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THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 14th February, 1966

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 9.30 a.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

Mr. BATSON entered the House and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: to consider the Report of the Select Committee appointed to prepare a Draft Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Report was laid on the 1st February this year.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the adoption of the Report made by the Select Committee appointed to prepare an Address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. The Select Committee met on several occasions, and the Report is now ready for adoption by the House.

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

The question that the Report be now adopted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PASSING OF ADDRESS

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the passing of the following Address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BARBADOS

to

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Most Gracious Sovereign,

The General Assembly of this ancient and loyal territory of Barbados desire, with all due submission and

respect, to affirm their unswerving loyalty to, and affection for, Your Majesty.

The General Assembly rejoice that, on the first occasion in the history of our Island which has enjoyed long and unbroken connection with the Crown, Your Majesty has been pleased graciously to participate in the proceedings of our Parliament in this Island.

The General Assembly humbly extend their good wishes for Your Majesty's continued health and happiness and for the peace and prosperity of the Commonwealth of which Your Majesty is so illustrious a Head."

Mr. LOWE: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.10 a.m.

Mr. CORBIN: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
9.48 a.m.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ADDRESSES JOINT
SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

On Resumption:

Honourable members being in their places, Senator E. S. ROBINSON and Senator C. L. BRATHWAITE entered the Chamber and informed Mr. SPEAKER that he was instructed by the President of the Senate to invite His Honour and honourable members of the House of Assembly to come to the Senate Chamber in order that a Joint Meeting of both Houses of the Legislature should be held.

His Honour the Speaker preceded by the Marshal carrying the Mace and followed by hon. members in pairs according to seniority, proceeded to the Senate Chamber and awaited Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh entered the Senate Chamber accompanied by His Excellency the Governor, the President of the Senate, His Honour the Speaker and the Hon. Premier.

The President of the Senate addressed Her Majesty the Queen as follows:-

Your Majesty:

It is indeed a very great honour and privilege to welcome you, on this historic occasion, to our Senate Chamber. It is indeed an historic occasion because it is the first time in our long history of over three hundred years that this ever British Island has had the honour of a visit from a reigning Sovereign.

I remember when speaking in this Chamber a little more than thirteen years ago I said that it was my earnest hope and expectation that Your Majesty's succession to the Throne would see the birth of a second Elizabethan age, and I am glad that I have lived to see this hope being fulfilled. And it is being fulfilled not by wars and piracy and force of arms as in the olden time, but by Your Majesty's humanitarian approach to the hearts and minds and aspirations of all Your people everywhere.

And now, at long last, it is our turn. I feel sure that as you go among our people Your Majesty will see that the fire of loyalty which was kindled more than three hundred years ago still burns among us with all its ancient brilliance.

And now, Ma'am, I respectfully ask you with my humble duty to accept this small token of our grateful thanks for the honour and joy you have given us by Your presence here today. It brings with it the respect and devotion and loyalty of all the members of our Senate and it bids you a most loyal welcome to our Island home.

THE SENATE OF BARBADOS
TO
THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Most Gracious Sovereign:

The Senate of this Island of Barbados with humble duty affirms its loyalty and devotion to the Throne and Person of Your Majesty.

The Senate deeply appreciates the signal honour which has been conferred on it today by the presence of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

On this historic occasion, the Senate desires to assure Your Majesty that this visit is a source of pride and joy to all the inhabitants of this Island and fervently hopes that by God's providence Your Majesty may be spared long to reign over us, Your Majesty's loyal and devoted subjects.

His Honour the Speaker then proceeded to address Her Majesty the Queen as follows:-

May it please Your Majesty,

The members of the General Assembly beg leave to present their humble duty and to extend their warmest and most loyal greetings to Your Majesty and to His Royal Highness.

Your Gracious Presence would at any time be a happy occasion for us. But here, this morn, we are doubly distinguished. In the first place, you, Ma'am, have created loyal history, because this is the first occasion in our long Island story that the Sovereign has -- in person -- participated in our proceedings.

Then, Ma'am, by one of those coincidences (which are as appropriate as they are delightful and rare) Your Majesty has chosen to visit us on the day when tokens of love and constancy are proffered and exchanged. We do not -- we dare not -- suppose that this neat and graceful compliment to our Island and her people was entirely the contrivance of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, but we like to think that an affectionate husband should, even more so on St. Valentine's Day, escort his lady on a visit to old and cherished friends.

This territory, Ma'am, has -- for more than thrice an hundred years -- enjoyed free institutions. We uphold the Rule of Law and the Freedoms, so hardly won in your own country, so dearly treasured in ours. The crown of all our liberties is the Parliamentary system which took root amongst us early in the Seventeenth Century and which remains undisturbed, yet even more firmly entrenched than ever. Within such framework of Constitutional government, our citizens pursue their goals of social justice.

To welcome Your Majesty amongst us is, therefore, no mere formal exercise in gallantry. On the contrary, it is an acknowledgement that free institutions are the firmest guarantee of ordered progress, and a solemn pledge whereby the Commonwealth will be fortified by the example set forth in this Island notwithstanding this is by no means the largest of Your Majesty's territories.

And so, Ma'am, rejoicing in over three centuries of Parliamentary democracy (confidently looking forward to a future in which freedom will provide even greater opportunities for our territory and its people) the General Assembly of this Island in our own persons, and on behalf of our fellow citizens, once again declares its unswerving loyalty to Your Gracious Person; and respectfully craves leave to present to Your Majesty, through me, its humble servant, this mark of bounden duty and service.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BARBADOS

to

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Most Gracious Sovereign,

The General Assembly of this ancient and loyal territory of Barbados desire, with all due submission and respect, to affirm their unswerving loyalty to, and affection for, Your Majesty.

The General Assembly rejoice that, on the first occasion in the history of our Island which has enjoyed long and unbroken connection with the Crown, Your Majesty has been pleased graciously to participate in the proceedings of our Parliament in this Island.

The General Assembly humbly extend their good wishes for Your Majesty's continued health and happiness and for the peace and prosperity of the Commonwealth of which Your Majesty is so illustrious a Head."

Her Majesty the Queen then addressed the Joint Session of both Houses of the Legislature as follows:-

Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly,

I thank you sincerely for your kind speeches and for the Addresses which you have just presented to me.

These re-echo the welcome which my husband and I have been given today by the people of Bridgetown and which we shall never forget. This welcome, I know, stems from the close association which this territory has maintained with the Crown for more than three centuries.

During the last few years I have heard from members of my family and more recently from my husband how much they have enjoyed their visits to the Caribbean and in particular to Barbados. It is therefore a great joy to me to come here to address a joint session of the Legislature today, and I look forward eagerly to seeing the people, the scenery, and the achievements, of which I have heard so much.

Your Parliamentary Institutions are well tried and represent your firm and unshaken beliefs in the democratic way of life. This above all is what the Commonwealth exists to promote. In the Commonwealth we believe that different races, traditions and social systems can exist together and that, within each community personal freedom under the law is quite compatible with the struggle for better conditions of life.

I pray that in the years to come this heritage of the parliamentary system of Government will stand fast as a bulwark in support of civil liberties and of individual freedom. May it be a source of spiritual strength under which the economy and social progress of the Island may flourish. Finally I trust that under God's guidance the partnership between Britain and Barbados which has been maintained so faithfully for so long will continue from strength to strength in the years ahead.

I now have much pleasure in presenting to you the new Barbados Coat of Arms.

Her Majesty the Queen then presented the Barbados Coat of Arms to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Assembly.

11.10 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER and other hon. members preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER REPORTS ADDRESS BY HER MAJESTY

Mr. SPEAKER: In compliance with an invitation from the President of the Other Place, hon. members, preceded by myself, entered the Other Chamber and participated in a joint meeting of the Legislature in the presence of the Sovereign. I have the honour to inform hon. members that

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to deliver an Address on that occasion, in reply to, and in acknowledgement of, the Address presented to Her Majesty by me on behalf of hon. members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 22nd February 1966, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: I beg to second that.

COAT OF ARMS FOR BARBADOS

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the motion for the adjournment, I have the honour to inform the House that the Coat of Arms for Barbados was presented by the Sovereign to the President of the Other Place and to myself. If hon. members feel so disposed, in filing out, they may inspect this Coat of Arms which I direct be now laid on the Table of this House.

The question is that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow week, Tuesday, 22nd February, 1966 at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", (MEMBERS: Aye), hon. members against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. Accordingly, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday 22nd February, 1966, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon. 11.25 a.m.