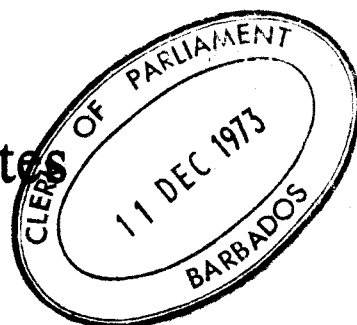


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th May, 1972.

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. MAXWELL, LL.B. (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works) (Acting Leader of the House); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E. (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A. (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. A. MORRISON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Mr. Evelyn GREAVES enter the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of this Honourable Chamber for 18th April, 1972, are before you for confirmation, and unless there is any objection, they will be confirmed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, before the business of this Honourable Chamber commences, I should like to crave the indulgence of the House to pay tribute to a distinguished son of the soil in the person of the late Charles Wilton Wood Greenidge who was born on the 10th January, 1889 and who recently passed on.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I stop the hon. member for a moment? I want the assent of the House on the confirmation of the Minutes.

There being no objection, the Minutes are duly confirmed.

Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY *re* THE LATE CHARLES WILTON WOOD GREENIDGE

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I crave the leave of this Honourable Chamber to pay tribute to this distinguished Barbadian, who recently died.

Mr. Greenidge, Mr. Speaker, was a Barbadian who attended Harrison College and Downing College, Cambridge, and studied law in England. He held several legal posts during his career. He was a Magistrate in St. Kitts, a Magistrate in Barbados and he was also a Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal in Barbados. Between 1932 and 1936 he was the Honourable Chief Justice of British Honduras. He also served in the Colonial Empire in Nigeria where he was Solicitor General, and he was a Member of the Commission on the Development of British Guiana (now Guyana) as it was then called. He was a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Slavery, and his connection mainly with the Legislature is that between the years 1958 and 1962 he was a member of the Legislative Council of Barbados. That I think is sufficient connection to justify our paying tribute not only to a distinguished son of the soil but to a Parliamentarian.

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. Greenidge — I have had the privilege of knowing him for some considerable time — was a

man of undoubted charm, great scholarship, a great humanitarian, very affable, very easy to get on with, and I think his career is a clear indication not only of his learning and his profound legal knowledge, but of his ability to serve and to give of his best at all times.

It does not pay very much to speak too long on an occasion such as this. His deeds, his works, his achievements are eloquent tributes of what he has done for humanity, and so, Mr. Speaker, I should like to move the passing of the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy concerning the death of Mr. Charles Wilton Wood Greenidge, a former Member of the Upper House of the Legislature, and a distinguished Barbadian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his relatives."

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, from the side of the Opposition, I do not think that you can see the Leader of the Opposition yet since he is not exactly in his place, but I am sure he would wish us to associate this side of the House with the comments made by the Acting Leader of the House today, the Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. Greenidge certainly comes from a line of distinguished Barbadians who have rendered outstanding service in the history of this country in the first place, in the history of the West Indies and on a wider international field. His family name is well associated with places such as Golden Ridge Plantation and areas in St. Philip, and indeed also with the parish of St. James, and I think it is a good thing that both sides of the House in paying tribute to a distinguished Barbadian can do so in the knowledge that his racial characteristics have made no difference whatsoever to the degree with which he has pursued the path of uplifting humanity. I think his association with the Anti-Slavery Society is certainly outstanding tribute to his contribution to this country. In this respect, therefore, we join with the other side in asking that the Resolution be unanimously passed.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that it was not possible for me to be here a few minutes ago, but I do not think I would let the occasion pass without adding to what my colleague has said something personal in respect of the death of Mr. Greenidge.

I have been acquainted with Mr. Greenidge as man and boy for perhaps thirty or thirty-five

years and he showed me the greatest possible kindness when I was first a student in England. I became aware of his work with the Anti-Slavery Society in many respects which it may surprise members of the House to know was at times carried on at personal risk to himself when he was exposing conditions of life in three of the South American Republics. He received threats to his life and bombs through the post from those whose interest in the perpetuation of serfdom he was attacking.

Mr. Greenidge always had the keenest possible interest in Barbadian history and always regarded himself as a man with a balanced approach to the problems of life in Barbados which made him, I think, somewhat distressed in the years immediately after 1961 when he came under such very political attack from the then Government. This may, I think, have contributed to his retirement from the field in Barbados itself at that time, and eventually for reasons of health, as perhaps the Minister of Communications may have mentioned, he found it necessary to retire even from England; but Mr. Dick Greenidge leaves behind a family who has given many years, one can say centuries, of service to Barbados, and I am glad to think that he was never attacked on the basis, as the hon. member for Christ Church has said, of his colour or racial antecedents. He may have been attacked for what were his presumed political beliefs, but never at all on any personal or racial level.

Mr. Greenidge was a very great raconteur and a very great conversationalist, and I would deem it a privilege all my life to have been brought into contact with him at the many and varied levels of activity at which I saw him work.

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

Hon. Members stood in their places for one Minute.

2.40 p.m.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have been commanded to lay on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance the following documents:

(1) The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1971.

(2) The Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for twelve months ended 31st March, 1972.

(3) An Account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for the Quarter ended 31st March, 1972.

(4) The Government Debentures (Exemption from Estate and Succession Duties) Order, 1972.

(5) The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1972.

(6) The Customs (Amendment) Order, 1971

(7) The Customs Duties (Caribbean Meteorological Council) Order, 1972.

(8) The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations, 1972.

(9) The Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Barbados for the Avoidance of Double Taxation.

I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, The Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1972.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report and Accounts of the Urban Development Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1971.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister to approve the Order entitled "The Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1972". I also beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1968.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

(1) A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Thyme Bottom, Christ Church for the purpose of extending and developing Seawell Airport.

(2) A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Warleigh Plantation, St. Peter for the purpose of providing a playing field.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Ministers:

1. In view of the fishing industry at Tent Bay in Saint Joseph and in view of the Hotel Industry in the said area, would the Minister take all the necessary steps to have a bath and changing room erected at Tent Bay, St. Joseph?

2. (a) Is the Minister aware that quite recently the cellars of the District "A" Magistrates' Court are being used as a store room by the Ministry of Communications and Works?

(b) That as a result of such use, there is a great increase in the activities of heavy vehicles moving through the Court yard to and from the said cellars thereby increasing the amount of noise in all the courts?

(c) In view of the above, would the Minister take the necessary steps to regulate the use of the said cellars so as to remove the annoyance now caused by the lorries and the loading and/or discharge of material at the cellars when courts are sitting?

3. (a) Is the Minister aware that the Barbados Light & Power Company has installed utility poles in the Joes River Area, but has been unable to install the necessary power line due to difficult terrain of the area?

(b) Would the Government make all necessary arrangements to assist the Barbados Light & Power Company in installing the necessary lines so that the residents of the area can avail themselves of the electricity service?

4. Now that Cambridge, St. Joseph has hit the limelight as the film location for the shooting of the film "Black Snake", would the Government cause to be installed as soon as possible, a public telephone box and street lights in the area?

5. Would the Minister state how soon the Government hopes to introduce in this Honourable House a new Family Law Bill to up date the present law which is now outdated?

6. (a) Would the Minister state for the benefit of this Honourable House what percentage of the Barbados

Marketing Corporation's activities is taken up in the importation, purchase, and distribution of non-local commodities?

- (b) What are the specific canned foods which are handled and distributed by the said Barbados Marketing Corporation?

7. In view of the fact that the announcers at CBC frequently speak of Radio 900 A.M. & F.M., would the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable Chamber -

- (a) The power in watts of the said F.M. Transmission?
- (b) If the F.M. Transmitter is omni-directional or not?
- (c) What area coverage does it provide?
- (d) Since many persons within two miles of of CBC's Pine Office complain of not being able to receive the alleged F.M. broadcast, though having the necessary equipment to do so, would the Minister state how soon this advertised F.M. Transmission will cover a 360° radius?

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Sport, Youth Affairs and Community Development.

1. Is the Minister aware that the Rockfield Social Centre in St. Lucy is in a dilapidated condition, in dire need of repair and expansion, and that the playing field is in need of proper development?
2. Is the Minister aware that this centre plays a vital role in the social and cultural life of the St. Lucy community and that its poor condition seriously hampers its ability to do so?
3. Will the Minister state precisely what action his Ministry proposes to take to rectify this state of affairs?

To enquire of the Minister of Health and Welfare.

1. Is the Minister aware that the black poisonous smoke and fumes emitted

from vehicular traffic, particularly heavy duty vehicles, constitute a serious health hazard to the country?

2. Will the Minister institute immediate and effective measures to protect the community from this danger?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works :-

1. Is the Minister aware that difficulties are experienced by the travelling public, particularly from St. Lucy area, in obtaining public transport to and from the City of Bridgetown?
2. Is the Minister aware of the valuable service which the Mini buses and pick-ups are performing in relieving this hardship?
3. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties which some Minibus and pick-up operators experience in obtaining permits?
4. Will the Minister state precisely what are Government's intentions in this matter?

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1968.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the first report of the Public Accounts Committee. Copies will be circulated in due course.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1968, be read a first time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1968 be read a first time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division,
2.50 p.m.*

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

The Order Paper is very short today, and I do not think that it will affect the working of the House or that we will be unfair to the Opposition.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

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

MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1972

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the second reading of a Bill to amend the Medical Registration Act, 1971, be taken as the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

My Ministerial Colleague, the Hon. Minister of Education, is acting Minister of Health in the absence of the substantive Minister, who is away of Government business, and I am asking leave for the Hon. Minister of Education to take charge of this Bill on behalf of the substantive Minister.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, in moving that this Bill be read a second time, I wish to point out that Section 12 of the Medical Registration Act, 1971, makes provision that if any medical practitioner is convicted of an offence outside of Barbados, which if committed in Barbados would be punishable on indictment; or

(b) is convicted of such offence in Barbados; or (c) is guilty of professional misconduct, such medical practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Under Section 12(2) of the said Act, disciplinary proceedings may be instituted by the Medical Council and this may involve censure; suspension of registration for such period not exceeding one year; or a direction of the Registrar that the name of the medical practitioner be removed from the register.

Section 14 of the Act makes provision for an appeal by the medical practitioner to a Judge in Chambers. As the Act stands, when once disciplinary powers have been taken by the Council these come into effect immediately. It is, however, considered that the application of these disciplinary measures immediately may create a hardship on the medical practitioner and, hence, opportunity is being taken by means of this particular amendment to give Council discretionary powers to stay the effect of the disciplinary measures until such time as the Judge in Chambers may have determined the appeal.

Opportunity is also taken by means of this amendment to ensure that, while members of the Council may be acting duly and appropriately under this particular Act, they do not become subject to any penalty for any liability, claim, or demand whatsoever in operating this particular Clause.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a noncontroversial measure. I also think that the reasons are quite clear why this particular amendment is being brought before this Honourable House and I, therefore, beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. F. G. SMITH, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was read and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this, as I indicated to Your Honour earlier, is the only item of Government Business on the Order Paper, subject to any request from the Opposition.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 23rd May, 1972, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
3.05 p.m.