
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th October, 1982.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 1982.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. Hinds, J.P., (Speaker);
Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister);
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite;
J. G. Odle, Esq., B.Sc.;
Hon. V. L. Johnson, M.A.;
Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw;
L. L. Sisnett, Esq.
Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman;
R. E. Brathwaite, Esq.;
N. K. Simmons, Esq.;
A. Truss, Esq.;

Prayers were taken by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

Messrs. B. M. TAITT, M. A. KING and C. L. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, September 28, 1982.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES and Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated, and subject to any observations by any honourable Member as to the accuracy thereof, I beg to move that they be confirmed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by honourable Members, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received copies of Accounts and Statements as prepared by the Accountant General for the month of July, 1982.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report and Financial Statements of Accounts of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1981.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Government from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the sum of U.S. \$2.7 million to assist in the financing of the technical Assistance Project in Agricultural Diversification and Energy Conservation.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$2 500 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1982–83, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1982–83 No. 4 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to amend the note to Subhead 5 – Polyclinic Development Programme (I.A.D.B.) of Capital Head 78 – Ministry of Health.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Michael West, his question relating to the Westbury Cemetery wall.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister responsible for Transport and Works:

1. Is the Minister aware that the condition of the wall of the Westbury Cemetery along Westbury Road has deteriorated considerably?
2. Is the Minister further aware that the condition of the wall appears to constitute a serious threat and/or danger to the public?
3. Will the Minister urgently take steps to have this matter investigated and, if necessary, corrected?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, in April 1982 the Barbados Government negotiated and concluded an Air Services Agreement with the Government of the U.S.A., an agreement which has the potential for the further development of our tourism industry and at the same time providing valuable markets for our designated airline to exploit.

In May 1982, during the visit of the Prime Minister to Trinidad and Tobago, it was indicated to officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Government, and of BWIA, that it was the intention of the Barbados Government to designate BWIA as its carrier into the United States of America.

As promised, and in the spirit of further regional cooperation, this Government therefore approached the Government of the United States of America on the question of the designation of BWIA to operate Barbados' route right into the U.S.A. notwithstanding the fact that this carrier is not substantially owned and effectively controlled by the Government nor nationals of Barbados.

I wish to report to this Honourable House that I have received a communication from the Government of the United States of America informing that that Government is prepared to accept the designation of BWIA by the Government of Barbados to conduct the air services specified in the US/Barbados Air Transport Agreement.

This information has been passed to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and a reply is being awaited.

This Government considers this to be a major success in pursuance of its air transport policy and a stepping stone to further regional cooperation in air transport.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM and Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the day.
12.25 p.m.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this is one of those days that we are not in a position to proceed with the two Items on the Order Paper. The necessity for the meeting, however, is required by the fact that we had to give notice of a number of matters today.

In the absence of using a special procedure, which we hesitate to use in view of the fact that we always wish to give the other side great notice in pursuance of their function, we had to call the meeting for the purposes of the notices.

The Select Committee has not completed its deliberations on one matter and the Attorney General is working on certain amendments to the other one, so we do not wish to proceed those other matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Accordingly, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday October 19, 1982, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Member, while making only what can be described as "half-bake apology" for calling this Honourable House and its Members into a colossal waste of the taxpayers money today, indicated that he did not wish to use a procedure and therefore the House had to be called so he could give notice.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the records should indicate that on a previous occasion during this session a similar situation occurred, and the Government side at that time did not feel any constraint about using the procedure which he carefully did not outline to us, so we would know what the hardship would be in using that procedure.

We believe, Sir, that the Government situation is so confused that there are not in a position from day to day, week to week, to know precisely what they are

doing. And we believe this sitting today is only a manifestation of a deeper and more significant malaise that is inflicting itself upon the ranks of the Government in the managing of the affairs of this country.

It is most disappointing — I am speaking on the adjournment, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Honourable Member is speaking to the motion for the adjournment, he must speak to that motion.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If he has already wandered away therefrom.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I apologise to Your Honour.

That we have to adjourn in these circumstances, Sir, is a matter which must cause grave disquiet, not only on this side of the Honourable House, but to the general quality.

We would expect the Government to make sure that having called the meeting on the 19th, that we will not have to adjourn in similar circumstances.

In all the circumstances then, Sir, we on This Side have no alternative but to agree with the adjournment.

(Certain remarks made by the honourable Member for St. Michael West were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. SPEAKER)

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 19, 1982, at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
12.35 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

(BY HIS HONOUR)

Re receipts of Copies of the Accounts and Statements for the month of July 1982 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

HON. Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN:

Report and Financial Statements of Accounts of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1981.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

HON. H. B. ST. JOHN:

A Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Government from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the sum of U.S.\$2.7 million.

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HON. L. B. BRATHWAITE:

A Resolution to amend the note to Subhead 5 — Polyclinic Development Programme (I.A.D.B.) of Capital Head 78 — Ministry of Health.

NOTICE OF QUESTION

Of the Minister responsible for Transport and Works (Hon. Dr. D. G. Blackman), by Mr. B. M. Taitt re the deterioration of the wall at the Westbury Cemetery along Westbury Road.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN:

Re BWIA, the national airline of Trinidad and Tobago, as the designated carrier of Barbados under the US/Barbados Air Services Agreement.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Adjournment..... Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Mr. TAITT

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

HINDS, His Honour W. C. B. (St. Peter)
ST. JOHN, Hon. H. B. (Christ Church East Central)
TAITT, B. M. (St. Michael West).