

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

EXPENDITURES: Colonial Council.

The *Chairman* remarked: On the expenditure side of the budget we will take up each department separately as customary. The Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District has brought in amendment to Item 3 under Maintenance. The Chairman read the amendment, which is as follows:

AMENDMENT

Item 3 under Maintenance, Colonial Council, after the word "Proceedings," insert, "Provided, however, that the work be awarded on competitive bidding."

H. BERG,
4th Mem. for Christiansted Country District.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): In introducing his amendment said,—Mr. Chairman. I just like to say that it will be obvious that it is the best course of action to take to give all the newspapers on the island the Council proceedings for publication instead of the "Avis" alone as if it was his peculiar right. I want this amendment to go through and wish members to know that a principle has been violated. The Editor of the "Avis" is under the impression that he is the servant of the Colonial Council. The gentleman, weakling as he is, he believes he will tell.

The *Chairman* rang the bell for order.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): There is corruption—

The *Chairman* again rang the bell for order and said,—I have to state that during the history of this Council personalities have never been entered into by members.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I don't know how the Honorable Chairman can assume that this is an attack on him or any one else.

The *Chairman* again rang the bell and asked the Member to refrain from entering into personalities.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I don't know how the Editor of the "St. Croix Avis" acquired the right to publish the Council Proceedings. Other newspapers should have the right to tender bids for the work of publishing the proceedings. I understand that Government is asking for bids for general printing I would like to ask whether that covers printing proceedings of the Colonial Council?

Government Secretary (*Zane*) Mr.

Chairman. Government is not prepared to answer that question.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I ask members to adopt this amendment as I consider it fair to have competitive bids for this work.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*): Mr. Chairman. I would like to have the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District read his amendment.

The Member read his amendment.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I did not intend to speak on this item, particularly because it might be thought that I am interested. As a newspaper man I think when it comes to printing the proceedings of the Colonial Council all the newspapers on the island should have a copy. As Editor of a newspaper I can say that I will publish the proceedings of the Council free of charge for the benefit of the public. What I want to say is that the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District has made a statement regarding corruption; that should be investigated at once or we all should resign. I request that an investigation be made into the assertion of the Honorable Member, there ought to be an investigation. I move that this Council resolve itself into a committee to investigate the assertion made by the Honorable Member.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I don't want to delay procedure here, but that it should not be said I cannot support my assertion I second the motion.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. If we are to do anything here at all the gentleman must state a case.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As I was stating the Editor of the "Avis" received a letter coercing him into publishing an article in his paper on May 19, 1924, in which he spoke very disparagingly of representative natives of these islands. I have outlined a passage of this article which I will read to you. The speaker read the passage referred to and said,—As I said before an Officer of this Council did this. I make this charge against an officer of the Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. I am an officer of this Council. I will not stand for the Honorable Member to make such a charge against an Officer of the Council and don't say against which of the Officers.

The *Chairman*: It is proposed that a committee be appointed to investigate this matter.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. I am an Officer of this Council, Vice Chairman of the Council and I am also Chairman of the

Municipal Committee, I want the Honorable Member to state whether I am included. If he says no I am satisfied. I wish to state that I have shares in the "St. Croix Avis." I insist that the Honorable Member state whether I am included.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): Mr. Chairman. I move that the House go into committee at once.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the honorable gentleman whether he means me. Here is the public—Pointing toward the audience—

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I maintain my charge; I reiterate what I have said; I have not laid any charge against the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town. I don't see why he should think "the cap fits him."

The *Chairman* remarked: I can state that there is no doubt that the charge is directed against me, but that I consider of no account. I hope that when the investigation takes place the Honorable Member will see that he is mistaken.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): If the Chairman is involved let him vacate the Chair.

The *Chairman*: I am not speaking as Chairman.

The *Chairman* gave a recess of 20 minutes and said the committee will be appointed after the recess.

After recess the committee was appointed, the doors were closed and the matter was discussed, after which the Council proceeded to business.

To be concluded.

LOCAL

The Native Brass Band entertained appreciative gathering with one of popular moonlight concerts on the wharf last night.

Correspondence

Dear Mr. Editor!

Tat, once offered a bet, if his donkey could both read and talk.

His companions, who had known him since his birth, but had only heard him bray, took up the bet.

Tat proceeded to write "Ih Ah" upon a piece of paper, put that in a feeding trough, put some oats on it, and brought in the burrow.

As soon as long ear saw the oats began "Ih Ahh".

Tat won the bet.

"Ain't he the clever chap," Tat wanted to know?

"Yes!" said the loser, "but still Ass."

With some more thanks,
Yours,

A. H.