
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd May, 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., (Leader of the Opposition); 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); Dr. R. B. CADDLE; Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A.; Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; 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; Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Mr. B. M. TAITT, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc.

Prayers were taken by the Rev. Fr. Cayless.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 16th May, 1978 are now before the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the 16th May, 1978, be postponed. I am told that they have not been circulated to all members.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I would like to draw to Your Honour's attention that the

Minutes for the 16th May include among those present the hon. member for Christ Church East and we are aware that the hon. member was out of the Island at that time on Government business.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are grateful to the hon. member; the confirmation of these Minutes will be postponed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance I beg to lay the following:—

A Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 28/2/78.

Also, a Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Statements of Account of the General Insurance Fund for the year 1976–77.

Also, on my own behalf as Minister of Labour and Community Services:

The International Labour Conference Conventions Nos. 148 and 149, and Recommendations Nos. 156 and 157.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Regulations, 1978.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the publication of a notification under section 9(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, declaring the abandonment of the acquisition of certain lands at Free Hill, Black Rock, St. Michael.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the imposition of an employment levy on the wages bill of companies.

Also, a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to facilitate the amalgamation of the Christ Church Boys' and Girls' Foundation Schools.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to provide for the imposition of an employment levy on the wages bill of companies be read a first time.

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

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1978, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to move that the Bill to facilitate the amalgamation of the Christ Church Boys' and Girls' Foundation Schools be read a first time.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

ORDER OF THE DAY

Order No. 1 was called – A Resolution to approve the Compulsory Acquisition of land situated at Chalky Mount, Saint Andrew.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. member in whose name this Resolution stands, I am asking leave to take charge of the matter. This is an area of about 2,265 square feet, and the value by the valuation department of Government of \$500. As a result of debris and silt which washed unto the roadway where the terminus was to be built at Chalky Mount, St. Andrew, the Ministry of Communications and Works was forced to carry out certain alterations to the road area at that point; and when the changes were carried out – construction work and the building of retaining walls on the land area etc. – the owners were a bit unhappy at the time and made objections to the building of the road area and the

terminus on the land; but there were no real negotiations as far as the land was concerned; and the people are seeking at present to have compensation for the land which was used for the purpose which I have just mentioned.

The people were quite satisfied with the valuation of the land by the Valuation Department, but also felt that they were entitled to have compensation for the mould which was thrown back on the other lands owned by them in carrying out road works in the area of their land. They also submitted a claim of \$100 for the work they had to do by way of levelling. The Ministry considers that this claim is a reasonable claim and that the compensation of \$500 for the value of the land, plus \$100 for the levelling of the soil a reasonable compensation to the owners. This Resolution seeks, in acquiring the land, to pay a sum of \$600. This I considered to be a reasonable valuation, and these are the normal procedures which are taken in matters of this kind.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments. From time to time it is obvious that Government has got to buy lands for their purposes and for their uses; but I understand that there is a quantity of land in Barbados which is not being used as it ought to be, and I would like to take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the House two portions of land which are Government property and which, in my opinion, are not being used as they ought to be. One piece is situated at Fitts Village, St. James, which the Anglican Church used to call the Good Shepherd Church – where that Church was located. Recently the Bishop of Barbados approached a number of members of Parliament and told them that he was about to build a new Church on this land.

Mr. SPEAKER: And construction has started.

Mr. WARD: Agreed. That does not matter. The point is that the land is too valuable to the people of Barbados to be used for the purpose.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate what the hon. member has said; but he has strayed a bit. He has gone all the way from Chalky Mount to Fitts Village.

Mr. WARD: I am referring to this property which the Government owns.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Government does not own the Anglican Church.

Mr. WARD: The Anglican Bishop has bent over backwards and said that if they could have an alternative site he would be happy to release this land for the people of Barbados; and I am going to say now that it is a gross error on somebody's part that we have not taken up the Bishop's offer. He has given us an abundance of time to find an alternative site for the Church. This land could be used for a better purpose.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is out of order. He cannot continue out of order like this.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on this Resolution which is before us, according to the purpose for which this land is to be acquired, and according to the statement that I have here, it is for the compulsory acquisition of land which is to be used for the purpose of constructing a bus terminus in St. Andrew. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the buses which heretofore plied in St. Andrew were buses of the Rocklyn Bus Company; and I believe that negotiations have been entered into between the Government and the private concessionaires regarding the take over of the buses; and I would have thought that inasmuch as the parcel of land in the parish of St. Andrew which is the main base for the Rocklyn Bus Company.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is aware that negotiations in respect of the acquiring of this land have already been completed. We are not acquiring buses now. We are only acquiring land.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Yes, I am talking about the purposes for which this land is being acquired.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate your desire and you will have ample opportunity to table your Resolution or questions to bring about the debate which you so desire.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to understand you quite clearly. Are you ruling that it is inappropriate for me to seek to find out from the appropriate Minister, the Minister of Communications and Works the exact position in relation to the buses, whether Government buses or the buses of the Rocklyn Bus Company which will be using this particular terminus in St. Andrew?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member can be expected to know the position when one reverses or goes forward on this site. If you want to know this, the Minister will answer, but no other negotiations would be known of their position.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will reverse, and I hope in his reply that the Minister will give this

House some information on the matter to which I have adverted.

Dr. CADDLE: Before the Minister replies, I would like to draw to his attention that he had made it quite clear that there is an agreement among the parties involved and there is no quarrel as regards the amount of money to be paid, and that causes me to ask them why he has had to resort to this method of acquiring the land. Is it that the title to the land is missing? Usually you resort to this type of procedure when people disagree on prices and a lot of time is being lost to reach an amicable agreement in price or any other areas where a clear title cannot be given. Since as he has stated there is general agreement and satisfaction on both sides as to the price, I wonder if in his reply he can tell us why he has had to resort to this course.

In addition to this he also pointed out in his opening remarks that there is some problem with the sliding of mud and debris from off the hills on to this area, and I am wondering if he would be in a position to assure the House that this would not be a problem in the future and whether or not the positioning of this terminus at this particular site is a good one bearing in mind the movement of the soil from the hills, and if an alternative site could not be found to accommodate the same purpose.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I hope that I have had all the questions coming to me on this matter. I should deal first with the question raised by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. With respect to the actual terminus itself, that is really the end of Chalky Mount and if you are sending a bus in Chalky Mount it is the only terminus you can use. As a result of the engineering work carried out on the spot, I can safely say that unless you have very bad weather that the retaining wall will take care of any siltage that might normally fall on to the terminus area. This land was in the family of Adolphus Sealy for over thirty years, but apparently there are no clear title deeds on the matter, and although I believe in law it would be difficult to dislodge him from the site, still nonetheless if it was a question of coming forward to negotiate in a straightforward manner on the basis of titles, the Attorney-at-law would say that probably we do not have a sufficiently long root in order to satisfy our criteria. At least it is said it should be forty years of known ownership of the property, and in this case that could not be satisfied. There is no question of any problems with Mr. Adolphus Sealy. The main problem has been the question of title deeds.

With respect to the question asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South, I was slightly put off because I know he is always very cogent in his arguments and reasoning and I certainly was a bit surprised to hear

the point which he raised, and I am grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, for having tried to get the matter channelled in the correct way. Now the terminus will be there not only for the Elite, the Rocklyn, the Transport Board or the Cooperatives; the terminus will be there for any bus or any car that goes within the area of Chalky Mount to exercise its right of reversing or turning around or whatever it may care to do.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, that is the end of Government Business, and if there is no objection I would like to suspend the sitting for twenty minutes. We are going into Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it you mean with the agreement of the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It is the end of Government Business and it has been indicated to me that the person in whose name the item of Private Members' Business stands is now going to take his seat.

Dr. CADDLE: On a point of order, bearing in mind that the Standing Orders have not been suspended and a specific time has been set down in the Standing Orders of this House for Private Members' Business, I would like to enquire of you if we can now move into Private Members' Business at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the leave of the House. That is what I particularly asked the Acting Leader of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, does not Private Members' Business follow Government Business subject only to the interruption of Question Time? There is no special time set down for Private Members' Business to start. The time set down is that it must not proceed beyond, but follows Government Business. That is my submission.

12.45 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, surely I would not have attempted to railroad anything especially with you in the Chair, but all I am doing is asking for the leave of the House to start Private Members' Business. That is no longer necessary because my colleague in whose name the Resolution stands is not yet ready. He has just come back from the United States of America and has not had time to prepare to deal with this Resolution at the present time. In the circumstances I would like to ask that Private Members' Business be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this the end of Government Business? Well that is the end of the day's business.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: The Leader of the Opposition in truth and in fact, as I have understood it over the years, should be dealing with Private Members' Business. I just tried to give them a little clue that they would take over from here, but it is not the duty of the Government to deal with Private Members' Business. This is the end of Government Business.

Dr. CADDLE: We accept that this is the end of Government Business and we have no quarrel with that.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, since there seems to be no Private Members' Business, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday 30th May, 1978 at 12 o'clock noon.

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.

12.50 p.m.