THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th October, 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); 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. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Leader of the Opposition); 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. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade, Industry and Tourism and Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. L. L. SISNETT and Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc.

Prayers were read.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Mr. BRADSHAW and Mr. TAITT entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 9th August, 1977.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any notice of omissions or alterations by any other hon. member as to their accuracy, I beg that they be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, those Minutes are confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received copies of the Accounts and Statements for the months of May, June and July, 1977, as prepared by the Accountant General.

I am also in receipt of a Message from the Honourable the Senate to the Honourable the House of Assembly re an amendment by the Senate to the Registration Office (Amendment) Bill, 1977.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Civil Establishment General (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1977.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the three months ended 30th June, 1977.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following:

Annual Report of the Parks and Beaches Commission for the year 1975–76.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following:

The Waterworks (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 1977.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following:

Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1976.

The Health Services (Communicable and Notifiable Diseases) (Amendment) Regulations, 1977.

Report of the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1974.

Report of the Audit of Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1975.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1977.

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

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition, of land at Fustic Village, St. Lucy, for purposes of road works.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to amend the note to Item 2 – Secondary Schools, under Head 115, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Capital Estimates for 1977–78.

Resolution to amend the note to Item 10 – Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings, under Head 15(12) – Archives.

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

Resolution to approve the Waterworks (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 1977.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to grant the sum of $253,420 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977–78, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977–78, No. 14, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of $31,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1977–78, No. 15, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to amend the note to 2 – Printing Department, under Head 105 – Cabinet, of the Capital Estimates for 1977–78.
12.25 p.m.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to grant the sum of $16,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977–78, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977–78, No. 16, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the services of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1976.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Miscellaneous Controls Act.

Also, a Bill to amend the Airports Act.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1977.

Also, a Bill to incorporate the Caribbean Meteorological Organization.

Also, a Bill to amend the Fisheries Regulation Act.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the establishment of an authority to facilitate the development of sport in Barbados.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; seconded by Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the services of the Island for the financial

year ended 31st March, 1976, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, a Bill to amend the Miscellaneous Controls Act, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, a Bill to amend the Airports Act was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, a Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1977, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, a Bill to incorporate the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, a Bill to amend the Fisheries Regulations Act was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, a Bill to provide for the establishment of an authority to facilitate the development of sport in Barbados was read a first time.

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 45, asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South, is now ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Standing Orders Nos. 16, 18, 20, 42 and 44 were suspended.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 45 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Michael South.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Finance and Planning: 1. Is Barbados eligible for a loan from the Trust Fund of the International Monetary Fund for balance of payments assistance? 2. If the answer to (1) is in the negative, will the Minister state why Barbados is ineligible? 3. If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, will the Minister indicate whether Barbados has applied or is considering applying for such a loan?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 45 is as follows:

"1. No, Sir.

2. The Barbados per capita income exceeds the limit set by the International Monetary Fund.

3. Does not apply."

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, supplementary No. 1. Would the Minister of Finance state what is the per capita limit that has been set in respect of the eligibility for such loans?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The per capita limit at June 30, 1977, was 300 special drawing rights of the National Monetary Fund; .857792 of a special drawing right is equivalent to US$1.00.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, another supplementary: Would this limit also have inhibited the former Government from making loans from this institution?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not aware of what motivation the former Minister of Finance may have had for any of his actions in this regard.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Will the Prime Minister accept that on the basis of the limit which he just read out, no application from the former Government would be accepted as long as that limit was in force?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: While it is not incumbent upon a Minister to answer hypothetical questions, I would point out that the per capita income of Barbados has not always been above the limit set by the IMF.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Will the Prime Minister state the increased per capita income of

Barbados over the last five years; and will he state in what year the per capita income of Barbados reached the limit set by the IMF?
12.35 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wishes the figures, he is at liberty to refer to those in the documents already published, some of which were brought up to date by the present Government. I will say that he is mistaken in the assumption that the *per capita* income in Barbados has risen every year for the past five years.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Supplementary No. 2, Mr. Speaker. From what sources of IMF funding did Barbados get funds for balance-of-payments support, if they did not come from the Trust Fund?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, that is not a proper supplementary. There are certain assumptions which are not accurate in the terms in which the hon. member puts them.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, if it is not a proper supplementary, then there is no need for an answer. Although the Prime Minister would like to get in his little piece, he should not be allowed to continue with the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I support the Leader of the Opposition, because he has also suffered when placed in a similar position.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wants information, he can put down a suitable question.

Mr. SPEAKER: This brings us to the end of Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we are without amplification equipment again, we will not continue any longer today. I have spoken to the Leader of the Opposition and to yourself regarding this matter. There were a number of other matters which we would have liked to deal with today, but we are in this unfortunate position. I would like to give notice that we intend to proceed with all of the matters that we have given notice of today in order to ensure that we have enough matters for consideration next Tuesday.

I beg to move that this sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, 11th October, 1977, at twelve 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.
12.40 p.m.