

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) remarked: Vice-Chairman I am sorry that the Municipal Committee did not give more attention to Frederiksted. The Municipal Committee do not know everything. We want a Police judge there. It will only be an expense of Frs. 9,000. We know the amount of work Judge Payne has to do. Many times he is wanted in Frederiksted but cannot be present there owing to the volume of work he has to do in Christiansted.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) replying to the last Honorable Member said: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Honorable Member says that the Municipal Committee doesn't know everything. I wish to remind him that Frederiksted is well represented. I cannot speak for Frederiksted, but if they can find a way to get the amount we would be only too glad to vote for it.

Government Secretary (Gaffney): Mr. Vice-Chairman. Is General Contingent to be further cut? I am asking this for information.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Honorable 4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) brought up a matter that I had in mind

to bring up while this budget is under discussion. I have not seen any provision made for a judge in Frederiksted. Provision is made in the Code for a Police Judge for Frederiksted. It is no new matter. It is necessary that provision be made for a judge for Frederiksted. I do not know why one is not provided for on the budget.

As far as the general items on the budget are concerned, I shall take that up later. I only want to call attention to the fact that I do not see any cash balance carried forward from last year's appropriations. It seems to me that from the remarks of the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee there is an amount left over from appropriated funds. It seems then that our deficit will not be as large as it appears in the budget. I figure that the deficit will only be in the neighborhood of \$85,000. I would like to know what the balance left over on last year's budget is, so that we can arrive at an understanding.

I would like to know what the words "other sources" in the budget have reference to whether it includes the unused appropriation of last year's budget?

As regards the cistern for Frederiksted that the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee has spoken of, in my opinion and as a member for Frederiksted Town, I insist that the experiment should be made in Frederiksted.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish to say that Frederiksted is also well represented in the Municipal Committee. However, I am willing to let the well drilling outfit be used first in Frederiksted.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I was called on the Municipal Committee as substitute for the Member for Frederiksted Town who was sick at the time, and when I attended the meeting all this work, which I must pronounce as excellent work was already done.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I believe that the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) has satisfactorily answered the question raised by the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town. As to whether the deficit is to be made up from other sources, I answer, yes. Before further discussion on the budget Government wishes to draw attention to the automobile tax. It is re-

commended that this tax go to a special fund, but the ordinance does not provide for a Road Fund, and therefore this amount should not be stricken from the Revenue side of the Budget. There will be Frs. 70,000 available to operate the Road Roller and I therefore ask that the Automobile Tax go into the Treasury and not into a special fund.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. As far as I understand, the ordinance governing the operation of the Road Roller and the collection of taxes has not yet received the sanction of the Governor; and as far as I know many persons will not operate their car owing to the high tax exacted under the new law.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) Mr. Vice-Chairman. The object for creating a Road Fund is this: The Ordinance says: "To provide for the operation of the Road Roller there shall be collected the following taxes etc." We know fully well that we cannot take out Frs. 40,000 every year from the budget to go towards the upkeep of the roads. If the tax is placed at twenty dollars that will bring in only \$4,000 and that is not sufficient to maintain the roads. If, therefore, we can scrape \$12,000 we may get a good deal of work done.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. After hearing the remarks of the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata), Government feels constrained not to remove this tax from the Revenue side of the Budget, for if this is done it will result in a great violation of the work done by the Committee which I deem excellent work.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I have no desire to argue whether it should be a separate fund or not, but we are experimenting, and are not sure whether the system will work satisfactorily or not. If we adopt an automobile tax on the budget, we cannot, according to the Act of Congress, change it, but if we place it under a special fund we may or lessen it as we may see fit. May be after one year we may have to change the system of taxation. For instance, we cannot change the Horse, Boat and Carriage Tax, but if we have a special fund some changes could be made.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. In order to take the Honorable Chairman of the