THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st November, 1977

Pursuant to prorogation, the 1976–81 Second Legislative Session was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, at 4.30 p.m. today.

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

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Labour, Welfare, Youth Affairs and Sport); 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. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A.; Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST.JOHN, (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade, Industry and Tourism and Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, B.A., M.A.; Mr. B. M. TAITT, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Community Development); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.B., LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

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:

My husband and I are delighted to be with you again in Barbados in my Silver Jubilee Year and we have been very moved by the warmth of the reception given to us.

I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity of being with you in these Chambers to open Parliament. I have noted, with satisfaction, the progress which has continued to be made in this country since my last visit just two and a half years ago.

Your last Parliamentary session has been a busy one, and the session on which you are now about to embark is expected to be no less busy.

Barbados, like so many other countries of the world, is undergoing economic pressures brought on by circumstances over which it has no absolute control. However, My Government notes that there has been some improvement in the performance of the economy and recognises that further improvement will require the implementation of policies to increase savings, protect the balance of payments, and reduce inflation. To this end a greater degree of consultation and co-operation with organized labour and the private sector will be promoted within the forum of the National Economic Council.

The machinery for planning and economic management will be strengthened with the aim of making the country more self-reliant. The National Council of Science and Technology which has recently been set up will monitor new breakthroughs in research and development, and will promote research aimed at the greater use of the country's natural resources, including limestone and clay.

Work on the establishment of the Barbados National Bank, amalgamating the Government's financial institutions, has started, and the Bank will be completely operational by April of next year.

My Government proposes to continue its involvement in the insurance business of Barbados and will establish a State Insurance Corporation with a re-insurance element to engage in all forms of insurance business in the same way as other insurers.

The policy previously enunciated of bringing back into productivity agricultural land that has hitherto been lying idle has been initiated, and will continue to be implemented so as to boost agricultural production and reduce dependency on imports. Emphasis is being placed on agro-industrial projects which would utilize the locally produced imputs and this emphasis will also be applied to the reduction of post-harvest losses.

Encouragement will be given to the development of a composite flour with locally produced ingredients as a substitute for the imported product.

My Government will continue to promote increased food production and processing for home consumption and for export. It will initiate a scheme of farmer insurance, and will continue to improve credit and marketing arrangements.

The Barbados National Standards Institution will extend its preparation of standards, in addition to the 41 already determined, in the areas of Food and Food Products, Engineering and Building Components, chemicals and other consumer products.

Progress has been made towards the implementation of the Metric System and the complete changeover is projected for approximately 18 months hence.

The rationalisation of overseas trade representation, and the increasing of such representation, are being examined. My Government will also continue in its efforts to ensure that there is the greatest possible co-operation between Barbados and the other Caribbean Commonwealth countries in particular, in terms of intra-regional trade. The problems and weaknesses in the CARICOM structure and functions are recognised, and the solution of those problems and weaknesses is under constant examination.

Additional emphasis will be given to industrial development in order to bolster the economy of the country and to provide greater job opportunities.

Trade centres for the encouragement of light and cottage industries will be established throughout the country, and it is intended to provide cluster premises in the urban and rural areas to accommodate such tradesmen as tailors, dressmakers, leatherworkers, shoemakers, tinsmiths, weavers.

The orderly development of the aviation and tourist sectors as instruments of the national development are being promoted and will be continued. At the earliest practicable date, My Government will implement measures with respect to land transport arrangements for the tourist industry providing greater opportunities for Barbadian participation consistent with efficiency and the maintenance of satisfactory standards of service.

A study of the movement of passengers and freight within the island is expected to be commenced shortly. A study of the highway system will also be undertaken with a view to identifying those areas which need to be improved to increase road safety and to meet existing and projected demands. The easing of traffic congestions is continually under review, and a new traffic roundabout is being constructed at the Constitution Road/Martindales Road junction.

A programme for the improvement of drainage throughout the Island is being implemented, and extensive drainage works are being undertaken on the western coast as a priority.

Action is being taken to strengthen the management and technical capability of the National Housing Corporation, and in addition to the housing programme already started by the Corporation in the rural areas, My Government will establish, by the end of 1978, a 100-unit Housing project for the low income worker within easy reach of Bridgetown.

It is also proposed to introduce the first phase of a Sites and Services programme at Parish Land in Christ Church under which developed sites will be provided for some of those persons in need of house spots on which to place their own houses.

My Government continues to see health care as one of its highest priorities, and during the last session of Parliament a number of innovative steps were taken to provide an improved health care service. The move in this direction will be continued during this Parliamentary session.

A national Drug Plan aimed at reducing the cost of medicine to all Barbadians will be introduced. The construction of the new sewerage system for the City of Bridgetown will be commenced. So too will be the construction of the pulverization plant facility for the sanitary bulk reduction of refuse.

The increasing incidence of oil pollution reaching the island's beaches is a matter of grave concern to My Government. With a view to better protecting the country's territorial waters and its beaches from ocean-borne pollution, steps will be taken for Barbados to become a signatory to the 1954 Convention on the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil.

A Department of the Environment will be set up embracing all the agencies at present concerned with the preservation of the environment, and charged with the duty of enhancing the environment for the benefit of future generations.

My Government will continue its policy of doing everything possible for the improvement of the lot of the worker. A thorough examination will be made into the matter of security of workers' jobs and the protection of the worker against unfair dismissal.

Steps are being taken to improve the programme of repairs to homes of pensioners and other needy persons. Re-organisation of the staff of the appropriate department is being effected to deal with this.

The expansion and additional provision of Day Nurseries has started and will continue. It is hoped that, as in the case of one such institution very recently opened, voluntary organisations and

members of the public will come forward and assist with their time and money in the running of them.

At the present time, there are playing fields on privately owned property which have been used traditionally for public sporting activities. My Government is appreciative of the contribution being made by these private property owners and has initiated discussions with them for granting them assistance towards upgrading those recreational facilities for the continued use of the public.

The policy of having Games coaches trained locally wherever possible will be pursued so as to upgrade the standard of Sports in the country; and a greater and more concerted thrust, in collaboration with youth organisations, will be directed at youth development in general.

This new Parliamentary Session commences at a time of accelerated activity in the expansion of facilities for children of school age. The new Secondary School at Country Road, St. Michael, will be completed in four months' time with accommodation for 800 pupils. Construction of another new Secondary School – at Trents in St. James – with accommodation for another 1,200 pupils, will commence before the end of the current financial year. Major extensions and re-development will be done to existing Secondary Schools outside Bridgetown.

Syllabuses and curricula programmes will be implemented in the Secondary schools towards the taking of the first Caribbean Examination Council Examination in 1979. In addition, new curricula formulated by the National Curriculum Council will be introduced in schools.

Additional accommodation for more children of Primary school age will be provided.

A National Commission on Education will be set up to recommend guidelines for educational development for the future.

My Government will continue to pursue an active policy in foreign affairs, the core of which will be the promotion of economic development at home and the advancement of concepts of morality and justice in international relations.

My Government will seek to increase its diplomatic links with Eastern European and Middle East countries, and considerable diplomatic effort will be devoted to bridging the historical and cultural gap between Barbados and Latin America on the one hand and Barbados and the African countries on the other.

The National Commission on the Status of Women which was promised at the beginning of the last Parliamentary session has been set up, and the Commission's report is expected to be produced by the end of this calendar year. The recommendations of that Commission will be used as a basis for further action in the promotion of the rights of women, including the determination of the extent of the right of the husbands of Barbadian women to citizenship.

A Penal Law Reform Committee has been set up to examine the existing law relating to offenders, and emphasis will be placed on the rehabilitation of young offenders and first offenders towards enabling them to making a meaningful contribution to the community.

At the same time, the maintenance of peace, order and good government is an unswerving commitment of My Government and, to this end, it is proposed to continue the systematic review of all aspects of the Civil and Criminal Law in this country and the conditions under which persons concerned with these matters work.

The feasibility of developing facilities for para-legal training for personnel employed in Government departments, by the legal profession and by the commercial section will be examined.

My Government's legislative programme will include the introduction of Registration of Titles and Land Adjudication legislation to facilitate the establishment of a Land Registration system; the control of ownership of land by non-nationals; a Building Code and Regulations; and the reform of the law as it relates to defamation and press freedom and to consumer protection. Legislation will also be enacted to establish a marine economic zone of 200 miles for Barbados, to regulate the exploitation of the living and non-living resources and to protect the marine environment.

In pursuance of the objective of integrating all existing pensions schemes into the National Insurance Scheme so as to facilitate the ultimate institution of a National Pensions Plan, legislation to effect a major revision of the Widows and Children Pension Scheme, now applicable to the Public Service, will soon be introduced into Parliament.

The existing legislation relation to Immigration is now being reviewed in order to ensure that it is in line with the code of human rights which My Government has adopted. Amendments are being prepared to give effect to the policy that natural family relationships should be respected as far as possible, and also that

encouragement should be given to the creation of local employment through the inflow of foreign Capital and experience to the maximum degree possible, without depriving Barbadians of their proved rights to the highest executive positions in locally based business or industrial concerns, and without allowing competition for real property to reduce their chances to acquire their own homes. The rules governing the admission of immigrants have now been settled and will be published shortly.

During the past year, a succession of events has emphasised the need for constant serious attention to be given to the defence of the country. My Government has not shirked from its responsibility in this area, and has already completed the legal framework for the establishment of a Defence Force which will include military and naval units and will also have aerial reconnaissance resources available to it. The Force will include regulars as well as volunteers and, apart from its main concerns of defence, coastal patrol and air-sea rescue, it will undertake to organise National Youth Camps in which young people will not only be helped to develop high standards of discipline, initiative, resourcefulness and courage, but will also have the opportunity to acquire or improve a selection of skills which will significantly increase their career prospects.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Senate:

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

The principal policies of My Government for the ensuing Parliamentary session have been outlined to you, and I now declare that session open and 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 THE 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: When we attended the Other Place, Her Majesty the Queen graciously delivered her Speech from the Throne. I have received a copy of the Throne Speech. I think it is my duty to read it.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Speech be taken as read.

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

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

ADDRESS
FROM
THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon I gave notice to the Clerk of a Resolution in reply to the

Speech by Her Majesty the Queen, and it reads as follows:

"RESOLVED BY THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE THAT an humble address be presented to thank Her Majesty for the most gracious speech which it has pleased Her Majesty to deliver in Parliament on this day, Tuesday the first day of November, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven.

Dated this 1st day of November, 1977."

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I want to know if this is being debated now, because if the debate is going on, I am moving an amendment to this. I want some guidance on whether this address is being debated now.

Mr. SPEAKER: There will be no debate on this.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: If the hon. member would give way, this is the formal motion of thanks. Later on the hon. member for St. Philip North will move a substantive Resolution which I have no doubt the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would like to second and concur in or perhaps amend.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Standing Orders of the last Session be now adopted as the Standing Orders for this Session.

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

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

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 five months ended 31/8/77.

Report of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1976–77.

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for the year 1974–75.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate Your Honour, the hon. member for Christ Church East, the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the hon. member for St. Michael South, the hon. member for St. Michael South West and the hon. member for Christ Church North Central to serve on the Debates Committee.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member means that those hon. members who were members of the Debates Committee in the last Session will be the members for the present Session.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Yes, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, in fairness to my Learned Friend, I would prefer if he would let the Leader of the Opposition decide whom he will have from his side to sit on the Debates Committee. I do not think there is any harm in it; we will probably come to the same conclusion, but that is my function as Leader of the Opposition. You can't nominate for me who is to serve.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of the Government, I give the Leader of the Opposition every assurance that any members of his party whom he wishes to dismiss from one of the Sessional Committees we will give him full support in this exercise of his authority.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I understand it, the motion is that the members of this particular Committee be the same. I am not opposed to it.

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

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Thomas and the hon. member for St. Michael North West to be the Government members on this Committee.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael South to be the Opposition member of this Committee.

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

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to nominate Your Honour, the hon. member for St. Michael North West, the hon. member for Christ Church West, the hon. member for St. Joseph, and the hon. member for St. George North to be the Government's members of this Committee.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. John and the hon. member for St. Michael South West to be the Opposition members of this Committee.

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael North West, the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for St. Philip North and the hon. member for Christ Church North Central to be the members of this Committee from this side.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South West to be the Opposition members on this Committee, with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central as is customary being Chairman of this Committee.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, speaking on that motion I heard the Leader of the Opposition saying that these hon. members be the members, and I hear the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is stating to the House that he should be the Chairman. Although it may be in the Standing Orders, I believe that the Public Accounts Committee has to meet in order formally to obey the Standing Orders, and I would be glad if it could meet because I would like to hand over some of the evidence which was taken during the last session and the Minutes to the new Chairman. I was the former Chairman and have been unable to hand over the documents and brief the new Chairman whoever the Leader of the Opposition turns out to be when the Committee meets, and I would be glad to hand it over especially as some of it concerns certain activities that are being or are to be probed in a certain place not very far away from this Chamber. I would not like to think that the Public Accounts Committee is not being summoned so that the evidence taken in the last session can be suppressed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not like these political points the hon. member is trying to make.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the hon. member rise?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am speaking on the motion. What I am saying is whoever is the Chairman, the Committee will meet and he can hand over his accounts to the new Chairman. I would like to know from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister how many times they met when he was Chairman.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Leader of the Opposition please take his seat? I see the Leader of the Opposition is taking it upon himself to have what you would call the right of reply for which the Standing Orders make absolutely no provision.

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

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to nominate Your Honour, the hon. member for St. Thomas, the hon. member for Christ Church West, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the hon. member for Christ Church East, the hon. member for St. Michael West to be the members of this Committee from this side.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, the hon. member for St. Michael South and the hon. member for St. Lucy to be the Opposition members of this Committee.

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

THE SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for St. George North and the hon. member for St. Philip North to be the members of this Committee from this side.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Lucy to be the member for the Opposition on this Committee.

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

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. member for Christ Church East to be the member from this side on this Committee. We are perfectly prepared to have a nomination from the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the hon. member for St. Philip South, in place of Mr. J. C. King, to be the member from this side on this Committee.

Mr. TAITT: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, under the terms of the Act, in addition to members of the House, there are other members to be nominated by the House.

I therefore beg to nominate Mr. N. B. W. Reece and Mrs. E. E. Bourne, along with the two previously nominated, to be the members appointed by the House to the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank in accordance with the provisions of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, Cap. 325 of the Laws of Barbados.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

> Resolution to approve the lease to Seawell Air Services Ltd. of lands at Grantley Adams International Airport in the parish of Christ Church.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

> Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1977.

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

> Resolution to approve the sum of $12,718 to be granted from the Harbour Fund and placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Annexed Estimates, 1977–78, Port Department, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1977–78 No. 17, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Unclaimed and Undistributed Moneys Act.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Food Corporation.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the afternoon I handed in a Resolution at the Table of the House, but the House was not sitting, and I now crave leave to move this Resolution. Under the Rules...(A VOICE: There were no rules then). But there were rules when the hon. member for St. Philip North handed in his? He handed in his before the Speech was made and he had Rules then. What sort of foolishness are you talking.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

The Clerk called "Notice of Questions".

Hon. F. G. SMITH: No, no, no; oh, no. I handed in to the Clerk...

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition please take his seat?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Rule me out of order that the Resolution is not in order, but do not just pass on. I would not have the Clerk passing on when I as Leader of the Opposition have tendered a Resolution, we have reached the point where it should be dealt with by Your ruling and I am treated by his passing on and calling something else. I am not standing for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member's Resolution will be dealt with in due course.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Very well. Now we can pass on.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, when the Item was called...

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the hon. member rise?

Mr. SIMMONS: I am rising on a point of privilege because I have a Resolution to put before the House, and under the Head that was called, under Private Members' Business...

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the question of privilege? Let's hear it.

Mr. SIMMONS: When the Clerk called the head under the Order of Business, the Leader of the Opposition made a representation about a motion which he wanted to move today and I was following him with another motion, and I have not been heard, because we have passed on to Questions. I would like some

explanation as to under what item I am supposed to move my Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought the hon. member had risen on a point of privilege.

Mr. SIMMONS: The privilege being that I was not given an opportunity freely to speak on the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to tell the hon. member for St. Philip North that it is only the Chair that could prevent any hon. member from speaking freely in this Honourable House, and under no circumstances will I attempt to do this. The Resolution from the hon. member for St. Philip North will be dealt with in due course.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, a Bill to amend the Unclaimed and Undistributed Moneys Act was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, a Bill to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Food Corporation, was read a first time.

6.25 p.m.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the Leader of Government Business, and there is something that we would like to say but, due to the lateness of the hour, we would defer it until the next meeting of the House. I just want it to be known that we are not oblivious to our obligations under this Head but, in view of the lateness of the hour, we would like to defer it and hope that the parties will understand.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, under the Head of Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches, I would like to congratulate Her Majesty's Government on the far-sighted proposals... *(Asides.)* What are you on?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If you are going to allow him to use that method of debate, then we will go on all night. *(Asides.)*

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I moved a motion earlier this evening thanking Her Majesty for having graciously delivered the Throne Speech. At this stage, I now wish in particular, having a copy of the Throne Speech in my possession, to congratulate Her Majesty's Government on the far-sighted proposals contained in the Speech from the Throne. *(Asides.)*

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I do not see what is causing the commotion. We are perfectly prepared to give the other side an opportunity to digest what has been said, and the fact that the hon. member used this machinery to move a congratulatory speech does not mean that the debate will be concluded today.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that hon. members hold Her Majesty in such esteem that no one would wish to see attempts being made to congratulate her in the way that it is now being attempted by the hon. member for St. Philip North. I do not propose to entertain an address of this nature. When due notice has been given, every hon. member will have an opportunity to make his contribution. I do not consider this to be the appropriate time for attempting to deal with a matter of this sort.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th November, 1977, at twelve o'clock noon.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second. that.

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

6.35 p.m.