

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In one point I agree with 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District that the amounts budgetted under salaries should be paid out, but the way in which things are now, we could not put our hands on the Department of Education. As regards the Income Tax, you would have to change the law before anything could be done.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The amount should be carried forward. The amount collected in July for Income Tax should have gone on the budget.

Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Income Tax, that is a matter of bookkeeping. The ordinance should read June 30, instead of July 1st., so the amount collected could be forwarded in the fiscal year; the matter of a day makes no difference. I think it would be dangerous to make a high estimate.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I consider it the best thing if the amount collected for Income Tax during May and June is retained by the Secretary and not handed to the book-keeping Department for credit before July 1st..

Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the interest in the Bookkeeping Department, but the result would be the same, whether it is credited as of June 30 or July 1.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It is of very much interest to the people of this island. It is a matter of pride to them to see the revenues as high as the expenses. The tax-payers wishes are to come pretty close to the expense with our revenues. It does not look good to see the Income Tax put so low.

Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The amount of Frs. 200,000 is not the Income Tax collected for this year.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. There is an amendment pending, which, if adopted, will change the feature of the whole thing where the Income Tax is concerned.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) would like to know whether 2nd Discussion on the budget will come on today?

The Chairman: According to the Rules of Business 2nd Discussion cannot come on today, except by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Council.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll): I notice that the Municipal Committee recommends that to strike out the salary to the Government Attorney. It strikes me that the Office of the Government Attorney is important; if that is changed it would be impossible for a criminal case to be tried on the island. I cannot understand the reason for such a recommendation; there must be some misunderstanding. I was told that the Municipal Committee understands that the Government would pay the salary from outside funds. That may be true, but Government could say, if they don't care to have a Government Attorney then let them not have one. If, reservedly, this is a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face, alright. I have heard it said that the Government Attorney is receiving additional compensation from Federal funds, it should not be done that way, but yet the Frs. 1,5000, for the Government Attorney should be budgetted; by striking out this salary the Government may say that we do not wish a Government Attorney. If there is any grievance, let us take it up direct. I can state to the Council that the Government Attorney's Office is important and cannot be dispensed with. It is an office to protect our freedom and property.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In answer to the last speaker, speaking for the Municipal Committee, I wish to assure him that it is not the intention to get rid of the Government Attorney's Office why the salary has been stricken. I believe the Honorable Member is mistaken, there is no ordinance stating what the salary of the Government Attorney should be, it is fixed by Government.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll): I stand corrected on that.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) continuing. In going over the budget with the Despatching Secretary, he assured the Municipal Committee that, that matter will be taken care of by the Government. That's why the salary was stricken.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) would like to ask the Chairman of the Municipal Committee if the Municipal Committee has anything in writing from Government on this matter.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) in answer to the last speaker said, - If the Government Secretary makes such a statement it must be correct.

Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Ignoring the remark of the Hon. 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) which could only be meant in the nature

of a personal insult. In answer to the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member (Noll) I wish to say that when this question came up and the former Governor felt that it might cause some inconvenience to the Council he therefore directed that the salary be placed under the United States Budget for the coming year. There is no intention on the part of Government to deprive the Municipality of services of the Government Attorney.

No one requesting the word further, it was put to the vote and unanimously carried that 1st Discussion be closed.

1st Discussion closed.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) moved that 2nd Discussion go over until the next meeting.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Chairman. That motion is unnecessary.

Item 2.

Colonial Council Bill No. 2.

Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 2, Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by Government, re declaring and establishing the Judiciary Department and courts on St. Croix; providing for a District Court Commissioner and for additional notaries public; amending an ordinance passed by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix, 25th. May, 1920, and sanctioned and approved 26th. June 1920, and repealing Chapters One and three of said Ordinance.

Colonial Council Bill No. 2.

3rd Council 1st Session.

DRAFT OF AN ORDINANCE

Redeclaring and establishing the Judiciary Department and courts in St. Croix; providing for a District Court Commissioner and for additional notaries public; amending an Ordinance passed by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix, 25 May, 1920, and sanctioned and approved 26 June, 1920, and repealing Chapters One and Three of said Ordinance.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix in session assembled:

CHAPTER ONE OF COURTS

COURTS ENUMERATED.

Section 1.—The Judicial power of the Virgin Islands of the United States is hereby declared to be vested in a District Court, Police Courts and Juvenile Courts and a District Court Commissioner.

JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

Section 2.—The District Court is a Court of general and original jurisdiction in all civil, criminal, admiralty, equity, insolvency and probate matters and causes, unless jurisdiction is conferred on some other court, in which event the