
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 9, 1986.

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

PRESENT

His Hon. L. A. Weekes, (Speaker)
His Honour J. J. Payne, (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. E. Sandiford, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P.,
(Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Culture and Leader of the House)
Hon. H. deB. Forde, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. P. M. Greaves, B.A., (Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications)
Hon. E. E. Greaves, B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Trade and Commerce)
Hon. Dr. R. C. Haynes, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), (Minister of Finance)
Hon. M. A. King, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)
Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Health)
Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M.
Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc., (Econ.)
Mr. C. V. Walker, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)
Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, J.P.
Mr. E. Bourne
Dr. E. A. Simmons
Mr. C. A. Neblett, B.A., A.C.M.A.
Mr. R. L. Morris, B.A., Cert. Ed.
Mr. P. J. M. Miller
Mr. R. P. Byer, LL.B., L.E.C.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 2, 1986.

Will someone move the confirmation of these Minutes?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes for the meeting of the House on Tuesday, December 2, 1986 have been circulated. Subject to any observations which Members may wish to make, I beg to move that these Minutes be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of this House on that day.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations or alterations, let those Minutes stand confirmed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I have received: the Accounts for the month of October, 1986 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am committed to lay the following:—

The 3rd Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Transport Levy Board for the year 1984–85.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay: The Regulations under the Health Services

Act which can be cited as the Health Services (Assignment of Public Health Inspectors to Private Businesses) Regulations, 1986.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Industry, I am commanded to lay:

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year 1984-85.

Mr. C. L. TROTMAN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$42 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 15, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. B. M. TAITT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$352 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 16, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$395 620 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 17, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$179 149 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1986-87, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1986-87, No. 18, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Bill to amend the Hotels and Restaurants (Sales Tax) Act.

A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1986.

Dr. D. G. BLACKMAN and Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH entered the Chamber and took their seats.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central's Resolution urging the erection of a statue to the memory of the late Charles Duncan O'Neal.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the 50th Anniversary of the passing of Doctor Charles Duncan O'Neal, a former Member of this Honourable House for the Constituency of the City of Bridgetown from 1932 until his death, occurred on 20th November, 1986.

AND WHEREAS we as a nation need to give greater and appropriate recognition to our national heroes,

AND WHEREAS this Honourable House recognises the contribution of the late Charles Duncan O'Neal to the national development of Barbados through his role in the nurturing of our political, economic and social institutions,

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House take steps to have a statue erected to the memory of the late Charles Duncan O'Neal in a prominent place in the City of Bridgetown to be unveiled on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of Independence.
12.30 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to First Reading Of Bills, I would crave the indulgence of the House to reopen item Government Business in order to give notice of an additional Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave is granted.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of:

A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On separate motions of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the following Bills were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Hotel and Restaurants (Sales Tax) Act.

A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1986.

A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting, subject to the customary rights of the Opposition.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Order No. 1 was called – To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: 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. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Item 1(a) which will be dealt with by the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1986–87 No. 14

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple matter. If I may just amplify the Addendum a bit, the amount voted for travel under this Head – General Post Office – was \$305 041 for this current financial year. That would have been enough, had it not been for some increases that were

granted to some of the postmen. That resulted from two years, or over two years of negotiations between the Establishments Division and the union. The amount here, Sir, is intended to supplement this vote because of the increases that have been granted as a result of those negotiations.

The recipients are indeed the postmen who use bicycles, motorcycles or scooters. The previous amount had been \$20 a month for the use of bicycles, and those who used scooters and motor cycles received \$90 a month. As a result of the negotiations, it was agreed that, retroactively from 1st July, 1984, these amounts should be increased: in the case of the bicycles to \$22 a month, and in the case of the motorcycles and scooters to \$110 a month.

The Post Office was notified of these increases only on September 8 of this year, so that it was not known at the time of the consideration of the Estimates, what amounts would be required in order to take care of this vote. Now that it is known, Sir, arrears to the end of August were \$123 237. The amount left in the vote after paying these arrears was \$4 220, and it is estimated that the amount of increases from September 1 to the end of the financial year would be \$33 712. The arithmetic would therefore show that the amount required to supplement this vote is \$152 629.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

12.40 p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, the Resolution was read a first time, a second time and agreed to.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Item No. 3, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 3.

JUDGES REMUNERATION AND PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1986

Order No. 3 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Judges Remuneration and Pensions Act, Cap. 115A.

Hon. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Judges Remuneration and Pensions Act, Cap. 115A of the Laws of Barbados, to provide for more favourable terms of service in respect of members of the judiciary. The changes relate to the computation of pension benefits for the judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

In relation to persons who serve in the Public Service and are subsequently appointed to judicial office, provided that their service is continuous, after they retire, once they have reached 55 years old, they are entitled to a pension equivalent to two-thirds of their pensionable emoluments at the date of retirement. If those persons reach 65 years old, or having attained 55 years old, retire on grounds of ill health, they are entitled to a pension at an annual rate equivalent to the pensionable emoluments at the date of retirement. If the judge retires after attaining 55 years old but before attaining 65 years old, and the rate of pension is not determined, as under the previous arrangements, then the judge is entitled to a pension equivalent to two-thirds of his pensionable emoluments, plus an amount equal to one three hundred and sixtieth of such pensionable emoluments in respect of each month of service after attaining 55 years old.

In relation to persons who serve in the office of Chief Justice for any period of time, or in relation to any puisne judge who has served in that office for not less than 20 years, such judge would be entitled to full pension on retirement.

Opportunity has also been taken in the amending Bill to clarify the position in relation to widows of the holders of judicial office who die while in office.

Asides

Hon. M. A. KING: The widow.

What the amending Bill seeks to do is to clarify that the widow is entitled, subject, of course, to certain reservations in the Act itself, to the pension which the judicial officer would have received.

The Bill, in essence, Mr. Speaker, provides for much more favourable terms in relation to pension benefits for the judges in the Supreme Court of Barbados.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. R. P. BYER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
12.50 p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. M. A. KING, seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

Unless there are any matters which anyone may wish to raise at this stage, I am proposing moving that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, December 16, 1986 at 12 o'clock noon, which should be the last sitting for this calendar year.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now stand adjourned until December 16, 1986 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
12.55 p.m.

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