

could not speak a word of English, they were given the Foraker Act; an Act was given to Hawaii, one was given to the Philippines and one was given to Alaska. I am interested in this fight and I am going to carry it through, and the American people will decide. When I say people I do not mean we who are gathered here I mean every one under the flag. Mr. Chairman, let the Colonial Councils take their course and the Virgin Islands Committee will take its course. The Honorable Member made reference to section 2 of the organic Act, I wish to say that there are many other sections that are not compatible with American Laws. The American people will decide whether we an intelligent people are deserving of citizenship.

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (Noll): Mr. Chairman. May I propound a question to the last speaker?

The Chairman: State the question to the Chair.

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (Noll): I ask the Chair to ask the Honorable Member instead of taking this bill to Senator McLean why did he not bring it before the Colonial Councils of these islands?

8th Elected Member for St. Thomas (Rothschild Francis) in reply to the last speaker said, I thought there were sufficient members in these Councils that love things American. That's why I didn't bring it before these Councils.

A motion was made by the Chairman (Merwin) and carried that 6 members be elected to form a committee to receive and report on the resolution.

A recess of 20 minutes was given. After the recess upon reassembling the Chairman asked the members to prepare their voting tickets for the election of a committee of six members three from each Councils.

26 voting tickets were handed in; one blank.

Elected were: 3rd Appointed Member for St. Croix (Armstrong), and 6th Elected Member for St. Thomas (Corneiro), 2nd Member for Christiansted Town Canegata, 2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (Noll), 3rd Appointed Member for St. Thomas (Nolte) and 5th Elected Member for St. Thomas (Thiele) with 26 votes respectively.

The Chairman then introduced an amendment to the Resolution by 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) which was first read by the Secretary (Nolte).

RESOLUTION.

Whereas there has been introduced into the Senate of the United States a Bill (S. 2786) providing for a Civil Government for the Virgin Islands, and

Whereas the said Bill in its present form does not wholly conform to local needs, and

Whereas it is the desire of the people of the Virgin Islands to have an American Civil form of Government,

It is therefore resolved by this Colonial Council in joint session assembled, that the Governor of the Virgin Islands be requested, and he is here requested, to request the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Insular Affairs to withhold action on the said Bill until such time as this joint body shall forward amendments or suggestions to the Chairman of the said Committee expressing the wishes of the people of the Virgin Islands thereon.

D. HAMILTON JACKSON.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town.

Christiansted, St. Croix.

April 4, 1924.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) in introducing the amendment said,—Mr Chairman, and Honorable Members in introducing this amendment I think I am pursuing the proper course as a representative of some of the people of this island. This resolution which is intended to repudiate the Senate Bill does not come within the common knowledge of our constituents. Whenever a change in the form of government is to take place whereby any number of people will be affected our constituents should have knowledge of it, so that they may know how they shall be governed. We need not to go back to that immortal instrument, the Declaration of Independence of the United States, to find out where that principle comes from, but follow the suggestions made by the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member of this Council, and follow the last part of this resolution which reads:

"And be it further resolved that it is our opinion that the present form of Government should continue until a change is requested which emanates from the people of the Virgin Islands after they have given deliberate thought to the subject and have proposed a measure embodying adequate provisions to care for special local conditions, and that the Government of the Virgin Islands take such steps as may be necessary to inform the proper officials of the sense of this resolution and to request that Senate Bill No. 2786 be either withdrawn or that no further action be taken regarding it."

the speaker continuing,—I have brought in this amendment that has for its purpose the delaying of action on Senate Bill No. 2786 until the people of the Virgin Islands have a chance to say whether or not they desire the change. This resolution contains much that is good and some that is very bad. I want to give credit to those who frame this resolution for the good features of it. I won't denounce the bad features of it because we all make mistakes. I certainly cannot vote for this resolution, particularly the second paragraph. I admit that the person or persons who requested the adoption of Senate Bill No. 2786 did not act with the consent of the Colonial Council of

St. Croix, nor the Colonial Council of St. Thomas and St. John, and I am sure that the person who introduced it did not act with the consent of the Government of the Virgin Islands, but it is a request of the common people.....

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (Noll): In your opinion.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) continuing,—It is the wishes of the people and that's why Senator McLean introduced it!

The American flag is flying here gentlemen. I have taken my oath to support the Constitution of the United States, I will say that I want to see as good an American Government in these islands as there is in Porto Rico, a people foreign to American sentiments. Take the peons for instance they are illiterate, base and unlettered, nevertheless they are citizens of the United States; and an intelligent people living up to American ideals seeking citizenship and you have brought in a resolution saying they don't want it.

It is true that this bill lacks many things, it is rough, but it is a stepping stone, it is a ladder towards what we should have. The President of the United States has gone on record as saying that the people of the Virgin Islands should have a civil form of government.

We have had two commissions sent down here by the President of the United States and the people through their duly appointed representatives have gone on record as asking for civil government for them, and today you are saying that civil government is asked for without the consent of the people. It is easy today to get a mandate signed by ten thousand people to the effect that they need civil government.

I know that my amendment asking that the Senate Bill be held in abeyance will be turned down this afternoon, but I feel it my duty to introduce it. Mr. Chairman with these remarks I take the liberty to introduce the amendment.

2nd Appointed Member for St. Croix (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman I want to go on record as saying that I do not believe that the people of these islands have been consulted with reference to their opinion as to civil government. I have lived here seven years and have no knowledge that they have ever been consulted. I am stating this merely for the sake of record.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): It is my duty as a representative of the people who I represent to keep the door open and act within their best interest. I would like to be informed as to what there is in the last paragraph of the resolution to prevent the people from asking for what they want at any time.

The amendment brought in by 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) was again read.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country