

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKER — The Hon. E. R. L. Ward, M.P.

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Dr. L. A. Radix, M.P.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE — The Hon. R. L. Bradshaw, M.P.

LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION—A. S. Sinanan, Esq., M. P.

OFFICERS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
— G. E. L. Laforest

DEPUTY CLERK — Miss J. S. Darcheville
(Acting)

OFFICIAL REPORT OF DEBATES (HANSARD) —

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REPORTERS — L. G. Rohlehr, U. E. Lloyd,
Miss E. R. Cox, Miss S. B. Williams.

LIBRARIAN — Vacant

CLERKS — K. S. Singh, M. Clement.

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS — P. Herbert

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in September, 1958; and in 1959 in meetings of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and the Commonwealth Economic Council. My Government is now seeking Associate Membership of the Economic Commission for Latin America of the United Nations, and its application will be sponsored by Her Majesty's Government when the Commission meets early next year.

"A major preoccupation of my Government is the welfare of West Indians overseas. Positive steps have been taken to strengthen the welfare services available to West Indians in the United Kingdom; and to support and sustain our people during the anxious period through which they have been passing. My Ministers are appreciative of the generosity of the Jamaica Government in making certain officers available to the Migrants Service in the United Kingdom; and for the co-operation of the Premiers of Jamaica and Barbados and the then Minister of Education and Culture of Trinidad and Tobago when Federal Ministers were sent to London during a particularly difficult period last year. My Government continues to pay very close attention to this important matter.

"The overseas services of The West Indies in the United Kingdom and Canada have been strengthened; and special attention will be paid during the coming year to further improvements. A scheme for the training of West Indian personnel for the future West Indies Diplomatic Service, is being set in train. The first consular officer of the Federal Government assumed office in June, as a member of the staff of Her Majesty's Embassy in Caracas, and with a special responsibility for West Indian affairs

in Venezuela and also in the Netherlands Antilles.

"The Federal Government assumed responsibility for the West India Regiment on 1st January of this year. I and my Ministers have noted with pride the high standard of military efficiency which has already been achieved. Steps will be taken next year to transfer the remaining financial and administrative controls from the War Office to the Federal Government, to which end a West Indies Pay and Records Office will be established.

"I and my Ministers look forward with pleasure to the visit to The West Indies early next year of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.

"My Government warmly welcomes the constitutional advances which have been made in Jamaica and Trinidad; the proposals for an increased measure of local responsibility in the Windward and Leeward Islands; and the further constitutional changes in Barbados. Despite the absence of conclusive decisions at the recent Conference on the Revision of the Federal Constitution, my Government is glad that the two inter-governmental Committees set up to consider certain fundamental issues, are now assembled in Port-of-Spain. I and my Ministers earnestly hope that their labours will result in an early advance towards independence for The West Indies within the British Commonwealth. Meanwhile, my Government proposes to raise the question, during this Session, of the constitutional status of the Federal Government with a view to providing for full Cabinet responsibility.

"In the economic field, my Government has paid great attention to the pro-

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tection of existing export markets, and the search for new ones; to the encouragement of agricultural and industrial production within The West Indies; and to the improvement of communications. After prolonged negotiations, a new Citrus Agreement has been negotiated with Her Majesty's Government and commended to the Territorial Governments. A new Rice Agreement has been made with the Government of British Guiana. A revised Oils and Fats Agreement has been proposed, and this will be examined at the next Oils and Fats Conference to be convened by my Government next January. A Federal Division of Standards, which should greatly assist in maintaining the position of West Indian products in domestic and overseas markets, will be set up early next year.

"The marketing problems of the Sea Island Cotton Industry have been a source of much concern to my Government, and certain measures are under consideration with the Territorial Governments concerned.

"In the highly important field of tourism, an Advisory Committee has been appointed to assist in the planning of the tourist industry throughout the Federation.

"A West Indies Trade Mission was sent to the United Kingdom in July of this year, and this was highly successful in creating among British industrialists an awareness of The West Indies as a fertile field for investment. In keeping with its policy of developing and expanding trade between Canada and The West Indies, my Government was privileged to welcome, earlier this year, a Trade and Economic Mission from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. My Ministers are glad to note that all Territorial Governments have been able to

announce the adoption of measures which will greatly facilitate the entry of dollar imports into The West Indies.

"At the request of Territorial Governments, my Government has undertaken numerous surveys, and made available the services of specialist advisory staff on a wide range of matters, such as agriculture, building, education, fisheries, forestry, housing, marketing, medical specialist services, statistics and technical education. Specialist studies have been made of port and harbour development, and of geological and soil survey requirements.

"In carrying out its responsibilities for agriculture, which are largely of an advisory and co-ordinating nature, my Government has, with the concurrence of Territorial Governments, re-organised and improved the machinery for regional consultation, both at ministerial and professional levels, in the fields of Agriculture, Animal Health and Husbandry, Forestry, and Fisheries. Recognising that a major obstacle to progress in these fields is the inadequacy of trained staff throughout the region, my Government has given encouragement and support to the expansion of facilities for training in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. A very important development is the merger of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture with the University College of The West Indies, which will be completed by August of next year, thus providing a degree course in Agriculture in The West Indies. During next year, further work will be carried out on research into food crops and silviculture.

"A labour education survey was conducted for the Federal Government by the Extra Mural Department of the University

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College of The West Indies. My Government is making plans for a man-power survey seminar for Labour Officers, to be held with the support of the International Labour Organisation, at the University College of The West Indies next year.

"In the field of communications, the Federal Government has maintained a regular fortnightly shipping service between the Territories. Tenders have recently been awarded for the construction of the two new ships, which are the generous gift of the Government of Canada. It is hoped that these ships will be ready by the middle of 1961.

"Consultative machinery has been established for maintaining contact between the West India trans-Atlantic steamship lines and West Indian interests; and a modest overall reduction in freight rates to the Leeward and Windward Islands has been secured.

"My Government proposes to establish a regional lighthouse service, which would take over the ownership, maintenance, and administration of all navigational aids. This service will at first cover the Eastern Caribbean only; but my Ministers are in communication with the Government of Jamaica regarding its extension to that Territory.

"My Government will also lay before you a White Paper, containing proposals for the strengthening of the Meteorological Service, which was taken over by the Federal Government in May of last year.

"As a first step in the formulation of policy for the development of air services in the Federation, my Government has decided to appoint a Commission to make

a comprehensive survey of the air transport requirements of the area, and of the measures which are required to meet them. The Government will also appoint its own Civil Aviation Adviser. With the recent appointment of Advisers on Telecommunications and Postal Services, the Federal Government will be in a position next year to address itself fully to the needs of the area in these fields, and to consider the progressive federalisation of the postal services.

"My Government attaches particular importance to the raising of educational standards throughout the Federation and hopes that Territorial Governments will continue to use our advisory services in this field. My Government has noted with satisfaction the decision of the Governments of Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago to assist financially in the expansion of the University College of The West Indies, to which Her Majesty's Government and the United Nations Special Fund are also contributing, in amounts of £1,000,000 and 850,000 United States dollars, respectively. An Advisory Committee will be meeting in January next year, to consider the plans and budgetary position of the College during the next three years.

"Apart from this special aid to the University College, The West Indies has received generous financial assistance from Her Majesty's Government and the Governments of Canada and of the United States. Colonial Development and Welfare applications amounting to 9,750,000 West Indian dollars were approved in 1959. A further 43,200,000 West Indian dollars or 9 million pounds has been allocated to The West Indies under the Colonial Development and Welfare (Amendment) Act, 1959,

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for expenditure up to the 31st of March, 1964. The Government of Canada has granted 10,000,000 Canadian dollars to the Federation; and agreements have been signed with the United States International Cooperation Administration for programmes of technical cooperation which involve the initial provision during the year of half a million United States dollars.

“Grants totalling 7,283,000 West Indian dollars were made by the Federal Government to grant-aided Territories from the block grant made available by Her Majesty's Government.

“My Ministers have noted with satisfaction the progress made in Jamaica towards the establishment of a Central Bank; and they will continue to plan for the creation of a Federal Central Bank, and the establishment of a unified West Indian currency.

“A population census will be conducted in April of next year. A census of agriculture will follow in 1961.

“Members of the House of Representatives

“Estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Federal Government for 1960 will be laid before you in due course.

“Senators and Members of the House of Representatives

“During this Session of Parliament my Government proposes to introduce legislation on a number of matters, including Census and Statistics, Representation of the People, Insurance Companies, Lighthouses and Merchant Shipping. At an early stage, you will be invited to consider Emergency Powers legislation, which has been re-drafted so as to take into account views expressed on the previous Bill by

Territorial Governments and by Members of the House of Representatives. Your approval will also be sought for the establishment of a Federal Development Loan and Guaranty Fund, for the purpose of providing long-term finance and guarantees in the private investment sector, as a means of stimulating economic activity throughout the Federation. Other measures will be laid before you in due course.

“I conclude with the heart-felt wish that the results of your deliberations may bring new inspiration and strength to the people of The West Indies; and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.”

ADDRESS OF THANKS

The Deputy Prime Minister (Dr. LaCorbiniere): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that an humble Address of Thanks be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General for the gracious Speech which he delivered to both Houses of the Legislature.

Question proposed.

The Deputy Prime Minister: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Debate on this Motion be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Agreed to.

PAPER LAID

The Report of the West Indies Meteorological Services for 1958.

—[*Minister of Communications and Works*]

BILLS

(First Reading)

The following Bills were presented and read a First time :

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

(VOLUME 2)

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE SECOND SESSION (1959—60)
OF THE FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE WEST INDIES,
CONSTITUTED UNDER THE WEST INDIES
(FEDERATION) ORDER IN COUNCIL, 1957.

1st Sitting

Wednesday, 18th November, 1959

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House met at 10.50 a.m.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk (Mr. G. E. L. Laforest) read His Excellency the Governor-General's Proclamation declaring open the Second Session of the Legislature, as follows:—

THE WEST INDIES

By His Excellency the Right Honourable the LORD HAILES, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of The West Indies, &c. &c., &c.,

WHEREAS by paragraph (1) of Article 40 of the Constitution of The West Indies, it is provided that, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the sessions of each Chamber of the Federal Legislature shall be held in such place and shall begin at such

time as the Governor-General may appoint by proclamation:

And whereas it is expedient that a session of each Chamber of the Federal Legislature should be held at Federal House, Port-of-Spain, and should begin on Wednesday the eighteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine at 10.50 a.m.

Now therefore by virtue of the power and authority in me vested I DO **HEREBY PROCLAIM AND MAKE KNOWN** that a session of each Chamber of the Federal Legislature shall be held at Federal House, Port-of-Spain, and shall begin on Wednesday the eighteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine at 10.50 a.m.

Given under my Hand and the Public Seal of the Federation this 13th day of November, 1959, in the Eighth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Prayers

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

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PROCESSION TO SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. Speaker: I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming back hon. Members to this new Session. We will now await the arrival of the Governor-General's Secretary to summon us to the Senate Chamber where the Speech from the Throne will be delivered. After that, if it is your will and pleasure, we will return here and proceed with the business on the Agenda for today, so that we will not have to return after lunch.

I should probably explain how the Procession will proceed from here. We will be summoned, and then the Serjeant-at-Arms, with the Mace, will precede and I will be followed by the Government Front Bench, then the Opposition Front Bench and then the Back Bench of both sides. We will stand behind the Bar. You will find that we cannot all stand comfortably behind the Bar, but there is room at the side where I have suggested that the rest of the Members should stand. The space is very, very small indeed, and we have done the best we could.

Message to attend the Governor-General :

The Governor-General's Secretary (Mr. M. S. Staveley), having knocked three times at the door was admitted and, advancing to the Table of the House, addressed the Speaker as follows :

"Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor-General commands this Honourable House to attend him immediately in the Senate."

The House went, and, having returned—

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. Speaker : As hon. Members are aware, this Honourable House attended in the Senate and heard the Speech read by

His Excellency the Governor-General. As all the Members of the House were present, I propose to take the Speech as read and to incorporate it in the Records of this House.

The Speech was as follows :—

"Senators and Members of the House of Representatives

"Federation as an institution is a challenge to the ingenuity and tolerance of a people, and the young Federation of The West Indies is no exception to that challenge. Since my Government assumed office nineteen months ago, I and my Ministers have concerned ourselves with establishing the Federal idea both at home and abroad.

"I am happy to think that in the result there has been a growing recognition from nations in all parts of the world, and an ever-widening circle of interest in our affairs. My Government has cemented the historic friendship between The West Indies and Canada, and friendly and close relations have been established with the Government of the United States. Her Majesty's Government has entrusted to the Federal Government an increasing measure of responsibility in international affairs, including the right to deal directly with the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, and also to negotiate and sign agreements with the Government of Venezuela. My Ministers welcome the steps taken to transform the Caribbean Commission into a new organisation representative of the peoples of the Caribbean, and responsible directly to the Governments of the area. My Government will participate in the work of the new organisation.

"Ministers took part in the Commonwealth Economic Conference in Montreal

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The Interpretation Regulations (Amendment) Bill

The Census and Statistics Bill

—[*Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister*]

The Pensions Amendment Bill

The Supplementary Appropriation (1958 No. 2) (Amendment) Bill

The Appropriation (1960) Bill

—[*Minister of Finance*]

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Bradshaw): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted

to name Monday, 23rd November, 1959, for the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1958 No. 2) (Amendment) Bill, as required by the Standing Orders, and tomorrow, the 19th November, for the Second Reading of the Appropriation (1960) Bill?

Agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, 19th November, 1959.

—[*Mr. Bradshaw*]

Adjourned accordingly at 11.34 a.m.