

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, 4th May, 1965.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E T. BRANCKER, Q.C. (Speaker); Mr. L. E SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. R. STC. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. N. W. BOXILL , and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

prayers were read.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR entered the House and took his

seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of the 23rd March, 1965, have been duly circulated and if there is no objection, they will be confirmed. (A pause).

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I am commanded to lay an account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for the Quarter ended 31st March, 1965.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Government Notices were given as follows.-

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On behalf of the Hon. Premier, A Bill to amend the Seawell Airport Act, 1950; also A Bill to impose a tax on travel tickets issued in respect of Journeys commencing at Seawell Airport; also A Bill to amend the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950.

NOTICES OF REPLIES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 20/1964, asked by the hon. Junior member for St. John is now ready.

Also, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 33/1964, asked by the hon. senior member for St. James, is now ready.

Also, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 41/1964, asked by the same hon. member, is now ready.

Also, the reply to parliamentary Question No, 4^1964, asked by the same hon. member, is now ready.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

QUESTION Mr. LOWE:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

Will the Minister state how many Government Projects have involved the award of contracts to International Construction Ltd?

2. Will the Minister also state the number of cases in which additional claims have been submitted by the same company in excess of the contract price and of rejected tenders?

3. Will the Minister also state the amount of funds lent by the Barbados Development Board to this Company and whether the loan was advanced to this Company in the same manner as to other industries, or otherwise?

4.

5. Will the Minister state what safeguards, if any, exists, by which the Development Board can satisfy itself as to the experience of skill viability and general bona fides of persons and companies applying

for pioneer status and or Development loans?

6.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have not had the advantage of care- fully perusing these questions, but I accept them provision- ally subject to my being satisfied that they are appropriately asked of a Minister and are not outside his purview and purely a matter for the Tenders Committee.

Unless the hon. member hears from me to the contrary, those questions would appear on the Order Paper.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. C E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. J. G TUDOR, the Bill to amend the Seawell Air- port Act, 1950, was read a first time.

2.55 p.m.

On motions of Hon. C. E. TAIMA, seconded by Hon. J. C. TUDOR in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:-

A Bill to impose a tax on travel tickets issued in re- spect of journeys commencing at Seawell Airport.

A Bill to amend the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950. QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time. I am advised that the Reply to Question No. 20/1964, asked by the hon. junior member for St. John, is now ready.

WATER-

UNIFORM FOR EMPLOYEE? Of WORKS DEPARTMENT AT PUMPING STATIONS

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?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I regret to inform the House that owing to circumstances over which the Hon. Acting Leader of the House has no control, he is unable to give the Reply to the Hon. member's Question.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Perhaps with the leave of the House later in today's sitting we may be able to give the Reply to the hon. member's Question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am quite willing to allow this matter to be reverted to at a later date.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I can now give the Reply to the hon. member's Question. It is as follows-

"On examining the possibilities of providing uniforms for the staff of the Waterworks Department, the Government considers that the existing conditions under which the employees work do not justify such a provision."

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Reply which has been laid is the Reply to Question No. 33/1964, which stands in the name of the honourable and learned senior member for St. James. I regret to observe that the hon. member is not now in his place. A similar comment also applies in respect of the Replies to Question No. 41/1964 and question No. 42/1964, both of which have been asked by the same hon. member.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. senior member for St. George be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees during the absence of leave of the Chairman of Committees.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Acting Leader of the House would allow it, I would suggest that it would be a good thing if the hon. Junior member for St. James were appointed to act as Chairman of Committees. I think it would be quite in order for the hon. member to take the Chair. The hon. member has stepped in the breach so often when the Chairman of Committees was absent, and he has filled the office with such dignity and impartiality that I could not refrain from suggesting that the hon. member should act as Chairman of Committees with the experience which he has.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I may say that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has not made any motion. 3.05p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. James be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees during the absence of the Hon. Chairman of Committees.

Mr. GODDARD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I just point out that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in his opening remarks said, if the

hon. Acting Leader of the House would allow? I thought hon. members were well aware that it is not a question of the Leader of the House allowing; it is a matter entirely for the decision of the House.

In accordance with custom, the amendment will be put first, and it is that the hon. Junior member for St. James be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees during the absence on Study leave of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, the Chairman of Committees.

Mr. HOLDER:

Mr. Speaker, if I am permitted, I am very thankful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for his kind wishes and for proposing me to act as Chairman for today's sitting, but owing to circumstances, I do feel with all good grace that I must decline.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I point out first that there was a motion made by the Leader of the Opposition, which motion was duly seconded, and which I am about to put. In any event it is not for this day's sitting; it is for the period of six weeks during which the hon. Chairman of Committees has been granted leave by this House.

The question that the hon. junior member for St. James be appointed to act for the period during which the Chairman of Committees was on leave, was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES:

Mr. LYNCH; Mr. GODDARD and Mr. MOTLEY - 3.

NOES:

Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mr. BOXILL; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. WE EKES; Mr. LOWE; Mr. YEARWOOD; Mr. HOLDER; Mr. SMITH and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS - 10.

The question that the hon. senior member for St. George be appointed to act during the period of absence on leave of the Hon. Chairman of Committees, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Item for today under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. Junior member for St. Peter, whom I observe is not in his place.

The next Item of the day stands in the name of the hon. Junior member for Bridgetown, and that is to

resume de- bate on a Resolution relating to the sharp deterioration in the island\'s academic educational standards. When this matter was last discussed in this Chamber, on the motion of the hon. senior member for Christ Church which was seconded by the hon. junior member for St. Michael, further consideration was postponed. If the hon. senior member for Christ Church seeks to continue his address, lie is now at liberty to proceed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am not read/ to continue this matter today, and I am asking that it be de- ferred.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. senior member for Christ Church asking that the continuation of the speech be deferr- ed, or is he proposing to move that further consideration be postponed?

Hon. A E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that,

The question was put and resolved in the affirma- tive without division.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Item under Private Members\' Business stands in the name of the hon. Junior member for St. Phillip, and that is the third reading of a Bill to authorise the Southern District Council to pay to Percival Bascombe a gratuity and pension; but in respect of this matter, I am advised that the Select Committee which was appointed as recently as the 27th of last month ha\' not yet met. and that cannot be proceeded with.

THE GRACE TAYLOR (CONSTRUCTION OF GROUYNE) ACT, 1965

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next I tern under Private Members\' Business stands in the name of the hon. Junior member for Christ Church, and that is the second reading of a Bill to authorise Grace Taylor to erect a groyne and seawalls at Four Acres, Dover, Christ Church.

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to give permission to the owner, Grace Taylor, to erect and estab- lish in the sea a grayne of not more than 36 feet. The pur- pose of this groyne is purely for beach protection. The erosion that takes place in that area from time to time is very severe, and I think this has met with the approval of the authorities who have expert knowledge in this matter, public works, etc. 3.15 p.m.

These Bills come to this Chamber from time to time and it is the duty of the hon. members who bring them in, to state to the House the nature and purpose for these groyne. I have stated the reason and I now beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. LYNCH:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Bill shall be referred to a Select Committee. I have the honour to appoint the following hon. members to sit on that Committee-

The hon. junior member for Christ Church (Mr. Goddard); the hon. senior member for Christ church, (Hon. C. E. TALMA); the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, (Mr. Boxill); the hon. senior member for St. George, (Mr. Lowe); and the hon. Junior member for St. James, (Mr. Holder).

These five hon. members constitute this Select Committee.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that I have just received - hence the delay - two copies from the Accountant General of his yearly Reports for the financial year ended 31st March, 1964.

END OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no more Private Members' Business; Government Business automatically will now be taken.

DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES BILL. 1965

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 8 of Government Business be the First Order of the Day and I am asking leave of the House to take charge of this Item on behalf of the Hon. Premier who is not now in his place,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question that Order No. 8 standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier be the next Order of the Day. Hon. members in favour will please say "Aye" and those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

The Hon. Acting Leader of the House is seeking the indulgence of the House to take charge of this Item standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

If there is no objection, leave will be granted the hon. member.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister to proceed with Order No. 8, which is the second reading of a Bill to amend the Diplomatic Privileges Act, 1947.

Hon. J. a TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware there is on the Statute Book of this Island an Act known as the Diplomatic Privileges Act, 1947, and under that Act it is set out the kind of quality of privileges and immunities which are accorded representatives of foreign Governments working here in this Island.

However, at the time of the passing of this Act, United Nations and other international bodies were not called into operations of the scale to which they now indulge; consequently, our Diplomatic Privileges Act made no provision for giving immunities and privileges to any specialised agencies of international bodies or United Nations. It so happens that the United Kingdom Government which is responsible for non-independent territories has entered into agreement with the United Nations and other agencies with respect to the work to be done by these agencies in certain non-independent territories, and in consequence of that the United Kingdom Government on behalf of these territories has to enact legislation where they do not have it or to amend existing legislation to extend diplomatic privileges and immunities to the officers of international bodies working in these territories. Therefore, the immediate need for the amendment arises from the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the provision of operational and Executive Personnel to the Trust, Non-Self Governing and other territories for whose international relations that Government is responsible.

It is appropriate that these personnel should be granted the same diplomatic privileges and immunities as would be granted to consular officials.

As I have said, we are not yet responsible for our own international relations; the United Kingdom Government still is; but we have to introduce this legislation so that personnel of international bodies working in our territories with the approval of the United Kingdom Government, should enjoy the same diplomatic privileges and immunities as if they were given by the British Government.

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.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go in Committee on this Bill.

Hon. C E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

3.25p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hon. a E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

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

On motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I inform the hon. members that on resuming the Chair when the Acting Chairman of Committees reported to me the passing of this Bill in Committee, I thought it fit to comment on the expeditious manner in which he had reported the passing of that Bill in Committee.

PENSIONS (TRANSFERRED FEDERAL OFFICERS) BILL

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 9 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the day is automatically Order No. 9, following on the Order which has just been dealt with. This Order stands in the name of the honourable and learned senior member for St. John. I understand that the Hon. Acting Leader of the House is craving the indulgence of the House to proceed with this Order. This Order is to move the second reading of a Bill to give effect to an Agreement made between the Interim Commissioner for the West Indies and the Government of the Island in respect of certain pensions for service under the West Indies Federation and the Interim Commissioner.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the House is aware of the fact that although the Federation of the West Indies came to an end in 1962, there are, from time to time, certain provisions arising out of the dissolution of the Federation which have to be settled between the ; Interim Commissioner and the

various Governments. The question of the transfer of Civil Servants who worked with the Federation and their own Unit Governments is one which has been engaging the attention of all Governments, and the Interim Commissioner for some time, particularly with respect to pensions. Therefore an Agreement was made between the several Governments, ourselves included, and the Interim Commissioner in respect of certain pensions for services with the West Indies Federation, and, of course, with the Interim Commissioner. Obviously, some of these pensions would, in the natural course of events, become payable by the Interim Commissioner to persons who were transferred from the service of the Federation to the Service of the Interim Commissioner. There was a transfer of the Federation to the services of the individual Governments and the Interim Commissioner, it has been arranged that the return for the payment to the ... (ASIDES).

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that I have great difficulty in hearing the Hon. Acting Leader of the House. There seems to be a conversation taking place between the hon. senior member for St. Andrew and the hon. member who is on his right, which conversation may take place only sotto voce. Let the Hon. Acting Leader of the House proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I was reminding the House that under the Agreement between the Interim Commissioner and the Governments the return for the payment to the Governments (ASIDES) Mr. Speaker, I think I had better allow Your Honour to intervene at this Juncture.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. senior member for St. Andrew and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas understand that I must hear only the Hon. Acting Leader of the House who is the hon. member now on his feet. 3.35 p.m.

May I point out to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew that he is much too audible at this time in as much as he is not on his feet? Let the Hon. Acting Leader of the House proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that under the Agreement which has been signed between the Government of Barbados and the Interim Commissioner in this matter of pensions, in return for the payment to the Government of a stated sum, the Government has agreed to take over the responsibility of the Interim Commissioner, and to pay in due course, when these pensions are to be paid, such annual sums to persons and their dependents.

The Bill therefore seeks to give legislative sanction to this Agreement between the Interim Commissioner and the Government of Barbados in the matter of pensions to be paid to persons who were either Civil Servants in the Federal Government, but who are now transferred to the service of the Government of Barbados. The Bill is simple in form, as I said. It just asks legislative sanction to the Agreement under which the Government of Barbados undertakes to pay in due course, whenever these pensions are due, such pensions to persons and their dependents.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed. Schedules 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, 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. J. C. TUDOR, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill was read a third time and passed

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF LAND TO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 7 be the next Order of the day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.45 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, on 22nd May, 1963, approval was given to Resolution No. 32/1963 for certain land to be vested in the Housing Authority by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. At that time, due to an error, a portion of land at Thorpes, St. James, which should have been included in this Resolution was omitted. The amount of land is 219,594 square feet, the description of which is given in the Schedule.

We are now seeking legislation for approval to vest this land in the Housing Authority. The main reason for doing so is to make it possible for the Housing Authority to sell the bouses at Thorpes to prospective purchasers together with the land. If this land is vested in the Housing Authority it would be possible for the houses to be sold.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HOLDER:

Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Minister will bear with me, I am seeking information as regards the boundaries of this land. I want to know what part is this of the land at Thorpes in St. James.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is there any other hon. member desirous of speaking on this matter before the Hon. Minister of Health proceeds to reply? (A Pause).

No such indication is given, therefore the Hon. Minister may proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS This is not the whole of Thorpes. Part of the area has been vested in the Housing Authority by Resolution 33/1963, but this portion was omitted. What we are asking is to have this portion which was omitted vested in the Housing Authority.

Mr. HOLDER:

Mr. Speaker, -

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that the hon. member cannot speak again.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker--

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister has already exercised his right to reply and before he did so, I enquired whether any hon. member was desirous of speaking and no hon. member rose.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Do you mean to say that no member can speak now? Do you mean to say that I cannot speak now?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Any hon. member seeking to speak now would have to make a motion for the House to give him permission,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Well, pass the Resolution.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND TO BARBADOS UNION OIL COMPANY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker. I am asking for leave to take charge of Order No. 5, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Trade and Labour, who is not in his place.

There being no objection, leave was granted the Hon. Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day is a Resolution standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Union Oil Company Ltd., of a parcel of land situate at St. Ann's in the parish of St. Michael on the terms and for the purposes as set out in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Addendum sets out, this Resolution is seeking the approval of the House for granting the right of the Government of the Island to lease 408,289 square feet of land situated in the district of St. Ann's in the parish of St. Michael to the Barbados Union Oil Company Limited.

The terms of the lease as set out is for a period of twenty-five years renewable on application by the Company for a further period of not less than ten years commencing on the effective date of the legislation implementing the Agreement made on 26th October, 1962, between the Government and the Company establishing the right of the Company to construct, maintain and operate a refinery and to engage in all activities in connection therewith.

The rental during the initial term of twenty-five years shall be at the rate of \$6,000 (Eastern Caribbean Currency) per annum and the rental during the extended term shall be at such a rate as may be mutually agreed between the Company and the Government, and in default of agreement the rental shall be the subject of Arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1958.

This matter has been engaging the attention of the Government and the Company for the past three years and the agreement has now been settled to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. The purpose of the lease is to enable the company to operate the company of which mention has been made herein. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the consideration of that Resolution concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, in moving the adjournment of the House, I believe that next Tuesday is one of the days of the Test Match - the last day of the Test Match to be exact - and it might be an interesting stage at which to finish those proceedings. I believe, Sir, that in the light of what I have just said, hon. members might not wish to divide their loyalties next Tuesday. In the circumstances, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 18th May, 1965, at 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 18th May, 1965, at 2.30 p.m. of the clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.00 p.m.