

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 - 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th January, 1978.

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); 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. 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); 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. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc.; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read by the Rev. F. A. Cayless.

Mr. E. E. Greaves entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 13th December, 1977.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Minutes were confirmed.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, looking at the Minutes for the last meeting of the House, I am not querying the actual Minutes but I must query the presentation of the names of those persons recorded as being present. I raise the matter at this time because from the time I came to this Honourable House I find that some persons are recorded in the Minutes with their legal or other qualifications, but it would seem there is some doubt as to whether I have any qualifications as well. I am a qualified barrister and also hold a degree of LL.B., from London University. If there is any doubt about this and anyone wants me to bring proof of these qualifications I can do so but I would like them to dress up my name just as the others.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your observations have been noted and the matter will receive appropriate attention.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I notice the member is asking for the same treatment I got and he has received the same.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter will receive appropriate attention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a communication from the Auditor General respecting his inability to complete the annual audit of the examination of the Accounts of the Island for the year 1976-77. The letter states that efforts will be made to have the examination and Report completed and submitted as soon as possible. The Auditor General's letter will be circulated to all hon. members.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance I would like to lay the following documents:

White Paper on the establishment of a Barbados Defence Force.

Statement of Account of the Transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island, for the quarter ended September, 1977.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the month ended September, 1977.

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

Statements showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of money orders for the months May to August, 1977.

Statements of money order transactions through the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations for the months May to August, 1977.

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

The National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1978.

The Employment Injury, (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1978.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Stamps) (Revocation) Regulations, 1978.

The National Insurance and Social Security (self-employed Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1978.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1978.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to approve the proposals in the White Paper on the Establishment of the Barbados Defence Force.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$7,520 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977-78, Part II - Capital, as shown in the supplementary Estimates 1977-78, No. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$163,274 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. 25, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land situated at James Street and Lucas Street in the City of Bridgetown, for the provision of offices for the Barbados National Bank.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$115,863 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. 24, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I also beg to give notice of the following Bill:

Bill to provide for the establishment of Marine Boundaries and Jurisdiction.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Health Services Act, Cap. 44.

12.25 p.m.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill to provide for the establishment of marine boundaries and jurisdiction was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, the Bill to amend the Health Services Act, Cap. 44 was read a first time.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to report that since May 1977 the Governments of Barbados and the United States of America have been engaged in discussions concerning a request by the United States Government for a renewal of the Agreement governing the lease of the Naval Facility at St. Lucy. The Agreement was signed on the 10th September, 1961 by the Federation of the West Indies and the Government of the United States. Normally this Agreement would have expired on 31st December, 1971.

The discussions have been held at different levels between officials of the State Department and the Ministry of External Affairs and between myself and Assistant Secretary of State Todman. In these

discussions the Government of Barbados has requested the United States to consider inter alia payments for past use of the Airport and an economic rent for any further use of the Base.

The discussions seek an equitable formula which will compensate Barbados and at the same time continue the use of the Facility and also safeguard the respective rights of both countries.

I should like to state that the discussions have been held in an atmosphere of co-operation which marks the existing relations between the two countries. These discussions are continuing and it is hoped that a final agreement will be reached before the end of 1978.

Because the discussions have reached the stage where there appears to be a genuine effort to reach a satisfactory conclusion and settlement of all outstanding matters the Government has exchanged Notes with the United States by which the Agreement of 1971 will be extended for an interim period of one year until 31st December, 1978. During this period further consideration will be given by the United States Government to the matters raised by the Government of Barbados. The provisions of any subsequent Agreement reached concerning the further utilisation of the Facility will be made retroactive to 1st January, 1978 and it is

expected that an economic rent will be payable for the use of the Base from that date.

Whilst reiterating the intention of this Government to continue working closely with the United States Government and in full consultation on all matters of mutual concern, I would wish this House to know that the interest of Barbados will at all times be fully pursued in all discussions and no effort will be spared to obtain the best terms of settlement for this country.

A joint statement is being issued today in Bridgetown.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there are no Orders of the Day, no Government Business, no Private Members' Business. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th January at 12.00 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.

12.34 p.m.