THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 - 91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 2, 1987

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. Weekes, (Speaker)
His Honour J. J. Payne, (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. E. Sandiford, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), JP., (Prime Minister, and Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister of Education and Culture)
Hon. H. deB. Forde, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. B. M. Taitt, B.A'. (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Tourism and Industry)
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)
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. W. 0. Franklin, A.I.C., 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)
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. E. Bourne
Dr. E. A. Simmons
Mr. C. A. Neblett.BA.
Mr. C. L. Trotman, 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 Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 1987.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, these Minutes have been circulated, and I beg to move that they be taken as read.

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

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

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to announce that I have received Message No. 3/1987 which reads as follows:

"HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

TO THE HONOURABLE

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General regrets to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly of the death on Monday, 1st June, 1987, of The Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, Q.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Barbados.

His Excellency The Governor-General further has the honour to inform The Honourable The House of Assembly that, in accordance with provisions of section 65 of the Constitution, he has appointed The Honourable Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, MP., to the office of Prime Minister with effect from 1st June, 1987.

HUGH W. SPRINGER
Governor-General.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BARBADOS.

2nd June, 1987."

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. ERSKINE SANDIFORD RE DEATH OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER THE RT. HON. ERROL WALTON BARROW

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker,

Once again, with fleet foot, death has entered among us and claimed the life of one of the most distinguished sons of our generation or any generation. The Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, our beloved leader, died suddenly at his home yesterday. The shock of his death is visibly and profoundly felt by those of us who came into daily contact with him. A post mortem examination of the late Prime Minister was performed this morning, and this showed that he died from a myocardial infarction.

I am establishing a committee to plan and coordinate arrangements for the funeral of the late Prime Minister. This committee will be chaired by Senator the Honourable Sir James Tudor, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Leader of Government Business in the Senate. Sir James is one of the longest serving associates of the late Prime Minister and will arrange a ceremony worthy of this national hero.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, the burden of delivering this message to this Honourable House is for me both a numbing and humbling experience, for I have walked with the late Right Honourable Prime Minister in the way of peace and progress ever since I was first appointed his Personal Assistant in September 1966. I have served him and this country in several capacities over those years both in and out of Government.

Humbling is my experience because, Mr. Speaker, I have been called upon to wear the mantle of leadership in the footsteps of Prime Minister Barrow who led this country so admirably. But we shall have the opportunity on another occasion to pay proper respect to his memory when arrangements are made for this Honourable House to hear obituary statements.

I have the honour to notify this Honourable House that a State Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 1987 at a time and place to be decided. There will be a lying-in state at Parliament buildings and condolence books will be available for signature at Parliament Buildings, at Government Headquarters, Bay St., and at the Democratic Labour Party Headquarters at George Street, Belleville from Thursday, June 4, 1987.

Mr. Speaker, this Honourable House would wish to know that I have advised the Governor-General to re-appoint all serving Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in their offices for the time being. The Government over which I have the honour to preside will uphold the noble traditions and the democratic ideals that are cherished on both sides of this Honourable House.

I wish to extend condolences to the sorrowing relatives and friends of the late Prime Minister.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the Message and the contents, this House will move the laying of documents for the next sitting of the House, and thereafter the House will be adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 16, 1987 at 12 o'clock noon, when tributes will be paid to the late Prime Minister.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirma tive without division, and Mr. SPEAKER ad/burned the House accordingly. *

12.25 p.m.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

SANDIFORD, Hon. L. E. (St. Michael South)
WEEKES, His Hon. L. A. (St. Michael North West)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DEBATE

of *16th* June,

1987.

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE

The Right Honourable ERROL WALTON BARROW,
Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., M.P.

Prime Minister

of

Barbados