

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) asked for an interpretation of Paragraph 11 of the Rules of Business with reference to 3rd discussion.

The *Vice Chairman*: The Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town has asked for an interpretation of a portion of Par. 11 of the Rules of Business. The *Vice Chairman* read the paragraph in question and said,—At 3rd discussion only Government may bring in amendment. Continuing he said,—The question in some members' mind is that this is not an amendment. Government claims it is an amendment and accomplishes in a few words, in a very short time what would be accomplished if the Committee Report were taken word for word. It seems to me an unnecessary waste of time to prolong discussion on this amendment. Government knows that we will not pass the tax law as proposed. It seems to me, therefore, only a matter (although I am not versed in Parliamentary Procedure) of going ahead and pass the Committee Report. I don't see what will be gained by holding up the matter. Vote down Government's amendment.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): If the Council votes down Government's amendment, Government can say that the Council has refused to pass the ordinance. Is that what we want to do?

The *Vice Chairman*: Yes.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Town (Canegata): No, we do not want to vote against the ordinance. We want to pass it as amended by the Committee.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Curry): If we vote Government's amendment down we violate no precedent.

Government Secretary (Zane): I have given the reason I had in mind for introducing this amendment—to give the Colonial Council the privilege of passing the ordinance as submitted.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): Mr. Vice-Chairman. Wouldn't it be wise for Government to withdraw this amendment and let the matter go over. We are going to be taxed to the limit if the budget is not cut down. If the budget is reduced I will vote for a personal tax.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): The Honorable Member is premature.

The *Vice-Chairman*: I don't think Government wants to withdraw the amendment.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Vice-Chairman. If it is proposed that the Committee reconsider its report. I will vote, but not on the amendment proposed by Government.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The amendment proposed by Government is very easy to understand. The speaker read the amendment and said,—This amendment is more an ultimatum than anything

else. We should say that we are ready to pass the ordinance as amended by the Committee and in no other way. We have worked hard and have tried hard to meet Government's views on this ordinance. I think we would be losing our senses if we vote for the ordinance as presented.

3rd Member for Frederiksted Country District (M. M. Skeoch) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I do not agree with a remark made by the last speaker. An Honorable Member has just said he would vote for a personal tax. Government should see a little silver lining through that. It is not a question of not wanting to vote for the amendment, it is a question as to whether it is in order. We are not getting a wise as to whether the matter presented for consideration is in order.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. We would be placing ourselves in a worse position if we vote down Government's amendment. If we did, Government would say that the Council has refused to pass a tax law, but if we don't vote it down Government will not have this claim.

Government Secretary (Zane) remarked: Mr. Vice Chairman. I cannot follow the argument of the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town. I can assure him that in offering this amendment Government has no ulterior motive.

The *Vice Chairman*: I cannot follow the argument either. I will put Government's amendment to the vote.

Government's amendment was put to the vote with the following results:

11 members voted against; 3 did not vote.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) proposed that 3rd discussion on the ordinance be closed.

The motion was seconded by 3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong), put to the vote and unanimously adopted.

3rd Discussion closed.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) proposed that the Ordinance be taken as read.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I remember when the Code of Laws was passed by this Council I proposed that the entire draft be taken as read and it was said that it would take up too much time as it was very lengthy. And what is happening today, you go to the Court and cannot know who is the judge and what else. With that in view, I propose that the ordinance now before the House be read.

It was put to the vote and carried that the ordinance be taken as read.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) proposed according to paragraph 20 of the Rules of Business that the vote on the ordinance as amended be taken by roll call.

The motion was seconded by 1st Mem-

ber for Frederiksted Town (Jackson), 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg), 1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson), 1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Jessen) and 3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong), put to the vote and adopted.

Accordingly the Chairman took the vote on the ordinance as amended by roll call with the following result:

1st Appointed Member (Coulter)... Yes.

3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong)... Yes.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood)... Yes.

1st Member for Chris-

tiansted Town (Abramson)... Yes.

2nd Member for Chris-

tiansted Town (Canegata)... Yes.

3rd Member for Chris-

tiansted Town (Alexander)... Yes.

1st Member for Chris-

tiansted Country Dis-

trict (Jessen)... Yes.

2nd Member for Christian-

sted Country District (Berg)... Yes.

3rd Member for Christian-

sted Country Dis-

trict (Robt. W. Skeoch)... Yes.

1st Member for Frederik-

sted Town (Jackson)... Yes.

1st Member for Frederik-

sted Country Dis-

trict (Fleming)... Yes.

2nd Member for Frederik-

sted Country District (Curry)... Yes.

3rd Member for Frederik-

sted Country Dis-

trict (M. M. (Skeoch)... Yes.

4th Member for Frederik-

sted Country Dis-

trict (Andersen)... Yes.

The *Vice Chairman* remarked: The ordinance is unanimously adopted and goes to Government.

To be continued.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

New York, March 12th.—The announcement by J. P. Morgan and Company of the establishment of an American banking credit of not less than \$100,000,000 for the Bank France was preceded by a spectacular rally in the price of French francs which during the day soared more than 55 points to 4.24 cents. The rate at the close eased off to a range of 4.18 to 4.20 cents. The new quotations of the franc were above the level at which the latest drive against French currency was begun and represented a recovery of about $\frac{3}{4}$ cent from the record low established last Saturday. Recovery of the French franc stimulated activity in sterling, and in Belgian francs which jumped almost 20 points to around 3.47.

Montreal, March 12th.—Sir William Duff-Reid, builder of the Newfoundland Railway and ex-president of the Reid Newfoundland Company, died this afternoon. He was in his 55th year.