

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, October 17, 1983.

Pursuant to Prorogation, the Second Legislative Session 1981–86 was opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Deighton Ward, in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, at 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The following honourable Members of the House were present in the Chamber of the House of Assembly:

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker): St. Joseph.

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition): St. John.

Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House): St. James North.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. Adams, Q.C., M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, and Minister of Health): St. Thomas.

Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry): Christ Church East Central.

Hon. H. deB. Forde, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.: Christ Church West.

L. E. Sandiford, Esq., M.A., (Econ.): St. Michael South.

Hon. Miss B.A. Miller, (Minister of Education): City of Bridgetown.

Hon. L. B. Brathwaite, (Minister of Housing and Lands): St. Andrew.

J. G. Odle, Esq., B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees): St. George North.

Hon. V. L. Johnson, B.A., M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works): St. Michael West Central.

B. M. Taitt, Esq., B.A. (Hons), M.A., LL.B., (Hons.): St. Michael West.

Hon. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs): St. George South.

Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw, (Minister of Labour, Social Security, Sport and Community Services): St. Michael South East.

L. L. Sisnett, Esq., (Parliamentary Secretary): St. Michael North East.

Hon. Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, M.A., M.Sc., (Econ.) (Minister of Agriculture, Food & Consumer Affairs): Christ Church East.

Dr. R. C. Haynes, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.): St. Michael South Central.

P. M. Greaves, Esq., B.A.: St. Michael North.

R. E. Brathwaite, Esq.: St. Lucy.

Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.: St. Michael East.

L. A. Weekes, Esq.: St. Michael North West.

M. A. King, Esq., LL.B.: Christ Church West Central.

W. O. Franklin, Esq., A.I.A.S., J.P.: St. Philip North.

N. K. Simmons, Esq.: St. James South.

H. A. Blackman, Esq.: St. Philip South.

A. Truss, Esq.: St. Michael Central.

HOUSE SUMMONED TO OTHER PLACE

The Sergeant-at-Arms entered the Chamber, stopped at the Bar of the Honourable the House of Assembly, and informed the Deputy Speaker that His Excellency the Governor-General commanded the attendance of the Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Marshal bearing the Mace cradlewise, and followed by the other honourable Members according to seniority, proceeded to the Senate Chamber.

His Excellency the Governor-General then addressed Parliament as follows:—

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
AT THE
OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
ON MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1983**

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

Mr. Deputy Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

It is with deep regret that we note the absence from today's ceremony, of His Honour the Speaker of the House, The Honourable Member for St. Peter, who is recuperating from a serious illness which befell him some months ago. My wife and I join his family and many other friends and associates in wishing him a speedy and full recovery.

Since the end of the last session of Parliament, plans have been under preparation for the renovation and refurbishing of the Chambers of both Houses with a view to improving the facilities for members for conducting the people's business. It is hoped that the improved facilities, which have been requested by Members, will be available shortly.

Indications are that Barbados is on its way to recovery from the world-wide economic slump, and our economy has shown some signs of improvement during the first half of the current financial year. It is expected that real, albeit small, economic growth will be realised during 1983, so reversing the trends of the past two years.

The fiscal and monetary strategy adopted by my Government has resulted in an improved balance of payments position so far this year, while the policies of unemployment insurance and welfare assistance have served to cushion the hardships on the population resulting from economic recessions. This year, there has been a sharp decline in the rate of inflation and the most recent figures on the rate of unemployment are lower than at the same time last year. Government revenue for the first half of the fiscal year increased by some 20% over that collected for the similar period of the previous financial year, while the increase in current expenditure was contained at only 6%.

The strengthening of the public finances has meant that all of the International Monetary Fund targets have been met, and the remaining targets are also expected to be met.

My Government has prepared a new Development Plan for 1983-88. It will continue its export-led growth strategy in the new Plan period and will use the economic and social base, which was laid during the last Plan period, as a spring-board for generating further development from the country's limited resource endowment.

The newly formed Barbados National Oil Company has met with success in its drilling programme for oil and gas, and will continue the programme. The National Petroleum Corporation will upgrade and expand its distribution system and will seek to increase its sales for industrial purposes. A new Petroleum Winning Operations Act modernising the law relating to exploration and production of petroleum will shortly be introduced into Parliament. My Government is now in the process of finalising the grant of a licence for exploring for oil off the north coast of Barbados.

The Wind Energy project will shortly start and the possibility of feeding this power into the national electricity grid is being explored. Further, the generation of energy from solid waste is being investigated, and so too is the generation of wave energy.

My Government recognises the crucial role which Transportation plays in the social and economic life of the community. It further recognises that although our road network has served us well for over two centuries, it has not been adapted and developed to serve fully the needs of our modern industrial society. It is now necessary to undertake substantial investment in the construction of our new roads. The improvement of existing roads, already in progress, will be intensified in order to service the new industrial and commercial developments which are rapidly springing up across the country.

My Government proposes to construct a major new Industrial Estates Access Road which will commence at the round-a-bout at Paradise, Black Rock, and traverse the southern portion of the island and will terminate at Grantley Adams International Airport. Construction will start in the New Year.

The Arawak Cement Plant in St. Lucy is nearing completion and should start to produce cement by mid 1984. The shale for the manufacture of the cement will be quarried at Greenland, St. Andrew, and it is proposed to upgrade the road system from Greenland to the cement plant. The improved road system will also serve the new brick factory and the two sand quarries at Walkers and Springfield.

At this point, I am happy to say that the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has graciously agreed to participate in the formal Opening of the Cement Plant later next year.

My Government proposes to continue with its programme of improvement of subsidiary and tenantry roads and will continue to devote a major portion of the Transport levy funds to this purpose.

My Government proposes to construct a modern garage and new administrative complex for the Transport Board. Steps will also be taken to improve its management capability and the programme of upgrading the fleet strength will be continued.

Agreement has now been reached on the use of the Shallow Draught Facility at the Bridgetown Port and the Inter-island vessels which now berth in the Careenage will shortly be transferred to the Shallow Draught.

Bearing in mind the important role of Air Transport Services in relation to the development of tourism, an aviation policy will be pursued which will ensure the highest level of airline capacity in Barbados' major tourist markets. Support will continue to be given to efforts towards regional arrangements for air transport in the Eastern Caribbean, and the continued development of the regionally controlled and operated airlines will be facilitated. New Air Services Agreements with the United Kingdom and Canada are being negotiated.

The tourism industry experienced a downturn in 1981 and 1982, the major cause being the onset of international economic recession. However, there are indications that the economies of the major metropolitan countries, especially the USA, are on the road to recovery and this has been reflected in the improvement of local tourism this year.

In order to consolidate our share of the tourist market and to improve our competitive position, the Government will emphasise the qualitative aspects of the industry during the new session and will take steps to maintain the standards which it sets. Hotel management companies will be brought under legislative control.

My Government recognises that many small hotel establishments have become marginal economic operations. In consultation with its financial institutions, it will promote mergers between the marginal operations with a view to achieving cost savings, greater efficiency in operations and improving their economic viability.

My Government will encourage the development of full service hotels outside of the high density areas on the west and south coasts while de-emphasising the construction of apartments which are at present in adequate supply.

It is my Government's aim to have the normal hours of work of shop assistants reduced from 42 to 40 per week; and within the next few weeks legislation will be introduced into Parliament to provide for more flexible hours of opening and closing of shops and the conditions of employment of shop assistants. Such changes in shopping hours will also relieve the pressure on public transport.

A Bill providing for greater security in employment, as well as a Bill seeking to outlaw discriminatory practices in employment, will also be introduced into Parliament shortly.

A draft White Paper on Industrial Relations has been prepared and circulated to the trade unions and employers' associations for comment. It is hoped to receive those comments shortly so that the White Paper may be finalised and laid in Parliament.

Steps are being taken to computerise the records of the National Insurance and Social Security Department so as to improve the general administration of the scheme and collection of contributions, and especially so as to facilitate prompt payment of benefits.

The expansion of vocational training will continue, with emphasis on the apprenticeship programme. The Skills Training Programme will be reviewed and adjusted so as to ensure that it continues to serve its purpose of providing shortterm intensive training to meet current needs in the labour market.

Sport will continue to be promoted at the widest possible level, and sport facilities will be expanded. Incentives will be provided with a view to retaining and utilising the services of talented Barbadian sportsmen in the region.

My Government will continue its policy of providing welfare assistance to needy persons. In this respect there will be a close liaison between the Welfare Department and the National Employment Bureau. All Welfare programmes will be rationalised in order to ensure their availability to a wide cross section of eligible persons.

The philosophy informing the Child Care Board's policy will be the provision of permanency in each child's life leading to the development of the Child's full potential. It is my Government's intention to continue to seek innovative and effective measures towards this end. It is accordingly planned to utilise the newly built Haynesville Day Nursery in St. James as a multi-purpose Child Care Centre. This Centre will service the residential and day care aspects of Child Care and will also be a centre for Parent Education Group Programmes.

My Government maintains that access to health care services is a basic human right. It is therefore its aim to ensure that all phases of the National Health Service will be fully implemented by December, 1984. My Government's policy for the National Health Service continues to be that every person in Barbados should have access to health services free at the point of service

and that every person should be able to go to the doctor of their choice.

In the area of Mental Health, my Government proposes to develop a sound community based mental health service integrated into the Polyclinics along with the necessary home care and other primary health care services. With the community based programme in operation, it is proposed to build a new Psychiatric Hospital on modern principles, providing a higher standard of care and supervision of psychiatric patients.

Further to my Government's policy on the care of the elderly, emphasis will be given to the implementation of a programme to ensure that as far as possible old people can be maintained in their families, homes and communities with the relevant social and health services taken to them.

A safe environment continues to be of great concern to all peoples. My Government is aware of the potential health hazards which are likely to arise from the existence of derelict properties and the improper disposal of sewage. It has built and commissioned the Central Sewerage System for Bridgetown and has instituted an intensive campaign on the cleaning up of derelict properties. In order to protect the south and west coasts and also our water system along the Belle area, my Government proposes to sewer the south coast and the Belle by mid 1985, and the west coast thereafter.

In keeping with my Government's commitment to law reform, the laws relating to consumer protection will be strengthened and the laws on Gambling and related topics will be revised and consolidated during this Session. Legislation will be introduced to reform various areas of the criminal law, including the law of evidence, sexual offences against children, and theft.

The Crime Prevention Panel will continue to serve as a link between the police and the public, and the Royal Barbados Police Force will be encouraged to revitalise the Police Boys and Girls Clubs.

Plans for the National Youth Service to be conducted by the Barbados Defence Force are now well advanced. Initially, the training will be voluntary, embodying all existing youth groups in the island. Volunteers will be expected to complete 240 hours of youth service over a two-year period. A programme of voluntary trade training for young people will also be undertaken.

My Government is committed to the Regional Security System and the Barbados Defence Force will continue to assist the Government in honouring its obligations under this Agreement. Further courses involving security co-operation with regional partners are planned in the coming months.

Expanded training will be provided to members of the Defence Force in order to improve its capability to carry out its functions of air and maritime surveillance. The Force will assist in the management of Aero Services Company which is now owned by the Government. It is intended to make maximum use of all aircraft in training in Search and Rescue when Aero Services aircraft are not required for commercial contracts.

As a follow-up to the construction of the Coast Guard base at Willoughby Fort, my Government plans to carry out improvements and extensions to the Pierhead. These will not only improve the Base Facilities but will bring the area into harmony with the Carlisle Bay plan which is currently under consideration.

Legislation will shortly be introduced to provide for the grant of the status of permanent resident to persons who are not otherwise citizens of Barbados, but are the children of women who are citizens of Barbados by birth. It will also provide for the grant of immigrant status to the children of immigrants.

A new Citizenship Act will shortly be introduced to streamline the legislation relating to citizenship. Provision will be made for persons who are citizens of Barbados by descent to be issued with a specific certificate of citizenship.

My Government will continue to participate actively in the regional integration movement of CARICOM since it is convinced that economic integration is the only viable option for Caribbean States as they seek to promote the social and economic development of their people. It will also continue to co-operate with its regional partners to remove impediments to the expansion of trade within the Caribbean Common Market; and it will seek to have the Common External Tariff critically examined with a view to improving the effectiveness of its tariff protection against third country imports of sensitive products.

In the field of international economic relations, my Government will continue to support efforts to reach a new International Sugar Agreement. It will work for a successor agreement to the Lomé Convention to secure better terms for exports of industrial and agricultural goods and commodities as well as to seek assistance for tourism development. Barbados will use the provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to increase its exports to the United States.

With the completion of the new General Post Office next year, the programme for providing improved postal facilities will be continued. Participation in the equity of a locally registered company to provide external telecommunications services is being negotiated with Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. A new

radio complex will be constructed at Whitepark, St. Michael, and a new satellite earth station will be constructed for the television service.

The National Cultural Foundation will be established before the end of the year as the executive arm of the Ministry of Information and Culture, responsible for the stimulation and development of cultural programmes.

My Government proposes a new thrust in housing. It will encourage and facilitate private developers and individuals to assume the initiative in the production of units, especially for the low-income families. The Government will expand its role in making land available on which the houses can be built. It will place emphasis on a Sites and Services programme under which vacant land will be prepared for housing through lot division, installation of water, roads and drainage. These lots will be sold on generous terms to prospective homeowners.

Government will continue to provide housing accommodation for renting and has in fact identified a number of locations for the development of multi-storeyed apartment buildings. A comprehensive restoration programme for the several housing estates of the National Housing Corporation will be undertaken.

Full agreement has now been reached with the United States Agency for International Development for a \$20 million housing programme. It will be conducted in accordance with my Government's new thrust and will provide for new homes, home improvement and expansion, and purchase of lots under the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act.

Graeme Hall Swamp will be developed. It will include park and recreational facilities and improvement of the adjacent villages at St. Lawrence and Top Rock.

My Government will continue to stimulate agricultural development. An Agricultural Development Act will shortly be introduced into Parliament. This will emphasise the export of non-sugar agricultural products and consolidate and update the existing incentives for the agricultural sector.

In this new Parliamentary Session, legislation will also be enacted to help law enforcement agents to deal in a more positive manner with the problem of praedial larceny.

Renewed efforts will be made to promote and expand local onion and peanut production and other domestic fruit production. A National Fruit Orchard is in the process of being established.

Farmers will be encouraged to increase their output of beef and mutton, and support will be given to institutions to set up feed lots systems.

The advisory services available to the sugar cane farmer will receive the full support of the Government crop protection services in an intensified effort to eliminate pest and disease problems.

My Government will speed up the implementation of the Rural Development Project. This is aimed not only at agricultural diversification and the improvement of living standards of small-holders and tenants, but also at delivering such vital services as credit, irrigation and tillage.

The Government's thrust in the development of the fisheries sector will be heightened with the construction of a new fishing harbour in Bridgetown, a new fishing terminal at Speightstown and the upgrading of other fish landing sites around the island. Legislation will be introduced for ensuring the safety of fishermen at sea.

The reports of the National Advisory Commission on Education which was set up earlier this year are expected to provide a basis for re-examination of a number of areas of present educational activity, and my Government will consider them with this in view.

To enable private schools and private educational institutions more easily to provide education of satisfactory quality, opportunities will be made available for the training of teachers from these schools at the Erdiston Teachers' Training College.

My Government is convinced that there can be no more delay in providing Barbadians with the basic skills to enable them to operate and service effectively the hardware and software components of the computer and to attain a knowledge of this relatively new development. It therefore proposes to include this important subject in the curriculum of its Secondary Schools.

The programmes of the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic will be more closely harmonized so as to reduce duplication. Particular emphasis will be laid at the Polytechnic on training for the electronic industries and trades while the College will provide opportunities for middle-management and semi-professional training.

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

I have the honour to inform you that, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, I have today appointed Mr. Owen Seymour Arthur, Research Fellow of the Institute of Social and Economic

Research of the University of the West Indies, to be a member of the Senate in the existing vacancy. The new Senator subscribed to the appropriate oaths earlier today and awaits the opportunity to take his seat amongst you.

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

Mr. Deputy Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

I have outlined to you my Government's programme for this new session of Parliament, and I extend to you my best wishes in your new Parliamentary Session and pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

HANDING OUT OF THRONE SPEECHES BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The President of the Senate and the Deputy Speaker of the House stood and advanced to the dais.

His Excellency the Governor-General handed a copy of the Throne Speech to His Honour the President of the Senate and a copy to His Honour the Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly.

HOUSE RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER and other honourable Members, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Prayers were read by Archdeacon F. A. Cayless.

REPORT OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When I attended the Other Place, His Excellency the Governor-General was pleased to deliver a Speech. His Excellency has furnished me with a copy of that Speech, which, for ease of reference, I now propose to read to this Honourable House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Speech be taken as read.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ADOPTION OF THE STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): I beg to move, Sir, that the Standing Orders of last session be adopted as the Standing Orders of this Session.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the existing Standing Orders of the Honourable House of Assembly be adopted as the Standing Orders of this Session was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): We on this side propose to allow the present sitting members of the former Debates Committee of this Honourable House to remain. If there are any changes from the other side, I would gladly accept them so that we can have this Committee appointed, Sir. But those members on this side who served on the last occasion are the ones, Sir, who I propose to nominate.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

(Mr. P.M. GREAVES: Read that out. Give the names.)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this side we should like to nominate the honourable Member for St. Michael West, (Mr. B. M. Taitt), the honourable Member for St. Michael South, (Mr. L. E. Sandiford), the honourable Member for St. Philip North, (Mr. W. O. Franklin) in place of the honourable Member for St. James South, (Mr. N. K. Simmons) and the honourable Member for St. Michael North West (Mr. L. A. Weekes) to serve on that committee.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that those honourable Members so named constitute the House of Assembly's members on the Debates Committee of Parliament was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, on this side, I propose that the members who served on the Library Committee during the last Session serve again.

If there are any members on that side who they would like to change, we shall accept them.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Deputy Speaker, no changes are indicated in the composition of the committee on this side.

The question that those honourable Members who served on the Library Committee be re-appointed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SESSIONAL SELECT COMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, for the Committee of Privileges, I propose to nominate the same members on this side who served in the last Session.

If there are any new members from the other side, we shall accept them.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): Mr. Deputy Speaker, no change is indicated on this side.

The question that the honourable Members who served on the Committee of Privileges be re-appointed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): The composition on this side remains, with the exception of the Deputy Speaker who was a member on the last occasion.

I propose to nominate, Sir, the Member for St. Michael East (Dr. D. G. Blackman) to serve in place of the Deputy Speaker. The other Members are quite willing to serve on this Committee.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): I should like to draw something, which I think we have spoken on informally, to Your Honour's attention.

If Your Honour would look at Order 59:1 dealing with the Sessional Select Committees of the House, the Rule says:

"There shall be a Committee of Public Accounts for the examination of accounts....."
and so on:

"to consist of not more than seven Members, who shall be nominated at the commencement of every Session, and of whom four shall be a quorum.

2. The Leader of the Opposition shall be Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts."

Traditionally, what we have done is to nominate six Members and then put on the Leader as Chairman of the Committee.

The right honourable Member for St. Thomas (Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. Adams) will confirm that the successive chairmen of the Committee of Public Accounts — and you, as a member, will also be able to confirm this — since we are the only Committee in which a quorum has been stipulated — and this matter has reached as far as the special Committee on Public Expenditure in London — have had considerable difficulty in convening meetings and raising quorums from time to time.

My contention is this: that if you look at the composition of the other Committees, where the chairman is designated, whether the Chairman be the Speaker of the House or otherwise, the members are independent of that chairmanship. So I am saying that there should be an additional member.

It does not matter to me which side that member comes from. That would be a matter for the Leader of the House or the Members on the other side. Right now, just by mutual arrangement, there are four persons from the Government and three from this side. The three on this side also include the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, who is dealt with separately in Order 59:2.

To substantiate my argument, if Your Honour will look at the "STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE", the "STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE" under Order 59:2 says:

"There shall be a Standing Orders Committee which shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman, and nine members....."

(No quorum is stipulated there, as far as I can see.)
".....who shall be nominated by the House at the commencement of every Session."

And then, under Rule 3 of the same Order, 59, it says:

"There shall be a Committee of Privileges which shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman and six members".

We are the only committee in which a quorum was stipulated, and we have been restricting ourselves to four members, of whom four have to be a quorum.

I am sure that the Prime Minister will agree with me that this is imposing an unnecessary inhibition on the free discharge of the Committee of Public Accounts of its duties and responsibilities and I am therefore suggesting that this House should nominate an additional member.

It is immaterial to me from which side of the House that member comes, because I do not regard the Committee of Public Accounts as a partisan body, but as a Committee of the House which tries to do, or should try to do, an impartial job in examining the accounts of the various public departments. So what I am suggesting, Sir, is that we should nominate an additional member.
4.15 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Deputy Speaker, *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. I stood in that place when these Standing Orders were being introduced, resisted making the quorum four, and was told by the person who was in this place — not the honourable Member (Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow) — that you could not allow the Opposition to make a quorum on the Public Accounts Committee. I said at that time that if the Government allows the Opposition to make a quorum on the Public Accounts Committee, that is the Government's fault, but you should not have for the working of the Committee by having an extra-ordinary quorum.

The standard quorum for Committees of the House, I believe, is three. There might be a case for increasing that to four since we now have 27 Members. But I do not think that it could be a good case, because we have not, as a rule, increased the membership or the committees generally.

It was always the case of the Barbados Labour Party that there should not be an extraordinary quorum for the Public Accounts Committee. If the honourable Member cares to, in due course, move the deletion of any reference to a quorum, which I believe is all that would need to be done to make the quorum three, he will not find any opposition on this side. He may have missed his opportunity by not so moving earlier today when the Standing Orders themselves were re-adopted. He may now have to come with a Resolution. If the Clerk would advise Your Honour on that, of course, we would be guided by it. But the honourable Member is making a very sound point. I can refer him to my speech of ten years ago if he wishes to make more arguments. We on this side have no quarrel.

The honourable Member did not choose between an additional member and a reduction of the quorum. I myself prefer a reduction of the quorum, because it was my experience, when I was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, that you could usually get three people. You could usually get the Chairman and two people. Our difficulty usually was to get a member of the Government, although in Mr. Patsy Springer's time, I think that he was a very faithful attendant — until, I believe instructions were given to delete the quorum. But three people presented little or no problem, and I would recommend that to the honourable Member if he really wants to get the committee going.

I do not know, Your Honour, what procedure would be necessary; if it is now possible to recommit the Standing Orders and delete the reference to the quorum.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the quorum has been a problem, as you are aware. That is not the point that I am making now. I am not complaining that it was unfair to make a quorum of four. I think that most committees regulate the size of their quorum. There is no magic in the number of three, and I think that, even in this House, in other committees usually a quorum is set at one-third of the membership, if it can be so divided. If you have eight, it would be three, because you cannot divide eight into three.

The point I am making is that as the rule stands, my interpretation, and I am inviting you accept this interpretation, is that to appoint seven members altogether including the chairman would be inconsistent with the other Select Committees. Where the chairman is specifically named, the membership of the committee does not include the chairman, and merely I am inviting the Leader of the House to nominate an additional person. They would then have five members, of whom four in the Government can form a quorum.

That does not matter as far as I am concerned. I am anxious to get the work done. When we, as I hope we shall soon appoint a committee to look at the Standing Orders — I believe there is some indication from the Government that at some time that we need to have another look at the Standing Orders — we can then go into the question of whether we should have a quorum at all stipulated or let the committee regulate its own quorum.

The point that I am making is that within the Standing Order right now, it will be inconsistent for us to include the chairman as a member of the seven — when in all the other committees the chairman is independent of the members. That is the point that I am making.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, we have no objection on this side to the Member nominating another person. There will be no objection. It is all in the interest of the country, of the Public Accounts, and each and everyone of us on each side of the House are quite willing to see that. We give you the opportunity to nominate another person.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I thank the honourable Member for his consideration. But as I said, it does not matter from which side the person is nominated, because the way I run that Committee, no politics should intervene — as you know, Sir.

I should like to nominate the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin) to be the additional member of the Committee, along with the others who were on the Committee before.

The question that those honourable Members nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee be appointed, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Sir, I propose to nominate those members on this side who served on this committee during the last season.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There are no changes on our side.

The question that those honourable Members who served on the Standing Orders Committee be re-appointed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the following:

The Accounts and Statements for the months May, June, July and August of 1983 as prepared by the Accountant General. The Reports of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1982–83.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay, the following on behalf of the Prime Minister:

The Leave Passage (Amendment) Order, 1983.

Statements of Account of the Transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island for the months January – March, 1983.

Statements of Account of the Transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island for the months April – June, 1983.

4.25 p.m.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of Accounts of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1982.

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1982.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Statements showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the Payment of Money Orders for the months November and December 1982 and January to June, 1983.

Statements showing Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations for the period November and December 1982 and January to June, 1983.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report of the Community Legal Services Commission for the year 1982–83.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Instruments adopted at the 69th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June, 1983.

Report of the National Insurance Board on its operation under the Severance Payments Scheme for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1981.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$587,499 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1983-84, Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1983-84 No. 7 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$282,757 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1983-84, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1983-84 No. 8 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Bill to provide for the issue of passports and for related matters.

A Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act.

A Bill to amend the Law Revision Act.

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, the following were read a first time:

A Bill to provide for the issue of passports and for related matters.

A Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Law Revision Act be read a first time.

In moving that the Bill be now read a first time, I want to say that I have spoken to the Leader of the Opposition and he has agreed to the House doing this Bill at some time tomorrow because of its urgency.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

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

4.35 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Government Business be the instant Order of the day.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Business is now the Instant Order of the Day.

LAW REVISION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 1 was called - To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Law Revision Act.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by proclamation dated the.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the honourable Member begins, I believe we should suspend the Standing Orders so as to complete the matters today, otherwise, we may have certain procedural problems.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, Sir.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that those several Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, on July 28 this year, the revised edition of the subsidiary legislation in force on December 31, 1978 came into operation on August 1, 1983.

It was brought to my attention this morning that there has been a number of omissions from the subsidiary legislation, incorporating some major areas of the law. It is important that this amendment be passed today to validate the period between August 1, 1983 and today's date, October 17, 1983.

Under the Law Revision Act, the Attorney-General is the Law Revision Commissioner, but Law Revision Commissioners are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Cabinet. There were two Law Revision Commissioners over the last two years: one had died, the late Sir Erskine Ward, and the remaining one, Mr. Wilfred Fergusson, has been working in that capacity for about seven or eight years.

As I said, it was brought to my attention only this morning that there were these omissions. It took two and a half years to do the work to have the subsidiary Laws proclaimed, and it would have required a minimum of three or four months, if one worked full-time, to have gone through all of this work again to make sure that all the

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is being charitable).

Hon. L. R. TULL: It would take three or four months full-time work to make sure that all of the statutes that should have been covered were covered. The honourable Deputy Prime Minister thinks that it would take longer than that, but I feel it would take three or four months.

As it is, Sir, it was necessary for us to have this piece of legislation now to validate whatever acts were taken on those particular pieces of legislation that were omitted.

To put it a little bit more clearly, the Law Revision Act says that any legislation which was omitted under the subsidiary legislation that was proclaimed would be invalid. We are seeking now to have this amendment passed so that we can not only validate what was omitted, but for the future allow the Law Revision Commission to add, by Order, to a Schedule the list of statutes that have been omitted.

I have discussed this with the Leader of the Opposition, Sir, and he is seized of the problem and the efforts to rectify it.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW (St. John): On this side, we recognize the predicament in which Parliament finds itself — not the Government; Parliament finds itself — because we cannot go on collecting Income Tax from people, particularly from me, if there is no law under which we can collect it.

I would not pay unless there is some law. Unfortunately, I do not have the option because my Income Tax is deducted at source. But I would be in a position to challenge the deduction unless we did something like this enabling the validation of the omission.

While we recognize the urgency and the necessity to reintroduce those things that have been omitted, we would like an undertaking from the honourable Attorney-General that no new legislation will be brought in under the cloak of this validating measure, nothing that the House has not already sanctioned.

In other words, I know that, as lawyers, we will tend — I will only use the word “tend” advisedly — to trust one another, but there may be people out there in the street who may be a bit cherry about employing any member of the legal profession to bring in legislation, under the guise of validating something, which the House has not had an opportunity to debate.

As long as the honourable Member for St. George South (Hon. L. R. Tull) can give that assurance, that this is only intended to cover those cases where there have been omissions in the subsidiary legislation which allow the already, sanctioned laws of Barbados to continue in force, we will have no objection.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bill merely empowers the Attorney-General to add, by Order, to the Schedule of those statutes that have been omitted. Therefore, there is no provision for any new legislation being added to this list.

It also empowers the Law Revision Commissioner to order that this list be published, setting out any piece of omitted subsidiary legislation as it comes to mind.

What I have done is to ask the people in my Chambers to circulate the subsidiary laws to all Government departments, and we have asked them to take a very careful look at the ones that have been published from August 1 and to report back to us, as soon as possible, whether any relevant piece of legislation that governs any of their operations in their department or ministry has been omitted. As these come to hand, an Order will be made, by the Attorney-General, as Law Revision Commissioner, to rectify the omission that has been created in the publishing of the subsidiary laws from August 1, 1983, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to move, Sir that Clause 2 do now stand part.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I just would like a little clarification from the Attorney General.

In the new 22A (2) and (3), the Law Commissioner, as I understood him to say in the Second Reading speech, will be able to insert omissions that are brought to mind. If he inserts something some three or four

months after, is he always going to have the power, when he inserts, to make the particular legislation retroactive?

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Right. (4) says:

"may be made to." So, you are saying, "made, if necessary?"

Now, the next question. You said that it will be tabled in Parliament. Is that all that is necessary?

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If you are satisfied.

4.45 p.m.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, I am also referring to Clause 2(3). It says that one alternative way to make an Order would be to publish a list. There is no definition. I am not so sure if there is a definition of "publish" in the Interpretation Act. I wonder if the Attorney General could at least let us know how this publication is to take place, whether it is to be by the *Official Gazette*, or the newspapers, or how, and if that very act of publication is sufficient for this purpose.

Mr. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, as I understand this and the honourable Attorney General can correct me if I am wrong — the purpose of the amendment is to deal with the problem only of existing laws of Barbados which have been inadvertently omitted; existing laws up to July 31, as I understand it, Sir. So this new piece of legislation does not cover the position in relation to any laws subsequent to July 31, 1983.

You are dealing with a situation where existing laws of Barbados have been omitted from the laws. So if you are dealing with a position where existing laws have been omitted, you certainly are not giving the Commissioner the power to bring in new laws by this rule. That is the point I am making.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I thought that I had made it very clear. Under the Law Revision Act, Section 12(2) states that:

"Subject to section 22, the revised edition shall, from the day appointed under subsection (1), be in all counts and for all purposes the sole and proper statement of the laws enacted or brought into force in Barbados prior to such day as the Governor-General appoints under section 3(2), as revised and reproduced in the revised edition."

This is, in effect, referring to the laws that are in the revised edition that came into effect on August 1, 1983. Up to July, 1981, there are a number of laws which are the valid laws of Barbados. Those that are omitted in the revised edition on August 1, 1983 are no longer valid. This piece of legislation is to validate those that have been omitted from the August 1 edition of the revised laws of this country. That is all.

The Bill also makes provision for the Order to be made by the Law Revision Commissioner, setting out any new law that has been omitted and which is brought to his attention. It will be published in the *Official Gazette* and tabled in this House.

Clause 2 was passed.

Clause 3 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. R. Tull, seconded by Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT "MOTIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE"

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, that brings us to the end of Government Business for today.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: (St. Michael South): I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Before you move the adjournment of the House.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what does the honourable Member rise?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am seeking permission for the item "Motions for Leave of Absence" to be recommitted.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: We have no objection, Sir.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, I have been selected as a member of a delegation from the Barbados branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to attend a meeting which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, and I am acquainting the House, in accordance with the Standing Orders, of my unavailability to attend any meetings which may be summoned during that period. I am seeking leave for that period, from tomorrow's date until — let

me see, Sir — about November 11, Sir. You, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are also a member of that delegation.
4.55 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member seeking leave for the Deputy Speaker?

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the Deputy Speaker so wishes, I would also include him in the leave being sought.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe the Deputy Speaker is capable of seeking his own leave.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I question whether this matter of seeking leave to attend a meeting of the CPA is really necessary. A man cannot go on a CPA visit unless he is a member of the branch, a member of this House or a member of the Other Place, and I question whether it is really appropriate to ask for leave to go on CPA matters. I am not criticising the honourable Member, because I know it is customary to ask. But those CPA trips are sometimes of long duration. I used to be on the executive and sometimes I might be away for a considerable length of time. I wonder whether it is really the intention of the House in any way to penalise someone who is doing the business of the House by attending the CPA.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I tend to believe that it is part of the parliamentary duty of any parliamentarian and therefore he cannot be deemed to be absent if he is doing parliamentary business.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: I take that assurance so long as that is in accordance with the Standing Orders. But I had some doubts; and therefore in accordance with what the Standing Orders say, I tried to get that position clear.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG (St. James North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable Member knows quite well that there will be no objection. He is just letting his constituents know that the Government, once again, is co-operating all the time with the Opposition. Of all the

Members in here, I doubt anybody has attended more CPA meetings — and overseas, including some long hauls to Africa — than the honourable Member. But Sir, it is only to let his constituents know; to avoid him spending money in stamps. That is all there is to it.

Sir, I recall on one occasion I was nominated to go and at the time Senator Asquith Phillips said he could not travel with me; he preferred 'Sir Henry' College boys. We do not object to that. All these things happen in the CPA. But we are not like that.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, November 15, 1983 at 12 o'clock noon.

You can rest assured that when Members return, they can look forward to the Government again asking no quarter and giving none. The cut and thrust of debate is going to be very interesting, and as we turn into the down-stretch, with an upturn in the economy, they can stand by; there is going to be action. I give you all the warning.

I only hope that this House will not be given the opportunity again of hearing the mouthings of the IMF from the IMF specialist. If anybody wanted to know when the House was going to meet again, they only had to start reading the *Nation* two weeks before we came back in. Everything was about some Haynes and the IMF again, so we are used to that! Start to beat a new drum, because we are on the go and on the attack.

Hon. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second the motion.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 15th November, 1983 at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.58 p.m.

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