
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 - 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st April, 1980.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); 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 Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc. (Econ.) and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of 17th March, 1980.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated, and subject to any observations or errors by any hon. member I beg to move that the Minutes be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no alterations by hon. members, let the Minutes stand confirmed.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing the Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 29th February, 1980.

I am also commanded to lay the Report of Statement of Account of the National Insurance Corporation of Barbados for its first year of operation 1978.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly commenting on the Report I would like to say that the report indicates that the Corporation is settling down and that the fears of the other members of the Insurance industry in Barbados, all of whom petitioned the Government asking that we not set up the Corporation, have been set at rest. The Corporation over all made a profit. It reduced most insurance premiums to public officers by 20% and allowed the premiums to be paid in instalments. It also offers a very generous service to the public. The only serious losses that it is incurring in the field of motor insurance lie in Government departments and Corporations whose drivers are careless and hit their vehicles on occasion with very great losses. The Corporation has made a profit on property insurance and miscellaneous accident insurance, although we have made a loss on marine insurance because we offer coverage on fishing boats which is not profitable; however the Corporation is maintaining this largely as a service.

I will like to congratulate all concerned, the Board of the Insurance Corporation and also a special word of congratulations to Mr. Mooney who is a regional adviser on insurance stationed in Barbados and obtained through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Assistance from the Government of India. Without Mr. Mooney we might not have been able to bring the Corporation into operation when we did, and I would like to congratulate the staff of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the devoted work they have carried out, especially since in

direct competition with the private sector they have shown that in a year they could put themselves on the same commercially sound footing as any private insurance company in Barbados.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the annual report of the Barbados National Standard Institutions for the year 1978-79.

Also the Auditors report and Financial Statement of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation for the years, ended June 1977 and June 1978, along with the Chairman's Report for the years 1976-77 and 1977-78.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have to announce that I propose to present the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the year 1980-81 to the House next Wednesday afternoon 9th April, at 4.30 p.m. Your Honour's permission will be sought for television and radio coverage of the Budget at that time and of the Budget debate on the two following days, Thursday April 10 and Friday, April, 11. The Leader of the House will get in touch with the Leader of the Opposition - I do not know if the Opposition is boycotting the proceedings today - but it is hoped, subject to arrangements made between Your Honour, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, to televise the entire debate as was done last year under the same conditions relative to the same principal spokesmen, and indeed and as far as I am concerned, the last speech made by the Opposition on Friday night as well; and in due course I will be asking permission to speak for one hour in reply. There is no time limit on my reply, but if it is necessary I will reply at the end of the debate on Friday night in less than an hour.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: As you are aware, Sir, the usual letters have been sent to you and to the Leader of the Opposition and I am available for any discussions at any convenient time. We have sent out the usual letters.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot be aware of any letters sent to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.
12.30 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) ORDER, 1980

Order No. 1 was called - to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This Resolution, Sir, is to approve an increase in the size of the Police Force, some regrading of Police salaries, an increase of the number of Inspectors, Station Sergeants and Sergeants, to bracket the ranks of Sergeant and Corporals. The rank of Corporal has effectively been abolished and no more appointments will be made thereto. The great majority of the existing Corporals will be promoted to Sergeants. We are also adding an additional Assistant Commissioner, Senior Superintendent and various other positions.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF A GUARANTEE TO THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR THE REPAYMENT OF A PORTION OF A LOAN MADE BY THE BANK TO LIAT (1974) LTD

Order No. 2 was called to move the passing of the Resolution to approve of a guarantee to the Caribbean Development Bank for the repayment of a portion of a loan made by the Bank to LIAT (1974) Ltd.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Resolution is to approve a guarantee to the Caribbean Development Bank for the repayment by LIAT of an amount equivalent to 268,966 pounds sterling and \$7,760 United States currency. This guarantee is part of a guarantee in conjunction with the other Governments of the Caribbean for a loan of 2.6 million pounds sterling and \$75,000 United States currency.

The Caribbean Development Bank is lending this money to LIAT and each of the Governments have agreed to guarantee this loan in proportion to the amounts that they have agreed to subsidise to LIAT in the event of a loss by LIAT. Barbados' share of the guarantee is 20.7%.

I would like to inform the House that the operational position of LIAT has been improved considerably and the last year's operation shows a net loss of \$1.9 million. This loss we are confident would have been reduced had all of the Governments complied with the pre-conditions of the Caribbean Development Loan instead of paying to the private sector Bank interest at eleven point something percent and had paid the 6% interest overall which the Caribbean Development Loan would cost, that \$1.8 million would have been reduced to the extent of some \$500,000.

All of the Governments who have been meeting in Trinidad last week have agreed to hustle up the Guarantee Agreement and the Barbados Government is carrying this out by bringing this Resolution before Parliament in accordance with our Rules and Regulations.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

GENOCIDE ACT, 1980

Order No. 3 was called to move the Second Reading of a Bill to implement the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Resolution is to implement a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide approved and proposed for signature and ratification or accession by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution to 260A(III) in December, 1948. The Convention came into force in January, 1951. The Government of Barbados is now seeking to take steps to accept what the Convention gives.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 were called and passed.
12.40 p.m.

Clauses 6 and 7 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN, reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Mr. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. R. TULL seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Order No. 4 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to give effect in Barbados to the New York Convention on the recognition and enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, at present, there is no provision in the Laws of Barbados in respect of Arbitral Awards in other countries.

This Bill is seeking to facilitate the recognition and enforcement of the Laws. It is particularly at this stage because of the stepping up of commercial relations between Barbados and other countries. We have had it circulated to the Judiciary and other people, we have had their comments, and we now feel that it is in order. There are no Constitutional implications foreseen and I beg to move that his Bill be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 9 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
12.50 p.m.

On motion of Hon. L. R. TULL seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

On motion of Hon. L. R. TULL seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was passed.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday, 9th April, 1980 at 4.15 p.m.

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

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

12.58 p.m.