
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1986 – 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 8, 1986

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

PRESENT

His Honour 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. B. M. Taitt, B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
(Minister of Tourism and Industry)
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)
Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A.
Hon. M. A. King, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)
Hon. W. O. Franklin, M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)
Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Health)
Hon. H. A. Blackman, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Minister of Housing and Lands)
D. A. C. Simmons, Esq., Q.C., LL.M.
O. S. Arthur, Esq., M.Sc., (Econ.)
Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)
C. V. Walker, Esq., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)
L. L. Brathwaite, Esq., J.P.
E. Bourne, Esq.
Dr. E. A. Simmons

Hon. W. W. Hall, (Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)

C. A. Neblett, Esq., B.A., A.C.M.A.

C. L. Trotman, Esq., M.A.

R. L. Morris, Esq., B.A., Cert. Ed.

P. J. M. Miller, Esq.

and

R. P. Byer, Esq., LL.B., L.E.C. (Chairman of Committees)

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of June 25, 1986.

Asides

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was just moving formally that the Minutes be taken as read and stand confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections or observations, let the Minutes be taken as read.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Accounts and Statements for the month of March, 1986 prepared by the Accountant General.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, you may recall that during our sitting on Wednesday last, I did

indicate that certain items of business relating to the appointments of the Joint Sessional Committees as well as the Select Sessional Meetings of this House would be postponed from that sitting to today's sitting.

Our Standing Orders indicate that those items of business should be done at the start of our session and I am, therefore, proposing, if there are no objections, that we proceed with the appointment to those committees at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections, please proceed. There are no objections.

DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing Order 58(1) relates to the appointment to the functions and composition of the Debates Committee, and that Standing Order, Sir, 58(1), indicates that the functions of the Debates Committee, which is a joint committee of this Chamber and the Other Place, relates to the superintendent of the printing, relates to selecting and arranging of other papers in respect of the printing of those papers, includes the regulations of matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members of the House of Assembly and the Other Place, and also the committee exercises such other functions as are allocated to the committee by the Parliament (Debates and Establishment) Act, 1970.

The Standing Orders also indicate that the committee should consist of Members of the House of Assembly, nominated by this House, as well as members from the Other Place.

I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that the following Members from this House should be Members of the Debates Committee:

Your Honour, the Speaker of this House as Chairman,
The Member for St. Michael South,
The Member for St. Michael West,
The Member for St. Michael North,
The Member for St. Michael West Central,
The Member for St. George North,
The Member for St. Michael North East,

together with two members from the Opposition to be designated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate to the committee the honourable Member for St. Thomas and the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Members nominated by Government and by the Leader of the Opposition will be the Members of the Debates Committee.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 58(2) relates to the composition and functions of the Library Committee, and that particular Standing Order indicates that there should be a Library Committee which should consist of members of the Other Place and Members of this Honourable Chamber nominated by this Chamber and that the Library Committee should regulate all matters concerning the Library of Parliament.

I beg, Sir, to nominate the following Members from this House as members of the Library Committee:

The Member for St. Michael South,
The Member for Christ Church East, Central,
The Member for St. James North,
The Member for Christ Church West Central,
The Member for St. Michael South East,
The Member for St. Michael East,

together with two members of the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to nominate the honourable Member for Christ Church West and honourable Member for St. Peter on this committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare that the honourable Members nominated by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition will be the committee members for the Library Committee.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I move next to the Sessional Select Committees of this House. Standing Order 59(1) relates to the composition and functions of the Committee of Public Accounts, and that Standing Order makes provisions for a Committee of Public Accounts, to carry out an examination of accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure and of such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit to consider. Not more than seven Members who shall be nominated at the commencement of each session. It indicates that the Leader of the Opposition shall be the Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts.

I beg to nominate the following Members as members of the Committee of Public Accounts:

The Leader of the Opposition as Chairman,
The Member for St. Michael South,

The Member for St. Andrew
The Member for the City of Bridgetown
The Member for St. Philip North,

together with two other Members of the Opposition, to be designated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Laughter.

12.30 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, this motion has obviously caused a little bit of laughter on the other side. I hope that since there are only three members of the Opposition, Members on the other side, if elected to this committee, will make sure that we always have a quorum, because the quorum is constituted by four. I would like to nominate to the committee; the honourable Member for St. Thomas and the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare the honourable Members nominated by the Honourable Leader of the House and by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition as members of the Public Accounts Committee.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you, Sir.

I hope my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Christ Church West, would not interpret too much into the laughter coming from this side. He must not import too much into that. It only means that on this side we can laugh louder than the Opposition members on that side. That is all it indicates.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Standing Order No. 59(2) relates to the composition and functions of the Standing Orders Committee. That Standing Order indicates that the committee shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman and nine members of this Chamber, and it is the duty of the Committee to consider from time to time and report on all matters relating to the Standing Orders of the House.

I beg to nominate the following as members of the Standing Orders Committee:

Your Honour the Speaker as Chairman
The Member for St. Michael South
The Member for St. Michael North
The Member for Christ Church West Central
The Member for St. Joseph
The Member for St. Lucy
The Member for Christ Church East
The Member for St. George South

together with two members of the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, in seconding that nomination I would like to nominate the honourable Member for St. Thomas and the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I therefore declare the honourable Members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House to be the members of the Standing Orders Committee.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The last committee I wish to deal with today, Sir, is the Committee of Privileges, and Standing Order 59(3) relates to the composition and functions of that committee. That Standing Order reads in part that there shall be a Committee of Privileges which shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman and six members. It goes on to state that any matter which appears to affect the powers and privileges of the House shall be referred to this Committee by the House, and the Committee is required to consider such matters and report on them.

I beg to nominate the following as members of the Committee of Privileges:

Your Honour the Speaker as Chairman
The Member for St. Michael West
The Member for St. Michael North
The Member for Christ Church West Central
The Member for St. James South

together with two Members of the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to nominate the honourable Member for St. Thomas and the honourable Member for Christ Church West, and to second the Resolution in that form.

Mr. SPEAKER: I therefore declare the honourable Members nominated by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to be the members of the Committee of Privileges of this House.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

The Immigration (Students) (Amendment) Regulations, 1986;

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1984.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Consumption Tax (No. 3) Order, 1986.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1985.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allowances) Act, 1979.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Thomas re the rehabilitation of the main highway from Jackson to Sturges.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am to ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

Is the Minister aware that the previous Government which went out of office on May 28th 1986 had decided to repair and rehabilitate the main highway from Jackson to Sturges?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state:

- (i) whether the present Government intends to repair and rehabilitate the said road;
- (ii) the date on which repair and rehabilitation is to commence.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re the closure of the Spring Garden Highway on Sunday, June 15th, 1986.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that a section of the Spring Garden Highway was closed to use by the general travelling public on Sunday, June 15th, 1986? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state:

- (i) the reason for the said closure
- (ii) whether any specific traffic regulations were made by the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Police providing for the said

closure. If Regulations were made, will the Minister state;

- (iii) the date of same and date of their publication in newspapers circulated in this Island.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re the official rates of unemployment for the year 1985 and for the period January to June 1986.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

Will the Minister state:

- (i) the official rate of unemployment in Barbados for the year 1985;
- (ii) the official rate of unemployment in Barbados for the period January to June 1986.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re the condition of Rock Hall Main Road in St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

Is the Minister aware that the Rock Hall main road in the parish of St. Thomas is narrow and dangerous at many points? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state whether Government intends to widen the said road within the next five years?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re the termination of services of public servants and employees of statutory corporations.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that since June 4, 1986 several public servants and employees of statutory corporations have had their services terminated? If the answer is in the affirmative will the Minister state:

- (i) the Departments and/or statutory corporations from which persons have been terminated;
- (ii) the number of workers terminated in respect of each department or statutory corporation.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re bus service at Hopewell, St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, to ask of the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications:

Is the Minister aware

- (i) that a new road at Hopewell Tenantry in the parish of St. Thomas has been recently constructed?
- (ii) that there is no bus service going into the said tenantry;
- (iii) that a bus service can be provided into the said tenantry;

If the Minister is aware, will he take active steps to ensure the provision of a bus service into the said tenantry.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. Thomas, his question re the Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister state whether he has entered into discussions with the Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd. to agree on arrangements for the disbursement of approximately \$39 million to Government and consumers of electricity in this Island? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state whether the said company has this sum of money or access to it in an encashable form.

Mr. SPEAKER: The same honourable Member re pavilion at Bridgefield, St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister....

Just ask them to keep quiet. You allowed these questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members are aware of the Standing Orders that a Member must be heard in silence.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Keep them in check. Twenty-four bad-behaved fellows! I am glad for your protection as a minority.

To ask of the Minister of Labour and Community Development:

Will the Minister state whether the National Sports Council proposes to erect a pavilion at the playing field at Bridgefield, St. Thomas? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state the date of commencement of construction.

Mr. SPEAKER: And the honourable Member for St. Thomas re school warden service at certain schools.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister of Education and Culture:

Is the Minister aware that there is no school warden service at the following schools in St. Thomas, namely, Welches Mixed, St. Thomas Mixed, Holy Innocents Composite and Southborough but that the previous Government had decided to provide wardens at the said schools? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state:

- (i) whether the present Government intends to provide school wardens at the said schools;
- (ii) when the service will commence.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to remind honourable Members that when an honourable Member is speaking there is to be silence.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On motion of Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD seconded by Hon. B. M. TAITT, the following Bill was read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries Remuneration and Allowance Act 1979.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE re REDUCTION IN OIL PRICES

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES:

Mr. Speaker:

For many years in the recent past, the steep increases in the price of crude oil have had an adverse effect on the Barbados economy. These increases created a drainage on our foreign exchange earnings and contributed to low levels of economic output, high levels of unemployment, steep rises in prices and declining competitiveness of our manufacturing and export sectors.

More recently there has been a substantial reduction in the price of crude oil and, until now, no serious attempt has been made to relieve the economy and the people of the burden of high energy costs.

The energy policy of this Government has already been clearly articulated. One key element is that the price of petroleum products to consumers will be kept as low as is warranted by prevailing crude oil prices.

In fulfillment of one of the pledges made to the people of Barbados, this Government has devised a

new price structure for gasoline and diesel which will permit the people and the economy to benefit from the fall in crude oil prices.

Effective from midnight tonight the new retail prices will be as follows:

Gasoline	—	95 cents/litre, a reduction of 15 cents per litre or 57 cents per gallon
Automotive Diesel	—	80 cents/litre, a reduction of 10 cents per litre or 38 cents per gallon
Industrial Diesel	—	58 cents/litre, a reduction of 4 cents per litre or 15 cents per gallon
Kerosene	—	55 cents/litre, no change from existing price.

The ex-refinery price of fuel oil, under current market conditions, will be 19.838 cents/litre, a reduction of 2.133 cents per litre, or 8 cents per gallon.

The Democratic Labour Party keeps its promises!

Next Tuesday I shall be introducing into Parliament the key elements of the new fiscal programme of the Democratic Labour Party.

12.50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, our business for the day has been completed. As the honourable Member for St. Michael South Central (Dr. R. C. Haynes) indicated, next week we will be coming with other elements relating to the programme of the Government for the people of this country.

It only remains for me to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 15th July, 1986, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

12.51 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, June 25, 1986	15
---	----

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER	15
-------------------	----

Accounts and Statements for the month of
March 1986 as prepared by the Accountant
General.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

DEBATES COMMITTEE	16
-------------------------	----

Mr. Sandiford, 16; Mr. Forde, 16.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE	16
-------------------------	----

Mr. Sandiford, 16; Mr. Forde, 16.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	16
------------------------------------	----

Mr. Sandiford, 16; Mr. Forde, 17.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE	17
---------------------------------	----

Mr. Sandiford, 17; Mr. Forde, 17.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES	17
-------------------------------	----

Mr. Sandiford, 17; Mr. Forde, 17.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. M. A. KING	17
-----------------------	----

The Immigration (Students) (Amendment)
Regulations, 1986.

The Annual Report of the Commissioner
of Police for the year 1984.

Hon. Dr. R. C. HAYNES	17
-----------------------------	----

The Consumption Tax (No. 3) Order, 1986.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD	18
----------------------------	----

The Report and Financial Statements of the
Barbados Port Authority for the year ended
31st December 1985.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD	18
----------------------------	----

A Bill to amend the Ministers and Parlia-
mentary Secretaries (Remuneration and
Allowances) Act, 1979.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS BY MR. D. A. C. SIMMONS (ST. THOMAS)	18, 19
---	--------

Of the Minister of Transport, Works and
Telecommunications (Hon. P. M. Greaves) re
rehabilitation of main highway from Jackson
to Sturges.

Of the appropriate Minister re closure of
Spring Garden Highway on Sunday June 15,
1986.

Of the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow)
re official rates of unemployment for 1985
and for the period January to June 1986.

Of the Minister of Transport, Works and
Telecommunications (Hon. P. M. Greaves) re
condition of Rock Hall Main Road, St. Thomas.

Of the appropriate Minister re termination of
services of public servants and employees of
Statutory Corporations.

Of the Minister of Transport, Works and
Telecommunications (Hon. P. M. Greaves) re
bus service at Hopewell, St. Thomas.

Of the appropriate Minister re the Barbados
Light and Power Company.

Of the Minister of Labour and Community
Development (Hon. W. W. Hall) re pavilion at
Bridgefield, St. Thomas.

Of the Minister of Education and Culture
(Hon. L. E. Sandiford) re school warden service
at certain schools.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD	19
----------------------------	----

A Bill to amend the Ministers and Parlia-
mentary Secretaries (Remuneration and Allow-
ances) Act, 1979.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

STATEMENT BY HON. DR. R. C. HAYNES re CHANGE IN FUEL PRICES.	19
ADJOURNMENT	20
Mr. Sandiford, 20.	

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

FORDE, Hon. H. deB. (Christ Church West)
HAYNES, Hon. Dr. R. C. (St. Michael South Central)
SANDIFORD, Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South)
SIMMONS, D. A. C. (St. Thomas)
WEEKES, His Hon. L. A. (St. Michael North West)