

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th April, 1977.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W.C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., LL.D.; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Labour and Community Services); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were led by His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the House and took his seat.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 21st March, 1977.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Minutes be taken as read and be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, these Minutes are taken as read and are confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following –

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the eleven months ended 28th February, 1977.

Administration Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1975.

The Barbados Economic Report for the year 1976.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice on behalf of the Leader of the House of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land situate at Bath in the parish of St. John.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve of the Government entering into an agreement with the First National City Bank to pay and discharge a debt and liability due and owing by the Barbados Development Bank i.c.w. Bath Plantations Ltd., and entering an agreement with the Barbados Development Bank for the assignment by that Bank to the Government of the interests and rights of the Bank under the equitable mortgage which it holds by way of memorandum and deposit of Title Deeds over the Lands of Bath Plantations Ltd. situated in the parish of St. John.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Bills:—

A Bill to provide for the abandonment of the rights of way and other rights of the public affecting a part of Enterprise Road, a public Road in the parish of Christ Church,

and for the dedication to the use of the public of an alternative road.

A Bill to provide for the alteration of the rights of way and other rights of the public affecting Shepherd Street, a public road in the City of Bridgetown.

A Bill to amend the Highways Act.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Companies Act, Cap. 308.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Philip South — his Question with respect to amenities at several places.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:—

Is the Minister aware that there is a dire need for public conveniences and other amenities at several beaches throughout the Island?

Will the Minister give favourable consideration to placing such amenities at the disposal of the community at Crane Beach, Foul Bay and Bottom Bay in the parish of St. Philip?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to provide for the abandonment of the rights of the public affecting a part of Enterprise Road, a public Road in the parish of Christ Church, and for the dedication to the use of the public of an alternative road be read a first time.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the alteration of the rights of way and other rights of the public affecting Shepherd Street, a public road in the City of Bridgetown be now read a first time.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Highways Act be now read a first time.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Companies Act, Cap. 308 be now read a first time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have to announce that I intend to present the Economic Review and Budgetary Proposals of the Government for the year 1977–78 at 5 o'clock p.m., on Friday, 15th April. I expect that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and Barbados Rediffusion will apply to Your Honour for permission for the Budget Speech to be televised and broadcast; and as is customary, Sir, the Government intend to give the Opposition equal time over the media for the reply and as many of their members and their economic spokesmen as care to take part in the debate.
12.25 p.m.

This reply will be expected to be delivered on Friday evening after the Budget debate will be resumed, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean the reply to the Opposition?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Yes. The general debate will then be resumed on Tuesday, 19th and Wednesday, 20th April, if the House accepts. The Government proposes that they be the days for the general debate on the Budget. The Economic Review I have already laid in Parliament this morning. There are one or two errors in the calculation. The Easter week-end is not a time most conducive for the preparation of Reports to be laid in Parliament. It is hoped that in all the copies made available to hon. members those errors will be corrected and, in any case, the printed copies, when it is in circulation, will be free of errors.

The Report is here, and I hope before hon. members go home today that it will be in the hands of every hon. member to study in anticipation of the budgetary debate. I may say that I do not think that there can be any complaint with the arrangements, since the Report will be in the hands of hon. members in good time for them to study it and to prepare, in anticipation of what may come, some data of the performance during the past year.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 6 is now ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this day's sitting.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

QUESTION TIME

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

Question No. 6 was called.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 6 asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I do not see the Leader of the Opposition in his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the reply be laid.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 6.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, there seems to be no Private Members' Business. This concludes Government Business.

I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until 4 p.m. on Friday, 15th April, 1977.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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