

2786, if not fostered, have been abetted by a Member of the Colonial Council, of St. Thomas namely, Rothschild Francis. I have some remarks to make but I feel that I should not make them until we hear from Mr. Francis. I propose that we hear from him now.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): Mr. Chairman. The bill is before the Senate. It makes no difference who introduced it.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. May I ask if the Honorable 8th Elected Member for St. Thomas has been subpoenaed and is obliged to take the stand and testify. The Honorable Member should bear in mind that this is not a court.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): Mr. Chairman. Before any vote is taken on the resolution we should point out the defects where the bill now before the Senate does not conform to American standard. In courtesy to the Senator who introduced it we should point out the defects.

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (*Noll*): remarked: Mr. Chairman. I still stand on the major issue. We have met here today to discuss something introduced to the north of us, in discussing it we cannot be unmindful of street rumours, we cannot be unmindful of what a man might deny outside of the Council. We are called upon to discuss one of the most important, if not the most important bill ever introduced affecting the people of these islands, and yet certain persons who are concerned say they will not tell us what is behind it. A Member of the Colonial Council of St. Thomas went to Washington and asked that this bill be introduced and he is not manly enough to tell us why he has done so. His silence shows that he is not strong enough to come before us and give his reason for requesting that the bill be introduced.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. A point of information. Are we discussing the merits or demerits of Senate Bill No. 2786?

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (*Noll*): We are going to get to the bottom of the whole thing.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): Do so in a decent manner.

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (*Noll*): Mr. Chairman. I object to be called indecent.

The Chairman rang the bell for order.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): Mr. Chairman. Whether the bill is introduced by a Member of St. Thomas Council or by Senator McLean is it courteous to pass a resolution such as is now before the House without pointing out the defects in the bill?

3rd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*M. M. Skeoch*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. With all due respect to the absent Senator he should have a great deal more consideration for us and not

take hold of a bill like this and introduce it in the Senate of the United States without giving the Government or the legislative bodies of these islands an opportunity to be heard. As the Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Thomas has said, whether the legislative bodies of these islands represent all the people or not they should be consulted. I consider this lack of forethought on the part of the Senator.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I would like to know whether such a measure was proposed in 1922 and whether the St. Thomas Council was a participant.

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (*Noll*): Mr. Chairman. A motion is before the House to the effect that the 8th Elected Member for St. Thomas give his views to the Council.

The *Chairman*: It is left the Honorable Member whether he wishes to give his views or not.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*): Mr. Chairman. I second the motion. I don't see why a Member of a Council should be a traitor. Why should the Honorable Member go behind us and act contrary to what he knows would be the desire of the people. He knows that there are brains in this Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): If this is going to be a personal matter I am going to retire. I object to members indulging in personalities.

The Chair ruled that a man cannot be forced from his seat.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I ask that the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix give us his opinion on this bill or any form of Government he thinks fit for these islands also what he thinks of the Danish Colonial Law now in force in these islands.

The *Chairman*: I wish to announce again that a member of either Council may speak only on his own initiative.

8th Elected Member for St. Thomas (*Rothschild Francis*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I have listened with special care to the remarks of the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Croix and the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Thomas and St. John and in reply to those Gentlemen I wish to say that they have done what is right, that is, to point out what they consider is defective in the Senate Bill introduced for the benefit of the people of these islands. What the Senator who has introduced the bill wants of the people of these islands is to point out defects in the bill. The Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Croix has pointed out what he considers defective in the bill and I can say this for him that he has said what I would have said myself.

The Federal Income Tax was enforced in these islands at the instance of an Admiral; two aliens were deported from these islands and an Admiral said he did it. Congress has unbridled authority over these islands. Now, therefore, what I think this Council should do is to state in the open what they consider defective in the bill, but they cannot question the right of the bill. There are many questions to be decided. Let us not resort to personalities, but to the facts before us. I am one of the citizens of these islands who have remained here too long. I have moved out now and I have support. The question before the House now is whether or not we shall adopt the resolution which is now before us. I feel the time will come when we shall have laws compatible with American laws. This is no bouquet. The Senator who has introduced the bill is a lawyer and a brilliant one too. I have come here today to hear what my colleagues have to say regarding this bill so that I may report to Washington as quick as possible. It is immaterial who introduced the bill, what you have to prove is that it is inimical to the interest of the people of these islands. As regards providing for five members for the Council of St. Croix and seven members for the Council of St. Thomas that's a typographical error. It was proposed to have seven for St. Croix and five for St. Thomas and St. John. There are also other typographical errors in the bill; and further the bill is open for amendment; you may send representatives to Washington. This is an act of American citizens. You had better do it and do it quick...

Loud applause from the audience.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman I want to ask if these manifestations are not contrary to good order.

The *Chairman* asked the audience to refrain from manifestations of any kind.

The speaker (*Rothschild Francis*) continuing.—I am speaking under a great flag. There has been absolutely no secrecy in the framing of the bill where the authorities in Washington are concerned. It is the child of American brains. I had the pleasure of hearing an American from Chicago, Ill., give his opinion as regard the judiciary system in these islands, it was not at all beautiful. Mr. Chairman I maintain that this bill is the child of intelligent Americans.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. With reference to the proponent of this measure it occurs to my mind, and I think I am correct that the late Secretary of the Navy proposed a single legislative body for these islands. He agreed on the point that the present form of Government is unsuited to these islands. A letter was addressed to Governor Cowner of Porto Rico in which was stated that while these measures were wise and necessary during the