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THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1966-71

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 17th November, 1966

The 1966-71 Legislative Session was inaugurated at 3 o'clock p.m. today in the Senate Chamber by His Excellency, Sir John Montague Stow, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados and its Dependencies.

Pursuant to the issuing of Writs, the Hon. Members elected to constitute the General Assembly for the Session assembled in the Assembly Chamber as follows:-

Messrs. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., F.Z.S., (Senior member for St. Lucy); L. E. SMITH, J.P., (Senior member for St. Joseph); E. D. MOTTLEY, C.B.E., J.P., (Senior member for the City of Bridgetown); K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (Senior member for St. Peter); E. St. A. HOLDER, J.P., (Junior member for St. James); C. E. TALMA, (Junior member for Christ Church); J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Junior member for St. Lucy); F. W. BARROW, B.Sc., LL.D., (Hon.), (Senior member for St. John); J. W. CORBIN, (Junior member for St. Andrew); G. G. FERGUSON, (Junior member for St. Michael); R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P., (Senior member for St. Philip); W. R. LOWE, (Senior member for St. George); L. A. LYNCH, J.P., (Junior member for the City of Bridgetown); N. W. BOXILL, (Junior member for St. Thomas); J. B. YEARWOOD, (Junior member for St. John); A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Senior member for St. Andrew); Sir G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., D.C.L., (Hon.), (Junior member for St. Joseph); W. C. B. HINDS, (Junior member for St. Peter); G. E. SARGEANT, (Junior member for St. Philip); C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P., (Junior member for St. George); L. S. CRAIG, (Senior member for St. James); J. B. SPRINGER, (Senior member for St. Michael); H. B. St. JOHN, LL.B., (Senior member for Christ Church); and J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Senior member for St. Thomas).

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

On receipt of a Message by the Sergeant-at-arms that His Excellency the Governor desire the Elected Members of the General Assembly to elect a Speaker to be presented for His Excellency's approval, Mr. Clerk replied: "As His Excellency pleases."

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Clerk, I beg to move that the hon. senior member for St. Lucy do now take the Chair of this House and in doing so, I reflect on the long service which the hon. senior member for St. Lucy has given this House of Assembly. Within the next two weeks we will be called upon to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of his membership of the House.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Clerk, I am really very pleased to second the nomination of the hon. senior member

for St. Lucy to be Speaker of this Assembly, and I congratulate the hon. member for the excellent service which he has given in the past. It is hardly possible to find anyone who is more fitting to be Speaker of this Assembly.

I have much pleasure in seconding his nomination.

Mr. CLERK: There being no other nominee, I now declare the hon. senior member for St. Lucy duly elected Speaker of this Honourable House.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR and Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS then robed the Speaker/Elect and then directed him to the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: I am profoundly grateful to hon. members that for the second time you have seen fit to nominate me as your Speaker.

I shall again try to do my best even if at all times I appreciate that my Rulings may not meet with universal approval. However, any such mistakes will be of the head and not of the heart. The perfect Speaker has not arisen in this world, even if I may say in the Commonwealth of Nations.

Again, I am deeply grateful to hon. members that you have seen fit to give me a second trial. (Cheers)

I have the honour to request that my proposer and seconder -- the hon. junior member for St. Lucy and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph -- be so kind to proceed to the Other Place and inform His Excellency the Governor that this House of Assembly has chosen me as their Speaker and is now ready to present me for Your Excellency's approbation.

The hon. junior member for St. Lucy and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph proceeded to the Senate Chamber and returned.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker-Elect, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and I waited on His Excellency in the Senate Chamber and informed him that the House had made choice of its Speaker and desired to present him for His Excellency's approval. His Excellency expressed his readiness to receive the House.

Mr. SPEAKER/ELECT, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and the other hon. members following him according to seniority proceeded to the Senate Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: Your Excellency, the House of Assembly have chosen me as their Speaker and I now present myself for Your Excellency's approval.

HIS EXCELLENCY: I have much pleasure in approving of the choice made by the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your Excellency, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I lay claim to their ancient

and undoubted rights and privileges, especially to freedom from arrest and molestation of their persons and servants, to freedom of speech in debate, to free access to Your Excellency whenever occasion may require it, and that the most favourable construction may be placed upon all their proceedings.

HIS EXCELLENCY: Mr. Speaker, I give and grant to the House of Assembly, so far as it is consistent with the Royal Prerogative and with the laws and constitution of this

Island, every privilege and liberty which have been enjoyed by any former Assembly as fully and freely as ever.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

His Excellency then delivered a Speech to the Houses of the Legislature, at the conclusion of which he presented a copy to Mr. SPEAKER.

The Speech was as follows:

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS FOR THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE ON THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 1966

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

The formalities required for the opening of a new session of the Legislature after a dissolution have all been observed but without, and on this particular occasion, the full pomp and ceremony to which we have been accustomed. This omission is in no way intended to minimise the importance of this present occasion but in order to highlight the forthcoming event on Wednesday, 30th November, when your Honourable Houses will participate fully in the historic State Opening of Parliament under the Constitution of an independent Barbados it is proposed to prorogue this session on 23rd November before the ceremonial opening.

2. Today's ceremony is a unique one. It marks the opening of a session of the Legislature which, so far as can be traced, will be the first one of so short a duration. Although it will be the shortest session as yet, it will be a very important one. My speech will also follow this pattern and will be brief.

3. In this connection, you should know that invitations have been issued to eighty-eight countries to send official representatives to the Independence Celebrations, and that naval units from five countries will be represented here. Puerto Rican units of the United States Air Force and supersonic aircraft of the Royal Air Force will also be saluting this new nation in a flypast on Independence Day. All sections of the community are expected to ensure that throughout the whole period of celebrations, the reputation of Barbados for hospitality and courtesy is equalled, and surpassed on this very special occasion.

4. To all the new members of both Houses, I extend a warm welcome.

5. I am happy to be able to announce that on the 11th of November, 1966, Her Majesty in Council made an amendment to the Barbados (Letters Patent Consolidation) Order, 1964, whereby, with effect from tomorrow, 18th November, the designation of "Premier" will be changed to that of "Prime Minister". This amending Order is being laid before the United Kingdom Parliament today. I should like to take this opportunity of warmly congratulating the Honourable E. W. Barrow on being the first Prime Minister of Barbados.

6. There has been only one change in the composition of the Cabinet by the addition of another Minister without Portfolio. The Honourable Errol Walton Barrow will continue to hold the office of Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

7. The other Ministers, drawn from the General Assembly, will continue to hold their former offices as follows:—

The Honourable James Cameron Tudor;
Minister of Education.

The Honourable Cuthbert Edwy Talma;
Minister of Health and Community Development.

The Honourable George Granville Fergusson;
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Honourable Arlington DaCosta Edwards;
Minister of Trade, Labour, National
Insurance and Tourism.

The Honourable Neville Wilfred Boxill;
Minister of Communications and Works.

8. Senator the Honourable Hilton Augustus Vaughan O.B.E., Q.C., and Senator the Honourable Philip Marlowe Greaves will continue to hold the offices of Attorney General, and Minister without Portfolio, respectively. Senator Frederick Gladstone Smith has been appointed to be a Minister without Portfolio.

9. There has been no change in the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. Senator Odessa Gittens will continue to be Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministries of Education and of Health and Community Development. Mr. W. R. Lowe, M.P., will continue to be Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Works.

10. My Government proposes that this session of the Legislature should be concerned with dealing with such measures as are essential to be presented to you and considered before the Island attains its independence on 30th November, 1966. It is also proposed during this session to lay on the Table of both Houses the national flag and the manuscript of the words and music officially chosen as the Barbados national anthem.

11. My Government's future plans for the development and well being of all sectors of the community will be outlined to you in the Speech from the Throne to be delivered by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent on Her Majesty's behalf on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament on the 30th of November, 1966.

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

12. I now declare the Legislative Session open and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

HOUSE RETURN TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

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

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER REPORTS HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: When this Hon. House attended the Senate Chamber a short while ago, His Excellency the Governor graciously was pleased to deliver a Speech with which I have been furnished a copy.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that His Excellency's Speech be taken as read.

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

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

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. Philip be elected as Deputy Speaker of this Hon. House for this session.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the hon. junior member for St. Philip be elected as Deputy Speaker of this Hon. House for this session. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I now declare the hon. junior member for St. Philip Deputy Speaker of this Hon. House for this session. *(Cheers)*

SETTLEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Standing Orders of this House for the last session be the Standing Orders of the House for this session.

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

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. junior member for St. John be appointed as Chairman of Committees of this House for this session.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the hon. junior member for St. John be Chairman of Committees of this House for this session. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I now declare the hon. junior member for St. John Chairman of Committees of this House for this session. *(Cheers)*

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Printing Committee for this Session be comprised of the following hon. members: -- Mr. Speaker; the hon. junior member for St. Michael (Hon. G. G. Fergusson); the hon. junior member for St. Lucy (Hon. J. C. Tudor); the hon. junior member for St. James (Mr. Holder); the hon. junior member for St. George (Mr. Hoppin); the hon. junior member for Bridgetown (Mr. Lynch) and the hon. senior member for St. Peter (Mr. Husbands).

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

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

DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Debates Committee, that Committee is constituted of the members of the Printing Committee, which has been already elected, with the addition of a member of the Other Place.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the Hon. Leader of the House for reminding, in some cases, and in other cases informing, hon. members that that is the constitutional procedure.

VICTORIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY

Mr. SPEAKER: The members of the Victoria Emigration Society are appointed by me. I have the honour to appoint the hon. junior member for St. James, the hon. senior member for St. Philip and the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, as members of the Victoria Emigration Society for this Session.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. John (Mr. Yearwood); the hon. junior member for St. Andrew (Mr. Corbin); the hon. senior member for St. Philip, (Mr. Weekes) and Mr. R. C. Chapman be the members of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for this Session.

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

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

3.35 p.m.

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose that the hon. senior member for St. George, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, Mr. R. L. Greene and Mr. E. L. Bannister be members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board.

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

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, the hon. junior member for St. James and the hon. junior member for St. John, the hon. junior member for St. Philip, the hon. senior member for St. George, the hon. senior member for St. Michael and the hon. senior member for Bridgetown be members of the Public Accounts Committee.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform the House that I have appointed the hon. junior member for St. Lucy to take charge of Government Business for this session.

Mr. J. MILLIKEN APPOINTED AUDITOR OF SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter dated the 10th November, 1966, from Mr. J. Milliken of Messrs. FitzPatrick, Graham and Co. Chartered Accountants. It reads as follows:-

The Speaker,
The House of Assembly.

Sir,

SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

I wish to offer myself for re-appointment as Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for the year commencing 1st July, 1966, under Section 4, Sub-section 7 (i) of the Act of 1943 - 15 at a remuneration of £125.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
J. MILLIKEN.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR TO SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. J. Milliken be re-appointed as Auditor of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank for the year commencing 1st July, 1966 at a remuneration of £125 per annum.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay Message No. 4/1966 regarding the recognition of Sir Grantley Adams, C.M.G., Q.C., M.P., as Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1966.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for seven months ended 31st October, 1966.

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police during Quarter ended 30th June, 1966.

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended 31st December, 1965, in respect of schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, for the period ended 31st March, 1966, in respect of schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

An account of the transactions in Rum in the several districts of the Island for the Quarter ended 30th September, 1966.

The Customs Duties (Net and Netting of Cotton, Synthetic Fibres and Spun Glass for use in the protection of Fruit and vegetable Crops) Order, 1966.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1966.

The Fishing Industry (Safety) Regulations, 1966.

Hon. N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Statement showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st May, 1966.

Statement showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General and the amount due by the various Post Offices to 30th June, 1966.

Statement showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General and the amount due by the various Post Offices to 31st July, 1966.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Resolution to place the sum of \$932,750 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1966-67, No. 35 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$357,527 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part I -- Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1966-67, No. 36 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to place the sum of \$460,204 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1966-67, Part II -- Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1966-67, No. 37 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal in all their stages with the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1966.

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government of the repayment of certain loans which the Barbados Marketing Corporation has been authorised to raise for the purpose of discharging its functions and obligations.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to securities created or issued in the United Kingdom on behalf of the Government of Barbados.

A Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Securities created or issued in the United Kingdom on behalf of the Government of Barbados, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. C. E. Talma, a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, was read a first time.

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of an address in reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is customary for that to be done at the beginning of each session of the House. I give the hon. member such leave therefore, and I direct that the hon. member hand a copy of such Address to the Clerk of the House.
4.05 p.m.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to give notice of a Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave has been granted. Let the hon. member proceed with the Resolution.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to move the passing of an Address in reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech delivered on the occasion of the opening of the Legislature on the 17th November, 1966.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this brings to an end Government Business for today's Sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, 18th November, 1966, at 3 p.m.

I will also like to tell hon. members that we propose to do all the business of which we gave notice at today's Sitting. It includes Committee of Supply as well as the other business.

I should also tell members that I think it may be impracticable to print an Order Paper for tomorrow's session,

but we have provided against that by circulating the hon. members with copies of the various Resolutions and Bills which we have given notice of today.

Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the Government that it is customary, when Committees are appointed which includes members of the House from both sides, at least to ask the Opposition beforehand of their willingness to serve. I cannot refer to what has happened already today as regards the appointment of the Committee, but I do make the suggestion now.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, of course, the hon. member has been away from this House for some time and he is not accustomed to the practice of this House now. In the first place, it is completely out of order for the hon. member to challenge transactions of this House and, in the second place, the hon. member is reflecting on a previous vote of this House.

For some time now it has been the practice of this House to reply to the Speech from the Throne by a Resolution moved by the junior member of the House, not by a Select Committee.

The hon. member, apparently, did not know this.

The question that the House adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, 18th November, 1966, at 3 p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.