

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986-91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 17, 1990.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock on Tuesday, April 17, 1990.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker) His Honour J. J. PAYNE, (Deputy Speaker) Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.

Hon. B. M. TAITT, B.A.(Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B., (Hons.), (Minister of Health)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration and Leader of the House)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), (Leader of the Opposition)

Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General, Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign 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 Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture)

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

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees)

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

Mr. C. A. NEBLETT, B.A., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Civil Service)

Mr. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A. Mr. R.

L. MORRIS, B.A., Cert. Ed. Mr. P. J.

M. MILLER Mr. R. P. BYER, LL.B.,

L. E.G. Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON,

LL.B.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Ivan Ilarewood.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 10th April, 1990.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform the Honourable Chamber, Sir, that as Members might well be aware, the Minutes have not been among the number of documents which have been circulated, not only the Minutes, but that also goes for some Bills. The result is that I would have to ask that this item be deferred.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections, the Minutes for that meeting will be deferred.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That, Sir, calls for some explanation. I do not think it is enough to say they have not been circulated. Last week was a short week as all know and this week as well.

My understanding is that the Printery was required, for Parliament, to print some voluminous documents and they have not been completed. That explains the reason why not only the Minutes have not been received and circulated but also, Sir, the Bills that were laid last week, that is, the Bill relating to drug abuse and also the Proceeds of Crime Bill. Both are very thick documents and the Printery has not been able to get them ready in time. Some Members would have seen the Proceeds of Crime Bill. They would have seen it not through Parliament but

through some other associations. Some Members of the legal profession may have seen.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I understand now that some Members of the legal profession have not seen it. Others I know who are not even parliamentarians have seen it because they were sent to the Bar Association for comments and so on.

I regret, Sir, that we are at that point where we have not been able to receive from the Printery those Bills that were laid last week as well as the Minutes.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. SPEAKER:

"MESSAGE NO.2/1990

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir, Hugh Springer, GCMG, GCVO, KA, CBE, has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that, with the approval of Her Majesty the Queen, he will be demitting the office of Governor-General on 30th April, 1990."

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay:

1. The Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1990. , I am also commanded to lay:
2. The Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1990.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Hon. P. M.

GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I give notice of:

1. A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment) Order, 1990.

Also:

2. A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order, 1990.

Finally, Sir:

3. A Resolution to give effect to adjustments to the categories and rates of pay of public employees and casual employees with effect from 1st April, 1988.

12.30 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, there are four matters on The Order Paper, the last of which, appearing on that Order Paper first, was given notice of on July 27th last year. It was debated and then further consideration was postponed in order to enable some negotiations to take place. Apparently, those negotiations have been taking a considerably long time and we are not in a position to proceed with that one. I have indicated earlier, Sir, that No. 2 the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Bill 1990 and No. 3 the Proceeds of Crime Bill 1990 have not, in accordance with Standing Orders, been printed and circulated and for that reason, Sir, it will not be possible to do those two matters today. They have not been printed and circulated, although they were laid last Tuesday as is the normal practice, and the reasons I have already indicated to this Honourable Chamber. That leaves us, Sir, with a Bill to amend the Barbados Development Bank Act, Cap. 323 and we will not proceed with that at this time, Sir, which in a way clears the Order Paper.

So there is no business with which Government will be proceeding on this day for the reasons that I have now given, Sir, to the Honourable Chamber. That being the case, Sir, Honourable Members on the other side may want to do some Private Members Business and, if they do so, I am quite prepared to move that Private Members Business be now taken, Sir.

Asides.

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Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, we are all sitting here. I gave an indication. I am not quite sure what the position is, but let me say this, Sir. Government Business for today is concluded, Sir. Private Members Business may now be taken so we can get a true indication of what the position is on Private Members Business.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has indicated that he wishes a communication from me on the matter of Private Members Business. I think it is most unfortunate, Sir, that the House should be convened today and we are unable to "crack on" with Government Business particularly in light of the fact that the Honourable Attorney General had indicated his strong desire to press on with discussing those matters under his name subject to the wishes of the House. Unfortunately, Sir, the House cannot express its wish on these matters. I think Sir, that it is an indication of what is going on irr

Government. The fact that we have come here and that we can do nothing is a matter of deep regret. Now the documents referred to, Sir, are documents....

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Sir, on a point of order. It is unfortunate that one has to rise in these circumstances. The Honourable Member has been in this House long enough or ought to have been in this House long enough to be able to appreciate that this is not an area in which a political speech should be made. I feel that the remark he made about an indication of what is going on in Government is out of order, Sir, and uncalled for because he understands why the Printery has not been able to bring the things. If the Honourable Member goes on like that, Sir, he is going to try to make a political issue out of something that does not require politics at this stage.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, to cut a long story short, I do not propose to relieve the Government of any embarrassment and, therefore, I will not be proceeding with Private Members Business today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

FIRST READING OF BILL

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a Bill of which I should like to give notice and have first

reading today. That is as much as we can do with it. It will then have to be printed and circulated. That is Item No. 7. If I am so allowed, Sir, I would beg to move that a Bill to amend the Magistrates Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, Cap. 116 be read a first time and I do so move.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that motion, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the sitting be now adjourned until Tuesday, April 24, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that this sitting do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 24, 1990 at 12 o'clock noon was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 12.40 p.m.

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ill debate

for