

ST. CROIX AVIS

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) to the date of my appointment. I told him that my appointment is dated May 14; and he advised me to verify this statement, so I went to the Council Office and requested the Clerk to let me have the letter, he did so, I read it and handed it back to him.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) requested that the portion of minutes bearing on the objection made by the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) be read.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) proposed that a committee of 3 members be appointed to investigate the matter.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: A motion is before the house that the matter be forwarded to a committee of 3 members for investigation.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I propose a committee of the whole House. Let us find out what has happened.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter): This is rather an important matter—

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Vice-Chairman I rise to a point of order. There is a motion before the House.

The Vice-Chairman: Gentlemen you are trying me well today.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) seconded the motion made by 1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson).

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander): Mr. Vice-Chairman. A point of inquiry—What's the original motion?

The Vice-Chairman: That a committee of 3 members be appointed to investigate this matter.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll): Mr. Vice-Chairman I propose an amendment to the amendment that the whole House resolve itself into a committee forthwith.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Vice-Chairman. The amendments of the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member and the Honorable 3rd Member for Christiansted Town cannot stand, because they have not been seconded. What is really before the House now is the motion of the Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) and the amendment of the Honorable 1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson).

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Curry): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish to withdraw my motion. I do so in order to do away with all the amendments.

The member's motion was withdrawn.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) then made a motion that the whole House go into a committee forthwith and investigate this matter.

The Vice-Chairman put the member's motion to the vote.

12 voted for; none against.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: The motion is carried.

The Vice-Chairman requested the audience to leave the hall and the doors were closed, and the House went into committee at 2 03 o'clock p. m. and the matter was discussed.

At 3.15 o'clock p. m. The Council resumed and the Vice-Chairman remarked: Honorable Members the minutes of the last meeting have been published as customary and if I hear no objection I will consider them tacitly adopted.

After a pause the Chairman heard no objection. The minutes were declared tacitly adopted.

Item 1.

Production of copy of Minutes of the Municipal Committee for the Quarter ending March 31, 1923, forwarded by the Chairman of the Committee for inspection of Members of the Council.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: A copy of the minutes will be laid on the table today and for one week after it will be in the Council Office where it can be inspected by any member during office hours.

Accordingly the minutes were laid on the table.

Item 2.

Colonial Council Bill No. 11, Session 1922-23.

1st discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 11, draft of an ordinance introduced by Government concerning insanity law.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. This draft was first presented to the Council at its April meeting and is reintroduced today with a change in the title of the ordinance. The change is not a matter of general interest, but may interest a few persons. This draft is based on the Louisiana and Illinois Insanity Law. At present persons committed to the Asylum have to be examined by two doctors, and in most cases questions of property and law come up. All these requirements are met in the present draft. If there is any addition or amendment which the Council desires to make Government would be glad to hear it.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. It is customary that a copy of every draft of ordinance which comes before this Council be forwarded to members. As I am not in possession of a copy of the draft which is now called up I am unable to speak on it today. I have been asking for a copy since my election but up to now I have not received one. It would be unfair to my constituents to pass upon the draft before acquainting myself with it. I want to make this remark as a matter of protest against the manner in which these matters are circulated.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country

strict (Berg) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am in the same position as the member who last spoke. I am also without a copy of the draft.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: Some of the retiring members retained their copies. The clerk tells me that Mr. Nelthropp promised to return his copy, but has not done so yet.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I believe under the Rules of Business I am right in the remark which I am about to make. When the Council dies I believe all matters pending die with it. In order that an ordinance which died with the Council to come up it must be introduced anew, unless it be carried forward. In view of the statement just made by the last two speakers that they are not in receipt of copies of the ordinance I feel that the ordinance should be circulated before its reintroduction. I do not believe that the ordinance is properly placed on the order of the day.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The ordinance is now reintroduced.

2nd Appointed Member [Noll]: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I do not say that the ordinance has not been reintroduced but two members say that they are not in receipt of copies, and for that reason I say that the matter is not properly placed on the order of the day.

The (Vice-Chairman) remarked: The matter will be forwarded to a committee any way. We can save time.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. If my memory serves me right it was agreed that the tax ordinance should go forward, and that all others pending should be reintroduced.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I contend that this ordinance has been reintroduced. These technicalities are merely to retard progress. To avoid delay I will present the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District with my copy.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I hope the remark made by the Honorable Government Secretary regarding technicalities is not as a result of my objection. I am entitled to scrutinize any matter coming up before this Council before I pass upon it; and this Council is entitled to my advice at any time. If this is representative government the people have a right to scrutinize all bills presented.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. If we discuss this matter before copies are circulated to all the members we may want to do it always. So as not to establish a precedent copies should be circulated to all the members before we can proceed with discussion upon it.