hold upon the human heart\". We rejoice at His Excellency's recovery and we are happy to wish him the felicitations of the Season and to say how happy we are to see one who has played so great a part in the liberation of the people of our race. (Cheers).

Mr, SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform hon. members that there is immediately available to me now a present which is the gift of this ancient Assembly to His Excellency, which I hope, he will be good enough to accept. His Excellency is no doubt well aware that this Parliament of ours is the second oldest Parliament after the United Kingdom which is 700 years; we are 326 years, second only to Bermuda with 345. On this singularly appropriate and auspicious occasion I have, on behalf of the General Assembly of this Island, to ask His Excellency if he will accept small token as from the House of Assembly of Barbados this sitting of which he has been so graciously pleased to attend. Will hon. members please stand?

Hon. members stood in their places as requested by Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Your Excellency, I have great pleasure on behalf of the General Assembly of this Island, in asking you to accept this token of our esteem as indicative of the warm feeling of our people towards you and as a momenta of the fact that you have attended our Sitting this day.

His Excellency received the gift, from Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

His Excellency will now address the Assembly.

His EXCELLENCY RT. HON. NNAMDI AZIKIWE:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nigeria I thank you. Sir, for the kind sentiments which have been expressed about me and for the way in which Your Honour was kind enough to grant me audience in this ancient Legislature. I would also like permission to express my thanks to the Hon. Premier, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the other hon. members who addressed the Assembly and welcomed me to this British Island. Finally, I would like permission particularly to express to this august Assembly how greatly I appreciate my trip to this part of the world because of its sentimental value. We, in Nigeria, are trying to make life as easy as we can for our people, both as part of the Commonwealth and as part of the human race. The fact that Nigeria has been able to attain this standard is due to the role which has been played by the people of different races and of different climes.

As a boy I grew to admire my teachers, mostly from the West Indies, including the revered named mentioned by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the late Rev. Walter E. Blackett (Cheers). He answered the call to be a missionary in my land. He was a teacher, then an Inspector of Schools, and after serving in that capacity for some time he was received in Holy Orders as a Minister. 1.25 p.m.

As I mentioned to the Hon. Premier and his colleagues who accompanied him this morning, I have brought with me a photograph taken about forty-five years ago with Rev. Blackett, a chorister of whose church I happened to be. I thought I would have had the opportunity of seeing his next of kin, or at least his son. Unfortunately, I doubt it win be possible, but I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that I have always felt along with the people in Nigeria that we owe a great debt to Barbados and other parts of the West Indies.

In the early years of this century. West Indians played an important part in our railway system and in

working in different aspects of the private and public sectors of our economy, and Nigeria always has a reservoir of goodwill for the people of the West Indies, because you have worked with us, you have helped us to build a nation, and helped us to realise that we have what it takes to build a nation in a modern world. We are inter-married. Many West Indians have settled in Nigeria, and wherever you go you see the graves of those great pioneers who helped us. You can see, therefore, why it is a sentimental journey for me, to meet some of my teachers and to meet some of my former col-leagues. As a matter of fact, I was happy in entering this building to meet an old friend who had served Nigeria so loyally and faithfully and is now retired. I did not realise he had left Nigeria; I thought he was on leave. Mr. Speaker, I am so happy to hear you mention that this Legislature is one of the oldest in the Commonwealth,

I realise the great honour you have done to me, and I know that I am standing on sacred ground, and I want to assure you that this Legislature offers a shining example to us in Africa, because of what it represents. We are one of the few states in Africa which still believe in parliamentary democracy. (Cheers). We have a belief in and respect for human dignity and these things make me feel that freedom is not yet lost, I hope you will continue to hold high this torch of freedom, and when the great celebration comes sometime in the future, Nigerians will be able to come and join you in these celebrations, (cheers).

Before I take my seat, may I say to you how happy I am to be in the midst and to hear the Hon. Premier refer to those difficult days with us, and also to thank the gentle-men of the Opposition Bench, some of whom reminded me of the great difficulties of those who sought to better the lot of their fellowmen? Nigeria is not the best country in the world; we have our problems, but we are trying to inch along; we are trying to master the difficult art of good Government so that our people will not feel that we are ex-changing one sort of tyranny for another sort of despotism That is what Nigeria stands for

Mr. Speaker, in presenting this gift to me, may I on behalf of my people thank you in humility and assure you that I appreciate the gesture of goodwill and fellowship? I know that I am a very happy person as I stand before you now, because in the past Barbados was to me a name, a page of history, but I have been able to come here and to see the people of Barbados, to see their leaders and join them in their Legislature, although I realise, Mr. Speaker, that you have suspended the sitting. I am glad you have received me as a friend, and all I have to do is to tell you again that you are welcome in Nigeria, and as so many of you have done before, to come and help us build our nation. I realise it is a sort of two-way traffic, and whatever you do you have to encourage the flow of traffic between Nigeria and Barbados, and I assure you that when I return I will have a word with the Minister of Aviation, so that when we are proceeding to Canada or America, as the Hon. Premier has convinced me, instead of going around, we can stop at Barbados. I will try to sell the idea to the Minister of Aviation. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, (Cheers).

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today\'s sitting.

Before I move the adjournment, I should like on behalf of this side of the House - and I know that

other hon. members opposite will join with me - to wish Your Honour the Season's Greetings, and renewed strength and vigour in the New Year.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th January, 1966 at 12 noon.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

In seconding the motion for the adjournment, I beg to associate myself with the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the House in wishing you, Mr. Speaker, the compliments of the Season, and I hope that you will return refreshed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I thank hon. members for their kind Christmas greetings which I heartily reciprocate.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th January, 1966, at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

1.36 p.m