

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 21, 1987.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, (Speaker)

His Honour J. J. Payne, (Deputy Speaker)

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., (Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs)

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, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications)

Hon. E. E. Greaves, B.A., Ed .M., (Minister of Trade and Commerce)

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, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)

Hon. N. K. Simmons, (Minister of Health)

Mr. D. A. C. Simmons, Q.C., LL.M.

Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc.(Econ.)

Mrs. M. Barker-Welch, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development)

Mr. C. V. Walker, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)

Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, J.P.

Mr. C. A. Neblett, B.A.

Mr. R. P. Byer, LL.B., L.E.C.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, April 7, 1987.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the meeting of the House of Assembly for Tuesday, April 7, 1987 have been circulated.

I beg to move tV-tt these be taken as having been read, and that they be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this House on that date.

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

PAPERS LAID

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

The Annual Report of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year 1985 — 86.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 16 and 67, asked by the honourable Member for St. George South, are ready.

Also, Sir, that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 65, asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East, is ready.

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 55, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew, is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now 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 today's sitting.

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

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I believe we should have a very short session today. We are not proposing to deal with Items 1 and 2 on the Order Paper under Government Business, and I therefore beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

QUESTION TIME

QUESTION RE WATER SUPPLY IN
DRAX HALL JUMP, ST. GEORGE

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 16 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware of the inadequate water supply, including low water pressure, to residents of Drax Hall Jump, St. George? 2. Will the Minister state whether there are any immediate plans to alleviate this situation?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 16 is as follows:

"The Ministry is aware that the water supply to residents of Drax Hall Jump has been inadequate. However, through the manipulation of valves there has been an improvement of the water supply. Field investigations are still being continued and consideration will be given to the execution of additional engineering works."

QUESTION RE WORK PERMITS

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 55 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs: 1. Is it still the practice of the Immigration Department to issue work permits to non-nationals only after full investigations to establish whether or not the skills which non-nationals possess can be found among Barbadian nationals at home or abroad? 2. Are work permits issued to non-nationals on condition that Barbadian nationals be trained in the particular skills? 3. Will the Minister state whether any and, if so, how many non-nationals are presently permitted to work as flour millers in Barbados, where any such persons are authorised to work, whether Barbadians are being or have been trained as replacements for those persons, and whether there is a lack of trained nationals justifying new or extended work permits for flour millers?

Hon. M. A. KING: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 55, asked by the honourable Member for St. Andrew, is as follows:

"1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. Two (2) non-nationals are presently permitted to work as Flour Millers in Barbados. A number of Barbadians have been trained in flour milling and it is anticipated that one Barbadian so trained will replace one of the non-nationals. There is at present no evidence to indicate that a Barbadian is sufficiently trained and experienced to replace the other non national."

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, I should like to ask, are there any steps being taken to train such nationals to take over the posts that are still being held by non-nationals? 12.25 p.m.

Hon. M. A. KING: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As far as possible, Barbadians are being trained to take over all positions which are held by non-nationals.

QUESTION RE DAMAGE TO ROADS IN ST.
GEORGE SOUTH.

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 67, asked by the honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. R. P. BYER: Question No. 67 is as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware that the roads at Blenman Road, Walker Road, Lowes Road, Crawford Road, all at Ellerton, St. George and Farm Road, St. George in the Constituency of Saint George South were disturbed by the Barbados Water Authority for the laying of pipes for the provision of water to those areas and that those roads have not since been repaired? 2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state when the said roads will be repaired and also give this Honourable House his assurance that the repairs will be executed without delay?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 67 is as follows:

1. "Yes. A section of Walkers Road was repaired."
2. "Repairs of these roads are scheduled to commence shortly and will include the resurfacing of Crawford Road, Lowes Road and part of Walkers Road."

Mr. SPEAKER: Supplementaries?

Mr. R. P. BYER: No, Sir.

QUESTION RE ROAD WIDENING AND DRAINAGE IN
LEWIS GAP, GREEN HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 65, asked by the honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: Question No. 65 is as follows:

To ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Telecommunications: 1. Is the Minister aware of the need for road widening and drainage in Lewis Gap, Green Hill, Saint Michael and that the bridge spanning the water course in the said Lewis Gap is breaking away making it very hazardous for vehicular traffic using the road? 2. Will the Minister give attention to the immediate repair of the road and the bridge?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question No. 65 is as follows:

1. "Yes."
2. "The Ministry considers road widening in Lewis Gap a low priority due to the low

volume of vehicular traffic and the relatively few houses in the area, but other road repairs are now in progress on this road. Some drainage works have been effected to the water course under the bridge while improved concrete curbs have been reconstructed on both sides of the bridge."

Mr. SPEAKER: Supplementary?

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE: A supplementary. Was consideration given to the fact that in the said Lewis Gap two vehicles are unlikely to pass each other at any one time without creating an accident and at a blind spot in the gap? To say that there is not high vehicular activity in that area does not necessarily provide the solution to the problem we have, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I do agree that there is the possibility that two vehicles might not be able to pass each other. The narrowest point of the road is by the bridge, which I understand is ten feet six inches wide. That would not permit two trucks, or a truck and a car, to pass each other, but, with great care, it would permit two cars to be able to pass each other.

Laughter.

Mr. SPEAKER: End of Replies to Questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Speaker, the questions have been answered, and, as you have indicated, that brings us to the end of Question Time. It also brings us to the end of Government Business in as much as I indicated that we were not proceeding at the stage with Items 1 and 2 of Government Business, nor are we proposing to deal with Private Members' Business.

There is one matter which is before the House at this time under Private Members' Business-, and that relates to a Resolution urging the erection of a statue to the memory of the late Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal and further consideration of that has been postponed. We are awaiting some costings in relation to the erection of that statue, and as soon as we have those in hand, we will be proceeding quite shortly with it.

Unless any Member has anything to raise at this stage, I beg to move that this sitting do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 5, 1987 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the sitting do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 5, 1987 at 12.00 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly. 12.35 p.m.

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BRATHWAITE, L. L. (St. Michael North East)
BYER, R. P. (St. George South) GREAVES,
Hon. P. M. (St. Michael North) KING, Hon. M. A.
(Christ Church West Central) NEBLETT, C. A.
(St. Andrew) SANDIFORD, Hon. L. E. (St.
Michael South)