
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2007.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance)

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.)(Leader of the Opposition)

Sir L. R. TULL, K.A., Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)

Hon. Dame B. A. MILLER, D.A. B.C.H., (Senior Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A.(Hons.) Dip. Ed., LL.B.

(Hons.) (LonD.), LL.M. (Leic.), J.P. (Minister of Labour and the Civil Service)

Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Public Works and Transport)

Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)

Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil. J.P. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P., (Minister of Housing and Lands)

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Mr. R. D. JONES, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. Ed. J.P.

Hon. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Energy and the Environment)

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime and Minister of Economic Affairs and Development)

Hon. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A. (Minister of Social Transformation)

Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.

Hon. C. A. MASCOLL, Q.C., B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance)(Minister of State, Ministry of Finance)

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.(Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S., FDRCS., J.P.

Hon. Dr. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), J.P. (Minister of Health)

Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, November 20, 2007.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, November 20, 2007, which Minutes have been circulated, be confirmed, subject to any observations, correction and/or omissions.

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: If there are no corrections or observations, then let these Minutes stand confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Friday, November 23, 2007.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am informed that those Minutes are not yet in hand. I beg, therefore, to move that the matter be deferred until they are received.

Mr. SPEAKER: So be it.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand this morning and to communicate to the Honourable House of Assembly the results of the 2007/2008 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme. This morning, at 9 o'clock, the Government of Barbados and the United Nations Development Programme, at its subregional office at U.N. House, had the pleasure of co-sponsoring a ceremony at which this Report was launched.

H154/10:20

Sequence 2

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

House 154, Sequence 02, 10.20 a.m.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, consistent with previous years, the country of Barbados has continued to score well, coming yet again at No. 31 in the world, in relation to the Human Development Index, surpassed in this hemisphere, only by the United States of America and Canada. Mr. Speaker, what is of particular importance to us and should bring pride to every Barbadian, is that this report, in the Human Poverty Index, now ranks Barbados as the No. 1 country in the world, among developing countries.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a considerable improvement on last year. Sir, may I say that we have surpassed countries such as Uruguay at No. 2; Chili at No. 3; Argentina at No. 4; Costa Rica at No. 5; Cuba at No. 6 and Singapore at No. 7, countries, Mr. Speaker, like Singapore that are regarded as developed countries, by the manner in which they have ordered their development.

This matter is of considerable pleasure to the Government of Barbados in particular, because as you are aware, Mr. Speaker, from the very day that this Government was elected, we indicated that we did not accept the precept of jobless growth. We felt that growth could only take place on a sustainable basis in our country, in relation to our being able to help those who are most marginalised among ourselves.

Indeed, we have created special institutions, much of which have attracted controversy at times. Sir, we are firm in our conviction that those institutions provide the platform for resources, as well as people, to come to work every day, to continue on the path that was started by previous Governments and previous administrations, particularly, since Independence. Sir, that this news should be received on the eve of the 41st Anniversary of this country's Independence is a matter that, I think, should bring pride and please the heart of every Barbadian. Sir, this is a major achievement.

I thank you, Sir.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, for today's Sitting, it is not proposed to call any Government Business. Sir, as you would appreciate, a No-Confidence motion is not a trivial matter. Indeed, all over the Commonwealth, in Parliaments throughout the Commonwealth, there is a convention that when notice of such a motion is given, all is done by Governments to facilitate such a debate.

Sir, this Parliament does not depart from that convention. We, in recognition of the possibility of this motion, so arranged the business of Government that the work we would have done today, was, in fact, done last Friday, in terms of Government's Business. Mr. Speaker, we indicated then, on the Motion for the Adjournment, that we would be prepared to facilitate a No-Confidence Motion that we had heard about, as having been filed, as did the country of Barbados, last Tuesday.

On the Motion for the Adjournment of the House last Friday, Sir, a letter was shown to me, by the Clerk of Parliament, indicating that such a motion was, in fact, accepted as being in order by Your Honour, the Speaker, and all that was remained to be done, was for the Leader of the Opposition to sign such motion.

Mr. Speaker, I indicated then, on the Adjournment, that the Government would stand ready and prepared today, to debate such motion, should it be signed by the Leader of the Opposition and reach the Order Paper. Sir, it is regrettable that today's Order Paper does not now show such a motion, in spite of much public comment on it.

However, I say even at this late stage today, we are prepared to debate a motion, if the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to sign it, and table it.

Indeed, Sir, I take note of Rule 25 of the Rules of this Honourable Chamber, which enables you, Sir, to dispense with notice, with respect of any motion. Mr. Speaker, I formally give you notice that no Member on the Government's side, has any objection to the dispensing of notice, in respect of this notion.

Sir, in the circumstances, I am prepared to sit and to call Private Members' Business now, given the fact that the letter which was shown to me on Friday, indicates that you have accepted the Resolution of the Honourable Member in the exact form in which it was submitted, in relation to the No-Confidence Motion.

Sir, as I have indicated, there is no objection, either to the tabling of that motion now or, indeed, to its being debated immediately, today. Therefore, if that is the will of the House and if that is the will of the Leader of the Opposition, I wish to table his motion to facilitate debate, the Government stands ready so to do immediately.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I assume the Honourable Leader of the House knows something that I do not know. An Order Paper has been circulated and under Private Members' Business, the Paper is blank.

There are two outstanding matters of Private Members' Business; one, a debate on the Throne Speech, one in relation to the 40th Anniversary of Independence and if Members want to debate that, they can debate it.

The Leader of Government Business leads Government Business. Last week, there was no Government Business and we had to suspend for an hour because there were no files here. I did not keep any noise. My time was wasted by the Government. I have never seen such total incompetence since I have been in this Chamber for 20 years and, I doubt, you have ever seen it, Sir.

The Leader of Government Business, as you established a long time ago, does not lead Private Members' Business. I submitted two Resolutions. I first received communication that one was being amended. I objected to the amendments, and I was told that it was not being amended anymore, then, I got a letter saying that the other one was being amended, and when I arrived here this morning, I was presented with an amended version of what I submitted.

Sir, that is between you as The Speaker and me, and has nothing to do with anybody else in this Chamber. I want to make it abundantly clear that I consider it to be a degradation of the standards of this Parliament for anybody to be meddling in matters that concern individual Members and the Speaker. Sir, I did my part, you did yours and it has nothing to do with the Leader of the House. When I am satisfied with my Resolution, I will debate it.

Sir, I am not worried. I have not asked the Leader of the House to do anything, and I do not propose to ask the Leader of the House to do anything. I am going to abide by the Leader of the House's previous dictum to this Chamber, when a No-Confidence Motion was brought here. What the Leader of Government Business said, I cannot quote it, Sir, because we are in this session and, unlike anybody else, I am not asking you to dispense with notice, rules or anything. I am going to abide by them to the hilt.

House 154, Sequence 02, 10:30:14

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: My recollection of what the Honourable Member said is that I, meaning the Honourable Leader of Government Business, order the business of the Honourable House in terms of how we meet and when we meet, but I do not approve any Resolution or Bill to come to this Parliament.

The Honourable Member then said I cannot dictate what matters should come before this Honourable House. If that is how it is done in George Street, then the Honourable Member...

It was not me, Sir, because I do not need those kinds of lessons, I never needed them. I am the second longest serving Member in this Chamber. I did not come in here in a box cart or in any other kind of cart. I came here as a result of the votes of the people of the constituency of St. John, 4 108 of them, a record in the history of Barbadian politics.

Sir, the Honourable Member then said that the Honourable Member, whomever she was talking to, must understand that this is how it is done in this Honourable House. Sir, she then accused an Honourable Member of not building a relationship with the Leader of the House.

Last week, Sir, the Honourable Member called me behind the Speaker's Chair, as is the custom, and we discussed the arrangement. The Honourable Member said that she brought a Bill, I did not bring it. The Honourable Member said a Bill was brought by Government but that the Honourable Member did not want to debate it because if the Government debated their Bill it would affect mine, nonsense. You have a Bill about Hardwood on the agenda,

debate it. I am here to work, but nobody is going to railroad me to speak on anything or do anything in this Chamber. I do not care how they may feel before they leave home on mornings or when they get in here.

Every member in this Chamber has equal rights. There are no special rights the Honourable Leader of Government Business has. There are no special rights a Minister of Government has in here. We are all equal, and therefore I say to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, do what you want to do.

If I were satisfied with what was presented to me when I arrived here this morning to sign, which has been amended, then I would have signed it, but the Honourable Member cannot force me to sign, speak, stand up, leave, go to the bathroom or do anything else in this Chamber. I am not going to accept any dictations by Honourable Members on that side. Debate what you want to debate.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member can be assured that I would not want to dictate, railroad or be held accountable for determining his certain path to debate, to failure or to defeat. That is not my role. He has already shown himself competent to carry himself to defeat on too many occasions without any assistance from myself or any Honourable Member on this honourable side.

Suffice it further to say, that he has, having spoken much, failed to deal with the fact that the letter shown by the Honourable Clerk to me on Friday indicated that there is no amendment to the No-Confidence Motion which you have put on this paper. Therefore, any amendment he could only be talking about relates to another motion which the Government has not said that it is ready to accommodate, therefore the matter is entirely up to him.

Sir, I find it passing strange that this Leader of the Opposition has trifled with a serious matter. Sir, once again, he has taken not only this country but indeed this Honourable Chamber on a roller coaster ride in respect of the hearing of this No-Confidence Motion.

Sir, he told us, for all of Barbados to hear, that he was giving the Right Honourable Prime Minister 30 days or else. He then told us that he had to get the permission of the General Council and then the Executive Council. He then told us, Mr. Speaker, that it was in relation to whether he should bring a motion and against whom he should bring a motion. He then told us that he was going to the people's Parliament at Chapel Gap, which incidentally became Fitts Village. He then told us that he received permission from the General Council, the Executive Council and the people's Parliament, then relocated from Chapel Gap to Fitts Village.

Mr. Speaker, this has been one grand roller coaster ride, but the Honourable Member is free to do that. Sir, nobody on this side would seek to aid his way to defeat if that is his certain path that he has shown and chosen for himself.

Sir, some nine days later since he received the permission from the people's Parliament and some three Sittings of Parliament, we are yet to see a motion on the Order Paper in spite of reading that it was filed in this Parliament last Tuesday and in spite of reading that you ruled the motion to be in order without amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I can only respectfully conclude that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has neither no confidence in himself nor no confidence in the motion which he is bringing to this Honourable Chamber. I can only conclude that.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day I can assure you that the record of this Chamber will reflect what has transpired.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, as he said and as he quoted, even though he said he was not quoting from my speech then, that as the Leader of Government Business, I cannot tell him when to bring it, but I can certainly determine when this House is prepared to make all possible arrangements to facilitate it. We were prepared last Tuesday. We were prepared last Friday. We are prepared today.

Mr. Speaker, we go further. We say that we would allow even you to bring an oral tabling of a motion that has been approved by His Honour the Speaker. We, Mr. Speaker, have no objection to any rules in relation to notice period and recognise that under the rules of the Standing Orders, under Rule 27, you have the right to dispense with a notice.

Mr. Speaker, this country has yet again to endure promises from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, which are given with much drama and much fanfare, 30 days or else, and with much reference to nursery rhymes - the people's Parliament that he has got permission from - but in spite of those promises, with such drama and such fanfare, as we have seen over the last 14 years, there is failure to deliver.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that the only thing that now stands in the way of any such No-Confidence Motion against an Honourable Member on this side, which is a serious matter being debated is the Leader of the Opposition's petulance, or the Leader of the Opposition himself.

Mr. Speaker, I give him the assurance that we will call it every Tuesday until such time as he finds confidence in what he clearly has as no confidence in his own No-Confidence Motion and no confidence in himself to prosecute a matter that has moved from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West to the Government back to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. Speaker, while these rules do not allow us to quote from the newspapers in here, it would be a form of dishonesty, intellectually, for me or any other Honourable Member in this Chamber to say that we are not aware that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has read this motion to the public at the meeting in Chapel Gap and has in fact had press conferences and press briefings on the motion. Mr. Speaker, for us to divorce ourselves from what he has said outside of this Chamber would be to eradicate the memory that we have.

I say simply, Sir, that the record speaks for itself and the actions of the Leader of the Opposition speak for themselves. He is free to accept the Government's offer or he is free to decline it, but the record shall stand forevermore.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that you have given the Honourable Member some wide latitude and I am grateful that you have done so and I hope you would extend that to me.

House 154 Sequence 4

10.40 a.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have not asked for any assurances from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I know what is agitating her, I am sorry it was so close to your building, the "O" Level Institute, but I know what is agitating the Honourable Member. Sir, it does not agitate me, I have all the time in the world. You may not have all time in the world but Sir, I have all the time, and I am not fazed, flustered nor bothered by any fulminations anywhere, in relation to the No-Confidence Motion.

Mr. Speaker, I have not asked for copies of any correspondence between the Leader of the House and anybody, and I take umbrage to the fact that correspondence emanating from the Clerk, on your instruction, was shown to the Leader of the House.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: If you want to continue to bully people in here, you are not going to bully me.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, Honourable Members.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, that is a very serious matter because I submitted the Resolution, in accordance with the Rules, to you. My communication, according to the Rules, should be with you. What I have submitted is to be vetted by you. Sir, I am saying it is a total subversion of the Parliamentary process and of the Rules for any third party to be requesting correspondence, written on your instructions to me...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Sir, when the Leader of Government Business seeks to settle the business of Parliament, I have the right to ask the Clerk of Parliament what is on the Order Paper or what is likely to come down. Sir, in those circumstances, the Clerk of Parliament indicated that the Leader of the Opposition is yet to sign the Resolution, which was approved by Your Honour the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John can speak about fulminations from now until thy kingdom come but it does not change the fact that as of this moment, at 10.50 a.m., the Honourable Member for St. John is yet to sign a motion, which was ruled to be in order by Your Honour the Speaker. Sir, trust me, we await it willingly.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, it is none of the Honourable Member's business, whether I have signed or not signed.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mind your own business. Mind the Government's Business. You cannot dictate to anybody in here when or where they might sign anything. You must be going crazy.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Barbados is still a democracy. I say you will not bully me, make threats to me, or in any other way interfere with me.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, please take your seat.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: What do you think it is.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have refrained from getting into this but the matter of procedure has arisen and I will want to make a few statements relating to what has been transpiring recently. The business of Parliament seems now to be in no way being respected by Honourable Members. The Rules are clear relating to procedure, and it was very disturbing to me to hear that a Resolution that has been filed, is now in the public's domain. It has been filed.

As Speaker, I am entitled, contrary to what was given out, that every Resolution must come to me and Rule 22 clearly states that as long as I am satisfied, I will direct that it be printed and placed on the Order Paper. It seems as if the impression is being given that I do not have that power but the Speaker, whoever is the Speaker, must always have that power in here. A Resolution is not to be determined on the outside of this Parliament.

I also say that the Leader of the Opposition has submitted two Resolutions and these are two completely separate Resolutions. They can never and will never be done together. One is about a No-Confidence Motion about a Minister of Government, and the other one is a Resolution that seeks to look at the legislation. They cannot be done together and I am saying to Members that at some time in the future, we must look at our Standing Order. I know in Trinidad, for instance, when there is a No-Confidence Motion, an Honourable Member has 12 days. In many of the Caribbean islands, it is like that also but an Honourable Member, who brings a motion against another Member, has 12 days in which to debate this Resolution. Therefore, I think the Honourable Member for St. John has really taken advantage of a section of our Standing Orders that is not very clear.

I do not really want to make much comment on the fact that it is a No-Confidence Motion but I believe that a No-Confidence Motion is a motion that can cause serious harm to the person involved. It is not something that a House should take lightly. It is not something that should be carried into the highways and byways, without this House legally doing what should be done.

What I am saying is that I do not want this crosstalk to go on anymore. I do not think we could get to any place from it but I think that a great disservice has been done to this Honourable House, by the way this matter has been taken to the public, and then to bring me into it, to give the impression that I have not done what I am supposed to do.

I can assure Members that when this Resolution of No-Confidence first came to me, I never, in any way, placed it with the other Resolution. After first objecting to certain recitals in this Resolution, because I was concerned that these recitals were going against the Rules of the House, but for the sake of having the debate going and lest

it be seen that I might have been hindering the debate, I decided that I will accept it as is. That decision was communicated with the Clerk. We had a meeting on Wednesday, we had a meeting on Thursday. The Clerk was so instructed to inform the Leader of the Opposition by Thursday afternoon. I am told that the Leader of the Opposition did not get this letter until 2.00 p.m. Friday, but we did have our meeting on Thursday and we were finished by 2.00 p.m. and the Clerk was instructed to give the Leader of the Opposition the information that the Resolution was accepted as it was.

I will finish by saying that the second Resolution is in no way connected to the first one and a Resolution of No-Confidence is one that must be... The Rules of the House clearly state the procedure for a No-Confidence Motion. Thank you.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I was indicating to the Chamber that I have no problem with the manner in which the Presiding Officer has dealt with this matter. I have never circulated the substance of my Resolution, once it was given to you for consideration. I told the public what I intended to submit. At no point have I circulated what was submitted. If anybody has circulated it or was forced to circulate it, Sir, it was not me.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that you are entitled, as Presiding Officer, to amend the Resolution, and I am entitled to say that I am not signing this Resolution, if I do not like the amendment. That is my right as an Honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER: But then there were no amendments.

10.50 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: . . .

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Sir, the Resolution was originally amended. I am not going to read the correspondence here now, but I submitted a Resolution last Tuesday, and I received a letter from the Clerk of the House, on the Speaker's instructions amending the No-Confidence Motion. I wrote back on Thursday, and I questioned the amendments. On Friday, I received this letter, and this letter would not make sense unless there was an attempt to amend it.

"Further to your letter dated November 22, 2007, in which you queried the proposed amendments to the Resolutions that you submitted on November 20, 2007, be advised that The Speaker has directed:

1. That the No-Confidence Motion be printed and placed on the Order Paper in the terms in which it was initially submitted.
2. That the Resolution with respect to The Integrity Legislation, Freedom of Information Regulation and amendment to the Defamation Act be printed with one alteration.”

Sir, that was presented to me this morning. Sir, when I am ready, I will sign it. You have a right to amend it. That is your privilege under the Rules and I have a right as a Member to consider any document that comes before me before I sign it.

Sir, I want to add to this. I have not asked for any facilitation. When I am ready... Sir, we went through this already. There is no twelve-day rule in Barbados, and I take advantage of no rules. I follow the Rules.

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Sir, if, therefore, you want to impose a restriction outside of the Rules, the Standing Orders Committee can meet this afternoon, and we can amend the Rules according to what you think would be an acceptable procedure.

Sir, I filed the motion last Tuesday. I received a letter with your amendments on Thursday, so, that means that only Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday and Tuesday have passed, five days. Sir, even if we debate it next Tuesday, it will be within the so-called twelve-day limit to which you referred, but we are not debating it today. Sir, I will not debate it on the instructions of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. It is not her Resolution. Let us debate the Hardwood Resolution that the Government brought.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is entirely correct by saying that I cannot dictate to him when to do it. Sir, I say already, as I said before, I will not or cannot help him in his certain path to failure. That is a matter entirely to be left up to him. He has proven himself adept at that over and over.

Mr. Speaker, I say simply, that it is clear that he does not want to debate it today, even though we are prepared to suspend all the Rules, in relation to the timing and the giving of the notice of this motion, which remains in its original form. Sir, I note that he has only heard or received the letter from the Clerk. That is a matter that only he can speak to. In the circumstances...

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I am not going to let the Honourable Member get away. The Prime Minister said that she is wounded politically. I am not going to wound anymore.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: I never said that I received a letter from The Clerk today. I said that I received the Resolution in relation to the Integrity legislation this morning, not a letter. I received no letter. I do not want to wound you. You can hear what you want, but I am not going to wound you.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I can assured the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and equally the Prime Minister, that I do not need anybody to protect me. I do not need anybody to help me, and I know how to deal with him by any manner necessary. Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has already said that he fears my tongue and he fears my teeth. Well he has every right to fear it, because the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will find out before the end...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, leave him. Leave the Honourable Member. You have rattled the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in here today in a way that I have never seen in 13 years. I want every facility to be given to him, because if I were not in this Place I would say that he was running from this motion like a damsel in distress, but I cannot say it in this Honourable House.

Asides.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, suffice it to say, it is clear that this motion is not being called by him today. In the circumstances, as I indicated, the Government transacted its business for today's Sitting last Friday. I therefore beg to move that this House be now adjourned. There being no further Government Business until Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

Sir, may I serve notice that I am informed that the Public Service Bill, which is on the Order Paper, will be replaced with a new Public Service Bill later today. In terms of circulation, such that it has been the subject of consultative work between the Attorney-General, the Minister for Public Service, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados and the National Union of Public Workers. Sir, it is intended, the Social Partnership, under the leadership of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, to start the Public Service Bill debate next Tuesday. We are prepared, however, for during a period of time, as is allowed by the Standing Orders, to facilitate the commencement of the No-

Confidence Motion, during a period of the time of next Tuesday as well, in spite of starting the Public Service Bill.

Sir, I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

H154

Sequence 6 11.00 a.m.

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MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M.A.

THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Orders of the Day, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley. In her first speech the Member cites ‘Rule 25’ as enabling the Speaker to dispense with notice of a motion; in her second she cites ‘Rule 27’ for the same power. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Orders of the Day, Mr. D. J. H. Thompson. Mr. Thompson says ‘I say to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, do what you want to do’, apparently addressing Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, who is elsewhere called the Member for St. Michael North East. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Take-slip, about 10.50 a.m.. The take-slip reads ‘H:No.154 (5)10.50 p.m.’; the sitting was in the morning and the surrounding slips are at 10.40 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Orders of the Day, after the take-slip at about 10.50 a.m.. A speech by Mr. D. J. H. Thompson consists only of ‘. . .’, suggesting words not captured at the change of take. Printed as in the source.

Q6. End of the report. After the adjournment the source carries a stray take-slip fragment, ‘H154’ and ‘Sequence 6 11.00 a.m.’, the second line in the form of an ordinary paragraph. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 27th November, 2007 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. Speaker, His Honour I. A. Roett, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of 20th November, 2007 were confirmed on the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, seconded by Hon. R. C. Eastmond; those of 23rd November were deferred as not yet in hand. No papers were laid.

Under Statements by Ministers, Hon. Miss Mottley, the Member for St. Michael North East, reported the 2007/2008 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, launched that morning.

Barbados again ranked No. 31 in the world on the Human Development Index, surpassed in the hemisphere only by the United States and Canada, and No. 1 among developing countries on the Human Poverty Index, ahead of Uruguay, Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba and Singapore. She linked the result to the Government’s rejection of jobless growth, on the eve of the 41st Anniversary of Independence.

On the Orders of the Day, Hon. Miss Mottley said no Government Business would be called, so that the Sitting could take the No-Confidence Motion filed by the Leader of the Opposition, which a letter shown to her by the Clerk indicated the Speaker had accepted as submitted; she offered to have notice dispensed with and the motion debated at once. Mr. D. J. H. Thompson replied that Private Members’ Business on the Order Paper was blank, that the Leader of Government Business did not lead it, and that he had been presented that morning with an amended version of one of his two Resolutions and would sign and debate only when satisfied. He suggested the House debate the Government’s Hardwood Resolution instead.

Hon. Miss Mottley answered that there was no amendment to the No-Confidence Motion and that the Leader of the Opposition, from his ‘30 days or else’ to the meetings at Chapel Gap and Fitts Village, had no confidence in his own motion; the Government would call it every Tuesday. Mr. Thompson objected that correspondence written on the Speaker’s instructions had been shown to her; on a point of order she said that at 10.50 a.m. the motion was still unsigned. The Speaker repeatedly called Members to order.

Mr. Speaker then stated that under Rule 22 every Resolution comes to him to be directed for printing; the two Resolutions were separate and could not be taken together; in Trinidad and other islands a Member has 12 days to debate such a motion; and, after first objecting to certain recitals, he had accepted the No-Confidence Resolution as submitted. Mr. Thompson read the Clerk’s letter directing that the motion be printed in its original terms and the Resolution on the Integrity Legislation, Freedom of Information and the Defamation Act with one alteration, and said there was no twelve-day rule in Barbados.

On the adjournment, Hon. Miss Mottley gave notice that a new Public Service Bill, prepared in consultation with the trade unions and staff associations, would replace the one on the Order Paper, with debate to begin the following Tuesday, when time would also be made for the No-Confidence Motion. Seconded by Hon. R. C. Eastmond, the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 4th December, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

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