

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 19th February, 1975

Pursuant to prorogation, the 1971-76 Second Legislative Session was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, at 10 a.m. today.

The following honourable Members of the House were present in their Chamber:

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., (Econ.) LL.D., (Prime Minister); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister without Portfolio); Mr. R. StC. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism,

Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A.(Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

HOUSE SUMMONED TO OTHER PLACE

Honourable Members were in their places. The Sergeant-at-Arms stopped at the Bar of the Honourable the House of Assembly and informed Mr. SPEAKER that Her Majesty the Queen commanded the attendance of the Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Marshal carrying the Mace cradlewise, and followed by the Hon. Members in pairs according to seniority, proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took their seats.

Her Majesty then addressed Parliament as follows:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of the House of Assembly:

Today records an historic occasion for my husband and for me. It is not the first time that we have had the pleasure of being present with you in these Chambers, but it is the first time that I have been able to be here to open Parliament.

In accordance with tradition, My Government's programme for the new parliamentary session will now be outlined.

My Government continues to believe that the development of an efficient and dynamic agriculture is vital in the overall development strategy for Barbados. In the agricultural diversification policy, emphasis will continue to be placed on food production. Measures recommended by the National Advisory Council will receive serious consideration by My Government.

A revolutionary process for extracting juice from the sugar cane will be brought into operation. To increase production of sugar, My Government will make funds available for the purchase of green cane harvesting machines.

Agricultural credit to large and small farmers alike will be made available for the production of food crops and the further development of livestock. My Government will continue to operate a revolving fund for improving the dairy industry.

My Government will introduce an extended Farming Incentive Scheme. A rural development project will be established at Spring Hall.

Research facilities will be modernised and expanded, and training programmes will be implemented to benefit all farmers.

My Government will continue to support and encourage the 4-H Movement in Barbados.

The provision of protein from surrounding waters will continue to be of major importance to My Government. In this connection, further steps will be taken to provide training on a larger scale for fishermen.

My Government continues to be convinced that the well-being of every individual and his potential to share in the life of the community are ultimately bound up in the state of his health. My Government therefore proposes to pursue the Health programme of the current Development Plan period with the utmost vigour. Greater emphasis will be placed on the cost effectiveness of projects and on integration of the preventive and curative services.

A number of community health centres will be established as multi-purpose clinics at which comprehensive care will be provided; a reduction will be brought about in the number of psychiatric in-patients at the same time as an extensive programme for community psychiatric services is implemented.

A new Education Bill, providing, among other things, a more effective system of management and inspection of public and private educational institutions, the establishment of a secondary schools teaching service, the registration of teachers and the establishment of a National Advisory Commission on Education, will be introduced early in the session.

Continuing emphasis will be placed on the development and expansion of agricultural education at primary and secondary levels. An agricultural crafts course will be introduced at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. A Division of Agriculture will be instituted at the Barbados Community College.

Expansion and upgrading of physical facilities and replacements for existing primary schools will be continued. Additional school places at the secondary level will be provided.

The programme to provide mid-day meals to children of primary school age will be expanded. A new centre will be constructed in St. James to serve schools in the northern parishes.

The curricula being used in primary and secondary schools are being revised and up-dated in order to reflect newer concepts and developments in education and to cater more fully for local needs. Some of the new curricula will be introduced into schools during the next academic year.

It continues to be My Government's policy to provide the best possible internal network of communication. Within the limits of available resources, My Government will continue to improve and expand subsidiary and tenantry roads.

The construction of a Ring Road to enable traffic to by-pass Bridgetown and ease congestion in urban areas will be given priority and a new Road Traffic Bill will be introduced at an early date.

My Government will continue to modernise and expand its postal services. Construction of the new General Post Office at Cheapside will begin shortly. District Post Offices will also be constructed in St. Thomas and at Brittons Hill. Legislation for a new Post Office Act will be introduced during this session.

As part of the preservation of the environment, My Government will continue to pay special attention to the development of water resources.

My Government will conclude negotiations for the acquisition of a majority shareholding in Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. and the appropriate legislation will be placed before you shortly.

The harbour facilities will be extended, and legislation for the establishment of a Port Authority will soon be introduced. My Government will continue the modernisation and expansion of Seawell International airport.

My Government will continue to promote the national interest by placing emphasis on economic and trading relationships for the improvement of the quality of life of Barbadian citizens. My Government will thus continue to participate in preparations for a new international economic order and a more equitable regime governing the exploitation of the resources of the oceans.

My Government will be in the vanguard in its efforts towards regional co-operation and economic integration of the Caribbean region, and will energetically pursue the aim of harmonising its foreign policy with that of the other members of the Commonwealth Caribbean Community.

My Government proposes to extend and strengthen its diplomatic relations with countries of the Third World. Efforts will be made in particular to establish and extend areas of economic, social and scientific co-operation with those nations of the Caribbean Basin and the wider Latin American region to our mutual advantage. To this end, My Ministers

will participate in all forums of contact involving the countries of Latin America. While maintaining both its sovereignty and identity, My Government proposes to assume its role as a vital unit of the hemisphere.

My Government will continue to support those international institutions dedicated to the peaceful settlement of disputes and will use its diplomacy as an instrument for the promotion and attainment of permanent peace in the troubled areas of the world. My Government will continue to uphold the rule of law, fundamental human rights, and oppose governments and regimes whose policies and actions support racial discrimination and denial of equality.

In keeping with My Government's aim of matching improved conditions of service for its employees with greater efficiency and increased productivity, the consultancy work of the Organisation and Management Division has been augmented by the institution of a programme of administrative reform. My Government has been undertaking a complete re-classification of all posts in the Public Service as part of its wider programme of administrative reform.

In pursuance of its policy of strictest efficiency in the public sector, My Government will shortly establish a Public Service College.

My Government will spare no effort in its commitment to improving the standard of housing for all its citizens. To this end, My Government will complete more than 350 housing units of varying designs at Cave Hill, Eden Lodge and Wildey. In order to continue the programme for additional housing and resettlement, measures will be placed before you for the acquisition of additional lands.

Proposals for updating the existing Factories legislation will be laid before you in the near future.

My Government believes that small shopkeepers and small businesses in general are an integral and sustaining part of the society. In order to combat adverse economic conditions, My Government will introduce legislation to remove the restriction on the hours of opening of shops. At the same time, the rights of those citizens employed in such shops will be protected.

Because of its belief in ensuring social justice through social security benefits, My Government will review the National Insurance and Social Security scheme. In this connection, the services of an Actuary have been secured from the International Labour Office.

Under the general direction of My Government, the Parks and Beaches Commission will continue to play its dynamic role in the beautification of Barbados. My Government will shortly place before you legislation to create an underwater park and marine museum at historic Holetown.

The aim of My Government continues to be the development of a vibrant, relevant and lasting tourism of primary benefit to Barbadians. Greater emphasis will be placed on planning.

My Government will maximise investment and employment opportunities for Barbadian nationals at all levels and in all aspects of Tourism.

In keeping with My Government's concept of sharing the nation's wealth, legislation will be introduced to amend the Hotel Aids Act to provide income tax relief on dividends up to a specified level of income for resident shareholders; to reserve the present concessions in respect of smaller hotels for nationals; and to ensure that the right to establish new ancillary businesses will normally be restricted to nationals.

Legislation will be introduced to provide for the licensing and control of hotels.

My Government proposes to develop Harrison's Cave in St. Thomas to provide an attraction of scientific and educational interest.

Efforts to encourage investment in the manufacturing sector both at home and abroad will be continued. My Government feels strongly that the local entrepreneur has a major role to play in the modernisation and development of industry in Barbados. To this end, My Government will continue to emphasize its programme of providing finance, factory accommodation and other similar incentives to prospective local entrepreneurs.

In furtherance of its development goals, My Government has established an Export Promotion Agency within the framework of the Industrial Development Corporation. In order that all sectors of the community may participate in this important venture, a National Advisory Council for Export Promotion will shortly be appointed.

It is the intention of My Government to develop handicrafts into a viable commercial enterprise, providing additional skills and further employment for our people.

My Government places great importance on the development of managerial skills in both the public and private sectors and, to this end, it will continue to give strong support to the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity.

My Government is making every effort to explore and develop the oil and natural resources of Barbados. General Crude Oil Co. of Houston, Texas, has recently been granted leases for five areas of land to develop as oil fields. Ten wells have already been drilled at Woodbourne; another fifteen wells are scheduled to be drilled within the next year.

My Government has established a National Committee to consider the implications of the establishment of a national organisation for the importation, refining and distribution of petroleum products. The recommendations of this committee are being awaited.

Further licences in respect of other land areas and territorial waters of Barbados, will be issued.

My Government is of the view that the Barbados Marketing Corporation must continue to play a decisive role in the marketing of agricultural produce and imported items of essential foodstuff. To this end, My Government proposes to re-organise the Corporation and to secure the necessary funds which would allow it to operate as a viable financial entity.

My Government is fully aware of the high cost of living in the world in general and its consequent effects on the Barbados economy. My Government will continue to use its best endeavours to withstand and control the inflationary pressures which play havoc on the incomes of our people. A vigorous policy of price control will be continued.

My Government proposes to implement legislation to make the labelling of certain commodities and pre-packaged foods mandatory.

In furtherance of its policy to adopt the Metric System of Weights and Measures in Barbados, My Government will shortly be giving approval to the concurrent use of the Metric (S.I.) and Imperial Systems.

To preserve the security of the coastal waters and to assist in the maintenance of the good order for which our country is renowned, legislation will be introduced shortly to establish the Defence Force.

My Government is unswerving in its concept of equality within the community. At the same time, My Government favours the special recognition of citizens who distinguish themselves in various fields of endeavour. Since 1972, a special committee of senior public officers submitted to My Prime Minister a report on the establishment of a system of national awards and honours. After careful deliberation, My Ministers have decided to accept the recommendations of a system which proposes three national orders for Barbados:

- (i) Companion of Honour of Barbados
- (ii) Order of Merit of Barbados
- (iii) Barbados Service Order

The appropriate steps will be taken for the proper institution of these awards.

In order to commemorate my visit to Barbados, it gives me much pleasure to institute, on the advice of My Ministers, a special Order of Honour exclusively for Barbados, to be known as the Order of St. Andrew. It will be recalled that the national day of Barbados falls on St. Andrew's Day. The details of the classes and ranks of awards in this Order will be made known in due course.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of the House of Assembly:

I now declare this parliamentary session open, and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

HANDING OUT OF THRONE SPEECHES BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Her Majesty the Queen presented a copy of her Speech to Mr. President and to Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Her Majesty the Queen suspended the Sitting of Parliament for half an hour.

On Resumption:

REPORT OF SPEECH BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to report to this Hon. Chamber that all hon. Members were received by Her Majesty the Queen in the Other Place and that the following speech was read:

"Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly....."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the speech be taken as read. I beg to move that the speech be taken as read.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the licensing of dogs and to provide for the control and keeping of dogs and for related matters.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Bill.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Order Paper contains five items and we seem to be doing Item 5 without having touched on any of the others.

Mr. SPEAKER: Strictly speaking we are now on Item 3, Address in Reply to the Throne Speech. Can we stick to the Order Paper, in that order please? I have been advised under Standing Order 10 of our Standing Orders that Government Notices may now be properly given. I will permit the Hon. Leader of the House to continue giving Government Notices and

thereafter we can proceed to go through the Agenda for today's business.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, no other paper has been sent out. As far as I understand it certain things have been set down according to procedure. If the Government intends to deal with Item 5 before it deals with Item 3 or Item 4, I believe that some motion should be made that Order No. 5 be taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are governed by these Standing Orders. Let us stick to them.

STANDING ORDERS ADOPTED FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF 1971-76

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. Member will give way, I beg to move that the Standing Orders for the last Session be the Standing Orders for this Session to govern the procedure of the House.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Notices is now the Order of the Day.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Vaucluse Plantation, St. Thomas.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the licensing of dogs and to provide for the control and keeping of dogs and for related matters.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend certain enactments to revise the fees thereunder.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE

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

"Be It Resolved that the Honourable the House of Assembly expresses its thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for the most gracious speech addressed to the House of Assembly and to the Honourable the Senate on Wednesday, the 19th day of February, one thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five."

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the licensing of dogs and to provide for the control and keeping of dogs and for related matters be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to move that the Bill to amend certain enactments to revise the fees thereunder be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

11.20 a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

APPOINTMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in relation to Item 4, appointment of Sessional Committees, the first one I propose to deal with is the Committee of Privileges.

I beg to move that the members of the Committee of Privileges, who have served during the First Session of 1971-76 be re-appointed to serve for this Session.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but I would like to know the names of the Members who served during the First Session of 1971-76.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. For the purposes of the record, would the hon. Member read their names and Constituencies.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the names are as follows:

The hon. Member for St. Michael North-West
The hon. Member for St. Michael North Central
The hon. Member for St. Thomas
The hon. Member for Christ Church West
The Hon. Leader of the House
His Hon. the Speaker (*Chairman*)

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Committee of Public Accounts be comprised of the following honourable Members:

The Hon. Deputy Speaker, the member for St. George North

The hon. Member for St. George South

The hon. Member for St. Michael South East

The hon. Member for St. Lucy in place of the hon. Member for St. Michael West.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to nominate the hon. Member for St. Thomas, the hon. Member for St. Peter, and the hon. Member for the City of Bridgetown.

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

DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in so far as the Debates Committee is concerned, I beg to nominate the following Members:

The hon. Member for St. Lucy

The hon. Member for St. Michael South East

The Hon. Leader of the House

His Hon. the Speaker (*Chairman*)

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, how many Members does this House have on the Debates Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is laid down in the Standing Orders.

Mr. ADAMS: I think it is laid down in an Act of Parliament. How many are for us? Two, or three?

I would like to nominate the hon. Member for St. Peter and the hon. Member for St. James.

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

THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Standing Orders Committee will be comprised of the same honourable Members who served on the last occasion. There are as follows:

His Hon. the Speaker (*Chairman*)
 The Hon. Leader of the House
 The hon. member for St. Michael North-West
 The hon. member for St. Michael South
 The hon. member for St. Michael South-West
 The hon. member for St. Michael South-East

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate to the Standing Orders Committee —

The hon. Member for St. Peter
 The hon. Member for Christ Church West
 The hon. Member for the City of Bridgetown
 The hon. Member for St. James.

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

THE SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Sugar Production and Export Control Board, I beg to nominate —

The hon. member for St. George South
 The hon. member for St. Philip South

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

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

11.30 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. Member for St. Philip South.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. Member for St. Michael South, the Minister of Education, and of course, Your Honour.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that this was an elected Committee until I saw it on the Order Paper. I have never known that it was elected. However, I beg to nominate the hon. Member for Christ Church West.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th March, 1975, at 12 noon.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

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

11.35 a.m.