

THE

# House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

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*Tuesday, October 27, 1987.*

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

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, J.P., (Speaker)

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), J.P.,  
(Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister  
of Education and Culture and Minister of Finance)

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 Health)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime  
Minister and Minister of Transport, Works and Telecom-  
munications and Leader of the House)

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P., (Edin.)

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 Employment,  
Labour Relations and Community Development)

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 Secre-  
tary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and  
Community Development)

Hon. C. V. WALKER, (Minister of State, Ministry  
of Education and Culture)

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P.

Mr. E. BOURNE

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS, M.D.

Hon. W. W. HALL, (Minister of Tourism and Sports)

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A.

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.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

SUSPENSION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Speaker, it has been reported to me that there will be a problem with the report because the communication system is not working. I understand the voice may be amplified, but it is not being taped, so there seems to be a problem. Because of this, Sir, we will have to move that the House be suspended for a while. We hope that in the interval we can get the system to work.

I must say that this system has been giving trouble from day one. A check was made by me yesterday afternoon, and it has not yet been reported what problems we have been experiencing so that they can be reported to the contractors in the United Kingdom who would have responsibility for making sure that their equipment, under warranty, works, as indeed it should.

The position is that the work of Parliament is being frustrated because of this equipment which has been provided. We were told that we are the only country that has the system, and until we can get this system operating as it should, the makers or contractors should send people down to have it corrected.

I, therefore, at this point move that the House be suspended until 1 o'clock today. We hope that in that time we will be able to correct whatever problem there is.

I move that suspension, Sir.

Hon. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to second that, so as to speak.

When we are dealing with matters to do with the House, there is no Opposition and Government. On matters to do with the House, we are theoretically all one. It seems to me that this is a matter that needs urgent serious attention. We cannot go on with this, coming to the House and every time we come to the House we have to suspend. If the contractors in England put down this thing, the contractors in England should have been down here, so put through a telephone call and let them fly down here. I do not understand why we have to go through so many processes. If you buy a motor car for £70 000, you do not send it to a mechanic in Tweedside Road; you send for a mechanic from Rolls Royce.

I am saying, Sir, that you have a responsibility to see that this matter works. The House concerns you, and I am appealing to you to take whatever steps are necessary, including yourself calling the appropriate people, to have this matter corrected.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this sitting be suspended for one hour.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I moved that the Sitting be suspended until 1 o'clock, but perhaps you are right that the silting should be suspended for one hour.

I move that the sitting be suspended for one hour.

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

*The question that the sitting be suspended for one hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 12.30 p.m.*

ON RESUMPTION Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the House suspended because of the problem with the sound system. I am advised, Sir, that we still have problems with the system. That being the case, Sir, I have no alternative but to adjourn the House.

I therefore, Sir, move that the House now adjourn until next Tuesday, November 3, Sir.

Hon. H. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question that the sitting do now adjourn until Tuesday, November 3, 1987 at 12.00 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the sitting accordingly. 1.36 p.m.*

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