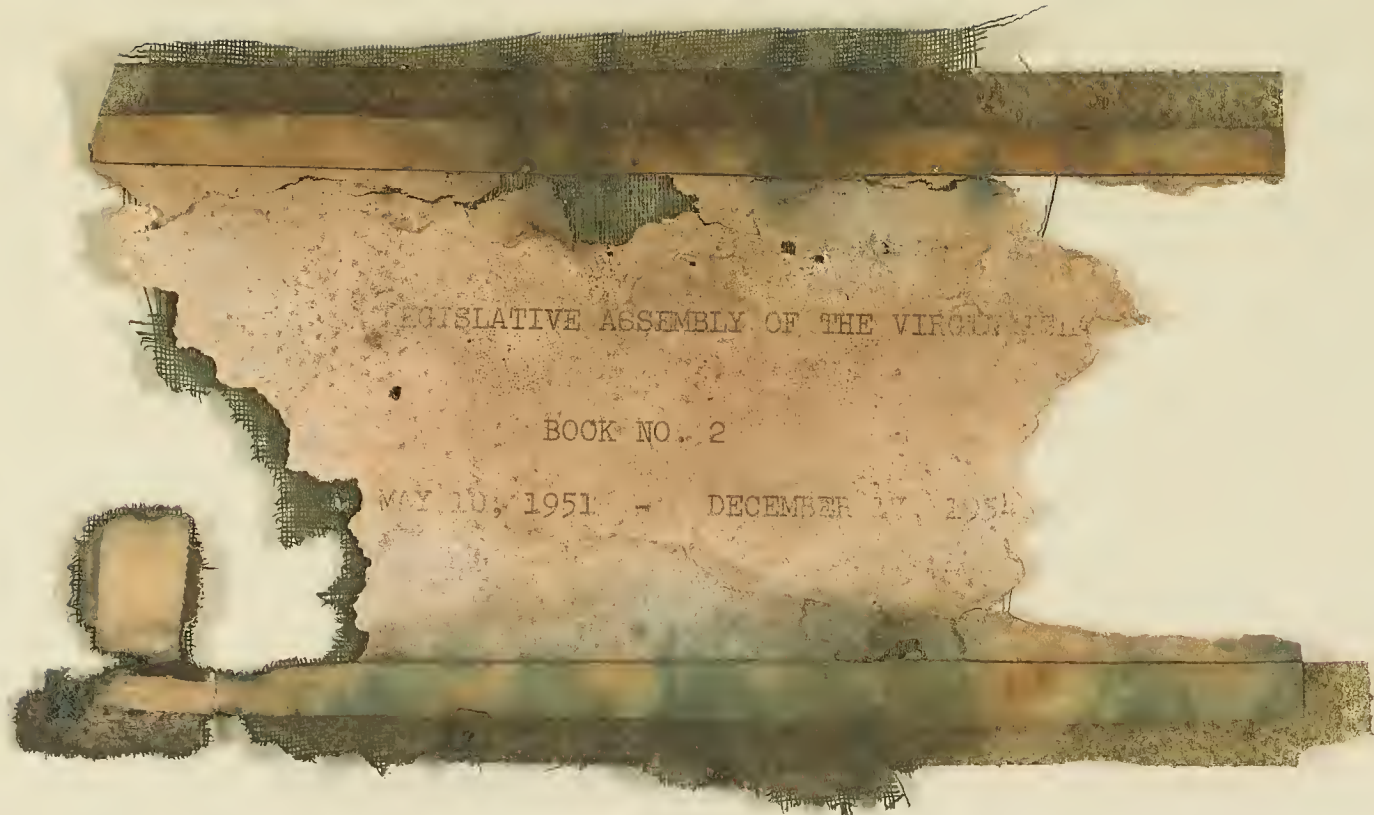


*The 2nd Session of the Legislative
Assembly of the Virgin Islands
1951 called by the Governor of
Virgin Islands to consider the
...*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

BOOK NO. 2

MAY 10, 1951 - DECEMBER 1, 1951



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

BOOK NO. 2

MAY 10, 1951 - DECEMBER 17, 1951

2nd.

251.

The 2nd Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands 1951 called by the Governor of Virgin Islands to consider the item:

An Act Authorizing the Establishment of a Public Employment Service in the Virgin Islands.

The Assembly met on May 16, 1951 at the House of Representatives.

The Roll revealed the following members present:

Mr. Brown ...

Mr. Barclay ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

The purpose of this bill
is to establish, in the
State, a system of public
employment offices,
having employment agents,
seeking work for the
people of the State.
The Act of March 6, 1890,

(Sess. 1st)

The picture I
like best is the
one of the
man and the
woman sitting
together.

for
the
for
of said
power and authority
all authority of the United States
having powers or duties
and to do and perform all things
to secure to the Virgin Islands the
of such act in the promotion and
maintenance of a system of public
employment + officers.

Section 7. There is hereby created
the Virgin Islands
to be known as the
domination
said
arrangement to
Islands Commission
in accordance
this act and
any time on the
Islands
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the duties in connection with the employment having been provided for in the Act. Such liabilities shall be effective immediately upon the expiration of the provision, and such liabilities shall exist in addition to any liability on any separate bond of the effective date of this provision, which may be given in the future.

any claim or demand against the institution shall be paid with other funds as may be but shall be paid to account on the day of the month. All monies received by the institution shall be deposited in the bank of the city of New York or in any other bank approved by the Board of Directors of the institution.

It is the duty of the Board of Directors of the institution to see that the funds of the institution are properly managed and that the same are not expended for any purpose other than the purposes for which they were received.

the
to
fund

4. findings by the Director of the Bureau shall report the amount required for replacement to the Governor, and Governor shall, at the earliest opportunity, submit to the Municipal Council a request for the appropriation of such amount.

Section 9. The Governor shall create an Advisory Council composed of men and women representing employers and employees in equal numbers, and the public, and the Municipal Council, for the purpose of formulating and discussing problems relating to employment and insuring neutrality and freedom of influence in the solution of such problems. Members of Council shall be selected in such manner as may be prescribed by the Council, and may be removed by the Council. The Council shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by the Council. The Council shall have the right to call upon any person for information and to receive from any person any information which may be necessary for the purpose of the Council. The Council shall also have the right to make recommendations to the Governor and the Municipal Council.

and
3 of

its purpose for the purpose
interfering with an election or
election for office, as affecting
the results thereof, or (2) take
active part in political management
in political campaigns.

All
persons and employees so engaged
represented shall retain the right to
do as they may choose and to
express their opinion on all political
subject and candidates.

Any officer or employee
violating the provisions of this
section shall be deemed to be
in the position of a
person and shall be
his incidental duties
no funds appropriated
shall be expended
for any campaign
or for any other
purpose.

20

Alvin C. McFarlane.

Sixteenth Legislative Assembly
in Session, January 1908

Feb. 1885

Alderson of the Sixth
of the First Division,
the Second Division,
the Third Division,

of the
Virgin Islands.

Morris H. De Castro, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States by virtue of the power vested in me by Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, do hereby convene a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to be held at the Municipal Chamber, Municipal Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 15, 1955, for consideration of the following subject matter:

1. To provide for the...
acted by the Legislative...
Municipal...
Hon. Alayans...

...a bill for...
...the...
...the...

...to provide...
...engage...
...Army...

...of...
...of...
...of...
...of...

6. Law
and
now covered by
Ordinance to Paris in and
benefits of the old age and
Insurance Provisions of the Federal
Social Security Act, 50 Stat. 1873. (Hon.
F. DuBois, Hon. Walter D. Hodge and Hon.
Arthur C. Hare.)

7. Revised Act creating the Virgin Islands
Planning Board, establishing and
defining its duties and powers and
other purposes. (Hon. Walter D. Hodge
Hon. Roy D. Gordon)

8. Revised Act to establish the Office of
the Virgin Islands Auditor. (Hon. Walter D. Hodge
Hon. Roy D. Gordon)

9. Act to Regulate Immigration
in connection with the
Army and for other
purposes. (Hon. Walter D. Hodge
Hon. Roy D. Gordon)

10. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

11. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

12. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

13. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

14. Act to provide for the
construction of a
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Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

15. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

16. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

17. Act to provide for the
construction of a
road from the
Village of St. John
to the Village of
St. George.

tions to
be approved

March 29, 1900 (Hon. Henry C. Richardson.)

Act to Promote the Sale, offering or
disposing for sale of Virgin Islands, defining
rights, and to regulate the manner
of carrying forward, and to provide
penalties for violations of the provisions
of the Act. (Hon. Stephen B. Lusk.)

Law to amend the Charter of the
Virgin Islands, to provide for the
election of the Governor and the
Council. (Hon. Charles B. Allen and Hon. Robert
H. Taylor.)

17. Law to make the Virgin Islands
a part of the Commonwealth of the
United States. (Hon. S. Christian.)
Hon. C. W. Harrison and Hon. R. H.
Taylor.

20. Law to create Virgin Islands Office
in Washington. (Hon. C. W. Harrison,
Hon. C. W. Harrison, Hon. C. W. Harrison,
Hon. C. W. Harrison, and Hon. C. W. Harrison.)

Law to create a Virgin Islands
Court. (Hon. C. W. Harrison.)

Law to amend the Charter of the
Virgin Islands. (Hon. C. W. Harrison.)

Law to provide for the
election of the Governor and the
Council. (Hon. C. W. Harrison.)

27.

Hon.
Earle

Mr. Podge, Hon. Rayn
A. James.)

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low, Hon.
is and Hon.

Law to Amend the School Law
Virgin Islands. (Hon. Cyprian A. Gard
Hon. Henry V. Richards.)

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto
my hand and caused the Seal of the
Virgin Islands of the United States to
be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, D.C.
this thirtieth Day of September, in
the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and
one, and of the Independence of
the United States of America the one
hundred and seventy-sixth.

18/ Maria V. ...

The Secretary and the

Letter from the Governor of the
Islands dated ...
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Maria V. ...

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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1934, the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands has convened today to enact legislation applicable to the Virgin Islands in accordance with the agenda specified in my proclamation calling the session. There is a great many very important items of legislation to be considered by this Assembly, some of them proposed by the Governor and some of them proposed by the members of the Assembly. I shall deal with the more significant legislative proposals in this session. Before doing so, however, I shall call the attention of the Assembly to the fact that in my 1950 that my administration shall be more than aware of the legislation items to be considered by you today, and I shall be glad to answer your questions, through you, of the Virgin Islands Government, during the session.

Final Address

A special session of the Assembly was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on June 1, 1950. The Governor, in his opening address, called attention to the fact that the Assembly was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, approved June 22, 1934, and that the Assembly was to consider legislation applicable to the Virgin Islands in accordance with the agenda specified in his proclamation calling the session.

Agriculture

I regret that the bill to transfer the Agricultural Stations in the Virgin Islands to the U. S. Department of Agriculture has not yet passed the House of Representatives. A member of the House Committee on Agriculture made a brief visit to the Virgin Islands in March this year, and was impressed upon them the necessity for the transfer. The Committee has submitted a favorable report on the bill to the House of Representatives, but when the bill was called up on the current calendar it was objected to. I have since been in personal communication with some of the members of Congress who objected to the bill when it was called up, and have explained to them of the necessity for the transfer. The opposition has been removed when the bill again came up. I also have spoken with the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and have explained to him the necessity for the transfer. I have also spoken with the State Department and the Department of the Interior and have explained to them the necessity for the transfer. I have also spoken with the Department of the Interior and have explained to them the necessity for the transfer.

Among the

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In order to promote the prog-
among other activities, 4-H Clubs have
been established, among the farm
the use of fertilizers is being urged
seedlings and seeds are being sold
farmers at cost; and home demon-
activities have been instituted.
artificial insemination program
improving dairy cattle and a
eradication program have also
initiated.

The production of sugar by the
Virgin Islands Corporation for 1951 de-
behave the bumper crops of the previous

year. Because of the surplus, public
which has been given, resulting in the
transportation by the Virgin Islands
Corporation of sugar for the purpose of
marketing the St. Louis sugar cane. In
small deal with this matter, the sugar
cane.

In 1957 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
the biggest crop in sugar cane history
of the country. In 1958, the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1959 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1960 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1961 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1962 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1963 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1964 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1965 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1966 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1967 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

In 1968 the Virgin Islands
Corporation produced 15,750 tons of
sugar cane.

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Policy and
Policy

The original purpose of the Virgin
land Corporation was to provide
processing facilities for the
honey and wax from the
bees, with the chartering of this
corporation by the Congress. It has
since gone on to establish a
successful and profitable sugar
industry. The development of sugar
production to 150,000 tons per
annum, I provide possibly profitable
mill operation, is an effort that will
require a number of years to accomplish.
The surrounding area, with its
fertile soil and drought conditions, is
ideal for sugar. Sugar is a
highly profitable industry, and
the Virgin land Corporation shall either go
into the sugar business or have had the
right to do so. The Corporation shall develop the
sugar industry, and the profits can be obtained
and distributed to the Corporation.
The Corporation shall develop the
sugar industry, and the profits can be obtained
and distributed to the Corporation.
The Corporation shall develop the
sugar industry, and the profits can be obtained
and distributed to the Corporation.
The Corporation shall develop the
sugar industry, and the profits can be obtained
and distributed to the Corporation.

I am happy to report that coach train
of 1st F. hospital is at 11.15, not a
one F. hospital will soon begin...
very few... and hospital
will be built in 1st, 2nd, 3rd
which will be... and...

for a ^{high school and} schematic plan
 by a competent school architect
 whose recommendations will show
 be available. In conference
 recently with the Public Works Division
 the Interior in Washington, it
 that, because more funds had
 to be allotted for the hospital
 construction program than in
 anticipated under the provisions
 of Public Law 510, sufficient
 are not now available for immediate
 construction of high schools in
 both municipalities. Sufficient
 contract authority exists, however,
 in the present year's appropriations
 bill, for a contract to be awarded
 for either the high school in St.
 Thomas or the combined high
 school-elementary school on St. John.
 Funds will be requested of Congress
 for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
 to continue and, if possible, to
 complete the entire school
 construction program throughout
 islands.

The waterfront project in St. John
 which is being constructed under
 contract, is progressing as
 anticipated. There seems to be
 clear need for more equipment
 labor, and better management.
 will be required to push this project
 so that it can be open when the
 area would be open when the
 coming winter tourist season.

The potable water supply
 in both St. Thomas and St. John
 are now in operation.
 was established for the purpose
 in St. Thomas by the
 on the same day.

St. John, a
stern, are
construction
facilities is
should have an improved telephone
service by the end of June, 1952.

Arrangements have been worked
through which the local
public works departments are carrying
on the road reconstruction programs in
Cruz Verde, St. Thomas. A survey
is being made for a new road
from St. John's Bay to Coral
Bay. The survey was made
possible through the cooperation of
the Public Works Department of the
Government of Puerto Rico. The soon
coming final report is being
with the necessary technical details,
will be solicited for
completion of the highway.

The funds made available
the Department of
St. Thomas, Development
the terminal building
the city of St. Thomas, Department
is renovated. The improvement
this terminal will make it
convenient and give it
to have the building at the
way and the terminal
need. I am sure that
project is even better
terminal. I am sure
the field is very
allocated. I am sure
way.

collections were \$21,615 less than original estimated amount of \$481,000. The decrease in actual collections due chiefly to the inability following sources of revenues to yield

Of the revenues estimated: Trade
tax, reserves from customs
revenue, from patients, municipal
hospital, income tax, and pilots
greatest decrease, of any single to
source was Trade Tax. Of an
estimated \$239,200, only \$195,907 was
collected.

The decreases in revenues yet from the abovementioned sources were offset to some extent by increases in real property tax, license fees, automobile license and fees from steamer tickets. In the case of license fees, \$33,000 were collected as against an estimate of \$25,000. It is interesting to note that in the cases of greatest increase or decrease as compared with original estimate the revenues sources were affected by recent legislation, favorably in the case of license fees and adversely in the case of the Trade

It is very difficult at this time
make a forecast for the current
fiscal year. During the first
quarter \$24,600 or 23% of the
estimated income for this
year were received. For the
same quarter last year 23%
of the estimated income were collected.
Judging from past experience
indications are that income
budgeted for this year should
be approximately the same.
Such income would result in a deficit at the
end of the fiscal year, which
is difficult to estimate due to
the fact that the income is not
uniformly distributed.

and gasoline
duties, ships'
from business lic
revenues.

support
the
terminal

In the municipality of St. Louis, it is too early to attempt any prediction of collections for the current fiscal year. During the first quarter of the current fiscal year a total of \$133,905.11 was collected, or approximately 28% of the original estimate of \$470,363. During the same quarter last year, about 33% of the total estimate had been collected. It would seem, therefore, that up to the present there exists no grounds for optimism.

Economic Development and Tourism

Our tax exemption and industrial development program for the purpose of encouraging the establishment of new industries, is moving along slowly. The Municipal Council of St. Louis and St. John has given the law on this subject so far a more liberal interpretation and may be made similar revision before the Municipal Council of St. Louis. We hope that shortly on the subject of the law for the assembly is an important bill which will be an important step in the administration of the city. It is in the hope that it will be a step in the right direction.

We have experienced real progress in our tourist trade. The 1951 year saw a large number of new hotels and additions to the existing ones, increasing the capacity of the city to handle tourists. The year 1951 saw a large number of new hotels and additions to the existing ones, increasing the capacity of the city to handle tourists.

150.
 is required for the addition of a hotel outside
 hotels. It is estimated by the Virgin
 Islands Tourist Development Board
 over 60,000 persons visited the Island
 tourists during the last fiscal year
 and expended over \$3,000,000.
 over 36,000 persons visited St.
 Croix. No figures are available for St.
 John for the same period due to the
 fact that the Tourist Development
 Board was not expanded to include
 St. Croix until 1951. However, it
 is estimated that nearly \$3,000,000 was
 expended in the islands by tourists
 during 1950. Thus, a 33 1/3% increase
 in tourist expenditures was enjoyed
 in 1951.

The activities of the Tourist
 Development Board were stimulated by
 funds from various sources. The
 Virgin Islands Corporation made
 \$15,000 available on a matching basis.
 A great deal of publicity material
 was prepared and distributed by the
 Board, including 40,000 full-color tourist
 folders, 2,000 travel agent's handbooks
 and fine window displays. These
 were exhibited by over 100 prominent
 travel agents in the United States.
 The islands were also advertised in
 several newspapers and magazines.
 promotion activities without doubt
 contributed to the increased number
 visitors to the Virgin Islands during
 past winter season. At the last meeting
 of the Board of Directors of the
 Virgin Islands Corporation, a resolution
 was adopted appropriating \$3,000 for
 development purposes provided that
 the amount be matched by an equal
 contribution from public funds.
 This is a significant advance
 in tourist promotion and is a
 significant step in the development
 of the islands during the present
 season.

past ten years, received their full share of vocational funds for vocational education. This year, this income was matched by local funds and it was permitted the extension and intensification of vocational education. In the new program, equipment has been added, and extensive alterations and improvements made to facilities in St. Thomas where at present trade level training is provided as a phase of the high school program. Courses for boys include electricity, plumbing, building trades, and automobile mechanics. The program in home economics for girls has been completely reorganized to coincide with approved practices in leading schools. Systems elsewhere. A similar program has been commenced in St. Croix, although accomplishment there during the first year has been hampered due to the limited facilities available at the outset of the new program.

We are fortunate to have a group of specialists from the U. S. Office of Education conduct a survey of educational facilities and the system of public education in the islands. Upon their recommendation, these experts have recommended a commission on vocational education, organized to study and recommend a plan for vocational education in the islands. This commission is now working on the educational system of the islands.

of ~~our~~ ^{no} ~~helplessness~~ ^{in a sense of total} ~~as a specialist in that field is~~ ^{helplessness in regard to eye surgery} ~~on our staff.~~ ^{on our staff.} side

Infant mortality in the Virgin Islands reached in 1950 the ~~last~~ ^{highest} figure ever reported. 51 infant deaths gave the islands a rate 56.9 per 1,000 live births, compared with 93.4 in 1949. The infant ~~rate~~ ^{rate} is one of the more sensitive indices of health programs and sanitation. ~~Strenuous efforts~~ ^{Strenuous efforts} being exerted to make this figure stable and to improve it. Maternal mortality shows a rate of 4.5 which is admittedly high. The general death rate, too, of 14.0 per 1,000, is high.

Sanitification of eating and drinking establishments under the regulations of the new sanitary code placed in the hands of the Health Department, further means of ensuring the health of a large number of people. Elementary safeguards are being emphasized and enforced. It is to be regretted that the sanitary regulations have not yet been adopted in St. John.

A survey team from the American Public Health Association made a comprehensive study of our medical care and public health needs and rendered an excellent report with many practical recommendations which should be implemented. Copies of this report have previously been transmitted to the members of the Municipal Council.

Eighteen ~~new~~ ^{new} ~~transport~~ ^{transport} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~recommendations~~ ^{recommendations} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~Public Health~~ ^{Public Health} ~~Service~~ ^{Service} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~local~~ ^{local} ~~government~~ ^{government} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~made~~ ^{made} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Virgin~~ ^{Virgin}

Islands transported
better institutional

all for

With the forthcoming constructions of modern hospital facilities in all three islands, all of which are now under contract, our medical services will be greatly improved. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the 116-bed Grundtvig Memorial Hospital in St. Thomas will be held this week. Similar ceremonies will be held in the near future for the 60-bed general hospital at Christiansted, the 12-bed hospital and public health facility at Frederiksted, and the 4-bed public health facility at Cruz Bay, St. John. The question of adequate payment for medical care and treatment by those who can afford to do so still has to be met.

The medical department has an important contribution to make in a successful tourist development program for the islands. The objectives by which this objective can be achieved include a healthy environment, improved sanitation, low illness rate, and elimination of communicable diseases. In attaining this objective, there must be no reduction in the medical care program. It has always been the policy of the local government, and which the islands have maintained, to provide

Ernest Milface

The most significant aspect

is the fact that the medical services are being provided by the local government, and that the islands have maintained a high standard of medical care. The medical department has an important contribution to make in a successful tourist development program for the islands. The objectives by which this objective can be achieved include a healthy environment, improved sanitation, low illness rate, and elimination of communicable diseases. In attaining this objective, there must be no reduction in the medical care program. It has always been the policy of the local government, and which the islands have maintained, to provide

Baltin Welfare Departments: a plan was developed and approved by Christmas 1950 additional payments distributed among the clients. The Public Assistance Plan provides for the of assistance on a thoroughly modern on principles accepted nationally as sound and just, and applied fairly throughout all the Virgin Islands.

Approximately \$18,000 of federal funds were earned for the islands in quarter beginning October 1, 1950, and the rate has since been stepped up to \$20,000 federal funds each quarter. Looking at the over-all picture, assistance distributed in the Virgin Islands increased from approximately \$7,000 per month last year to approximately \$13,500 per month in 1951, about 78%. We are now distributing \$150,000 a year for aid to the needy, approximately half of this coming from federal grants. However, we are altogether meeting only about half the true need of persons already receiving assistance. Unfortunately, up to the present are not able to use the entire \$150,000 per year made available to us by Congress, due to the fact that cannot match the amount of for dollar.

In December 1953, fifteen delegates from the Virgin Islands attended Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth. The Virgin Islands Commission on Children and Youth was active in raising funds to cover the expenses of two delegates.

Crime Prevention

As part of a safety education program the State Department in St. Thomas has been conducting a broadcast over local radio, W. I. R. This program deals with traffic problems. The safety education project has been expanded to include motorcycle riding and education to the high school.

and parochial schools on the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. Through arrangements with the Police Commissioner of New York City, permission was obtained to send a member of the Police Force each year to take the regular three-month course of training at the Police Academy without cost to the local government. A member of the St. Thomas Police Force took this training course during the last quarter of 1950. In St. Croix activities were instituted by the Police Department for the purpose of providing wholesome recreation for youth. Considerable attention has been given also to the traffic problem because of the increase in motor vehicles on both islands.

Housing

Under the federal Housing program for the Virgin Islands, activities have progressed to the point where sites for the housing projects in Charlotte Amalie, Christiansted, and Frederiksted have been approved. The project in St. Thomas will consist of about 20 buildings of two-story construction and will contain dwellings for approximately 100 families. Known as the "Common Gardens" in honor of the Virgin Islands Division of Housing, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$110,000. The project is being developed by the Virgin Islands Housing Administration through the cooperation of the Federal Housing Administration. The project is being developed by the Virgin Islands Housing Administration through the cooperation of the Federal Housing Administration.

"The forest lands need more and better trees. They put rainwater into the soil, they enhance the environment for the tourist; they provide cooking fuel, they could support important food and novelty industries; they provide fruits needed in the local diet, yield bay rum, fibers, and other products of local value; and as windbreaks they protect pastures, cultivated fields.

"The forest lands of the Virgin Islands are privately owned. Acquisition of these lands by the government for forestry, as is being done in Puerto Rico, would be costly, and they are so scattered geographically that their efficient administration as public forest would be impossible. A better use of these lands is a matter for private initiative. The role of the government should be that of a catalyst. To find out through research the best forestry practices, to demonstrate these practices on small representative areas, to educate landowners, and when necessary to offer special incentives for good management of forest land. Such a public program calls for the services of such as are offered by the Soil Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the Experiment Station, or possibly other government agencies.

"Implementation of forest research would require that the Virgin Islands provide, protect, and maintain a representative forest land area for this research. A very desirable area is the portion of the St. John's Estate, St. John, about 150 acres in extent, owned with the slopes of the forest in the island and providing the only opportunity for research in forest management. Another desirable area for research in the care of young stands is a 100-acre tract in the St. John's Estate, also in St. John.

(Virgin Islands Corporation Representative point lands for reservation and demonstration would be needed eventually also in St. Thomas and St. John.)

Public Utilities

With the approval of the Municipal Council of St. Croix, the cooperation of the Department of the Interior, and a generous Congressional appropriation, adequate power generating and distribution facilities are now assured for St. Croix by the Virgin Islands Corporation's power project which will provide ample power not only for present consumers, but for industrial and a small scale

industrialization program on that island. In the budget of the Virgin Islands Corporation for the current fiscal year \$795,000 were made available for this project. This amount will be used to pay for the purchase of electric power from the U.S. system in the rural areas; expansion of the distribution system; and installation of new generating facilities to include a new sub-station. Purchase of the municipal power system in both towns from the St. Croix Power Company and operating capital.

In the 1953 ^{Budget} for the Virgin Islands Corporation, another \$225,000 is requested for the continued expansion and improvement of the power facilities on St. Croix. This will include approximately 51 miles of additional distribution lines, complete improvements to the generating plant, engineering services, and purchase of needed equipment.

I may also point out that a total of \$690,000 was proposed in the 1952 budget of the Virgin Islands Corporation for the purpose of expanding the power facilities in St. Thomas on the same principle that St. Croix is now getting adequate power facilities. The project for St. Thomas included purchasing the existing Power Authority properties, installation of two new generators, rehabilitation of city and rural distribution lines, and operating capital. This

much-needed project could not be initiated because the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John was not in favor of the power supply being operated by the Virgin Islands Corporation. This situation, I am glad to say, is changed and another effort is being made to obtain funds for the proper of power facilities in St. Thomas. At my request, and with the approval of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John, an amount of \$1,101,000 is being requested in the 1953 Budget of the Virgin Islands Corporation for this project. The power situation in St. Thomas is becoming more critical, and at this time there is still no indication as to how this situation can be corrected other than through purchase and operation by the Corporation. Consolidation of all power facilities of the Virgin Islands under the ownership and management of the Virgin Islands Corporation would effect savings for both islands. It would simplify accounting and rate-making and bolster the economy of the islands by insuring power for new hotel facilities, industries, and business enterprises. Let us hope that through a year later, we may still be successful in obtaining a congressional appropriation for this purpose.

Revenues and Taxation:

"And it came to pass in those days that there came out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. Even from those ^{early} days recorded in the Gospel according to Luke, the right power to tax the public welfare has brought forth wise and happy from various parts of justice. Marshall, in a few words, believed that 'the power to tax is the power to destroy.' However, the great fear we have with any government executive and legislative bodies by a two-way pull: I am more and more convinced that the power to tax is the power to destroy. In both cases, the power to tax is the power to destroy."

Because I have seen public statements from time to time that I consider it essential that the Virgin Islands Government shall proceed as far as possible towards the goal of self-support, and because I have been charged with a desire to use the taxing power arbitrarily, I have, with the assistance and financial cooperation of the Department of the Interior, caused a complete survey to be made of the structure and administration of revenues of the municipalities of St. John and St. Thomas, and of St. John's Bay and Tax Department, Mr. H. E. Peaves, Commissioner of Revenues of Kentucky. Mr. Peaves' report has just been submitted to me, and is being multiplied in the Department of the Interior, and copies will be sent to the members of the

Recommendations submitted by Mr. Peaves include improvement of the personnel for revenue administration; the addition of at least one accountant in each municipality; the appointment of a head of the tax division who has had administrative experience and who is familiar with the basic principles of accounting and law; a public information campaign designed to popularize the advantages of paying delinquent taxes; device for the prompt execution of these measures upon completion of a 10-day period of grace to collect delinquent bills multiplying following that period of grace for periods immediately to require the sheriff to execute and sell property, or in the case of bills for which no such procedure is provided, to sell immediately upon completion of such period of grace for those who are absolutely unable to pay their taxes, to pay by installments, or to provide in keeping with modern practice, and to institute a system of regular and personal visits with prompt rate.

The report also recommends that the municipalities be made responsible for their own revenue administration, and income tax payment, and that the Department of the Interior should provide these facilities for the municipalities of the Virgin Islands.

100% of its fair cash value, in 1952-1953 for the 1952 assessments. installation of new land equipment for posting, and improvement of the revenue administration staff by on-the-job training.

For local legislative short-cuts Mr. Reeves recommends the centralization of revenue administration in each Municipality; waiving of penalties delinquent bills for a grace of 90 days; a 20% penalty on all delinquent tax bills plus interest at $2\frac{1}{3}\%$ of a month or fraction thereof. After the expiration of the grace period in lieu of existing penalties; arbitrary determination of the amount of tax due in the event the taxpayer fails to make returns as required. all excise tax reports to be made on a monthly basis by the fifteenth of the month following that covered by the report. the payment of excise and income taxes at the time of filing returns instead of after reports are filed; the elimination of the requirement that real estate taxpayers be given notices of dates of assessment and provide for the assessment roll shall be open for a specified period which will allow such notices, increase the regular service charges, and provide funds required to carry out the above recommendations.

Mr. Reeves' recommendation for Congressional action include the return of the internal revenue taxes to the Virgin Islands removal of the copyright laws from the Virgin Islands and repeal of the 6% Customs duty so as to make these islands truly a free port. If the internal revenue taxes are returned, he recommends the repealing of existing laws the imposition of a gross income tax of 2% on all business and individual income in excess of \$300, a revision of the existing laws providing that they shall apply to assessable groups, and scaling the tax upward.

If these and all preceding recommendations are acceptable, Mr. Reeves estimates that annual local revenue including federal income tax rights should be \$1,100,000. The present annual revenue is about \$170,000.

knowledge has served him in good stead in execution of his public duties. Now that the time for his retirement is approaching I wish to record publicly my sincere admiration of Mr. Taylor's efficiency and devotion to duty as an official of Government of the Virgin Islands.

I am also happy to report a native of the Virgin Islands has been selected by the Secretary of the Interior to succeed Mr. Taylor as Administrator for St. Croix. Dr. D. C. Canegata, who has served his community for a number of years, as legislator, doctor, and judge, has been selected for this post. I am confident that Dr. Canegata will serve the people of St. Croix wisely and well in his new position. Unfortunately, due to budgetary difficulties in the Central Administration, the new Administrator cannot enter on duty until next year. However, every effort will be made to have him in his new office at the earliest date possible.

The Agenda

I have presented to this Legislative Assembly drafts of seventeen bills for consideration at this session. With your permission, I shall touch on the more important of these legislative proposals in my opinion, the most important is the Act to create the

Economic Development Administration of the Virgin Islands

As I have recently stated in a radio address, there should be an immediate realignment of the functions of agencies now dealing with the economic advancement of the Virgin Islands. The proposed bill for the creation of a full-time Director Economic Rehabilitation to head up a new Economic Development Administration. We are proposing the consolidation in this new agency of all the functions and duties now for Islands Tourist Development, which is now engaged in the promotion of tourism; the St. Thomas Development Authority, which is now engaged in the management of the island as a whole; the promotion of industry through the use of abandoned military facilities and the two Tax Administration Boards.

involving the economic development of the islands. We are convinced that the consolidation of all these boards and commissions into a single executive agency would result in material improvements by effecting a coordination of policy, greater efficiency in management, and vigorous promotion of measures to induce industries to come to the Virgin Islands and to see that they receive the proper encouragement and facilities. I most earnestly urge that serious and favorable consideration be given to this proposal.

I have also proposed a law to authorize the Governor to

Reorganize the Municipal Government

by investigating the present organization of all administrative agencies and departments, including boards, commissions and authorities, and to reorganize the same, subject to the approval of the Municipal Councils of the Virgin Islands. With great respect to the good work which has been done by many of the members of our boards and commissions, we know that the administrative board has repeatedly failed in America. As the techniques of administration have become more definite and generally recognized, the board or commission has become less useful for administrative purposes.

If an advisory board is limited to administration of a particular work, it may be beneficial. There are few citizens who do not feel that they can run the city or the school better than those professionals who are in charge. An appointed administrator is often embarrassed by the insistent assistance of one or more of his advisory commissioners. Other boards compare themselves to advisory boards and may be helpful when questions of public policy are not involved. In the case of public policy, the board has no power to make a decision. The board has no power to make a prompt decision and to take prompt action. Boards of health in foreign and American cities are in a similar position. The reason is found in the fact that public health principles are so well established, with their public health policy so generally recognized. While we are not sure that the same is true in the case of the

board, is a decided advantage. Something may be said in favor of boards for the and recreation departments. Quasi-judicial or quasi-legislative commissions have a possible useful purpose. They are an advantage in formulating rules and regulations for administrative action. - are general principles which have been enunciated by experts in the field of public administration.

I believe that a careful study of our municipal agencies will reveal the need for reorganization by consolidation of functions, elimination of duplicating functions, and a definite and integrated defining of line, policy for more efficient management. I recommend that the bill to permit the reorganization of administrative agencies and departments be given your most earnest consideration.

Civil Defence

The Civil Defense Law under which we are operating is considered inadequate for present needs. It was passed by the Legislature in September 1951 and is quite general and carries little detail. As the Federal Civil Defense program grows it becomes necessary to have a law based upon the concepts of the model Civil Defense Law as outlined in the official manual entitled "United States Civil Defense." The proposed bill provides for this. It defines Civil Defense in accordance with the new concepts. It sets up in the executive branch of the government a Civil Defense agency headed by a Director of Civil Defense who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands. And who shall perform his duties under the direction and control of the Governor. It provides for the general powers and duties of the Governor and the Director of Civil Defense, sets up an advisory council and gives the Governor extraordinary and emergency powers during emergency declared by the President or by the Governor.

A failure of the law now in force to give the Governor emergency powers would present a serious problem in times of emergency as the Governor may not have authority to take such

mutual aid compacts with other states and territories of the United States, or to cooperate with the President and heads of the Armed Forces and the Civil Defense Agency of the United States and with officers and agencies of the states and territories in matters pertaining to civil defense and to take proper measures to carry into effect any request of the President of the United States for appropriate Federal officers and agencies for action looking to the civil defense of the area.

All American citizens have a responsibility to participate in the common defense of the United States, in which Civil Defense has become an important part. I recommend passage of the Civil Defense bill.

Retirement Benefits:

The Administration has brooked no delay to provide for the coverage of certain officers and employees of the Congress - members of the House, Senate and of judicial and executive departments - under the old system of government insurance provisions of Title IV of the Federal Social Security Act. This enabling legislation which provides for retirement benefits for those officials and employees of the federal government who are not now covered by the mandatory retirement system - will save it the labor involved to prepare their future security by having them insured under some retirement system. It is only under the Federal Social Security Act that the benefits will be equal. This measure draft is submitted with the approval of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Planning

The revised Act creating the State Planning Board is designed to improve the entire program of community planning which has been instituted under the Planning Act of 1934 by the National Housing Assembly. Unfortunately, not many could have been accomplished under the act since it does not provide for important local bodies needed for regional programs of community planning.

legal background for a sound program of community planning. Very often community planning thoughts to be a gaudy affair concerned mainly with beautification and civic improvements. Far from a for spending money on grandiose improvements, community planning a mightfully understood and for as today, includes definite legal and administrative procedures carefully worked after years of experience in many places, and designed to prevent wasteful, extravagant and needless expenditures of public services and facilities. It is with this progressive concept of community planning in mind that the revised Community Law has been prepared.

Auditing

A revised act to establish the office of the Virgin Islands Auditor of Public Accounts included on the agenda. This revised draft is proposed to make certain changes in procedure in order to improve the entire function of auditing the financial transactions of the territorial and municipal governments and of the various administrative boards and authorities.

Law Public Contracts Law

The bill concerning public contracts in the Virgin Islands is for the purpose of establishing uniform procedures for the procurement of goods and services by the Government of the Virgin Islands. The bill provides for the establishment of a public contracts law which will govern the procurement of goods and services by the Government of the Virgin Islands. It should be noted that the bill should establish a simplified, uniform and orderly manner of entering into public contracts.

Provisions to Public Administration

Provisions concerning the public administration in the Virgin Islands are being considered. These provisions are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public administration. They include provisions for the establishment of a public administration law which will govern the procurement of goods and services by the Government of the Virgin Islands. It should be noted that the bill should establish a simplified, uniform and orderly manner of entering into public contracts.

councils to pass such legislation — all to no avail. Today we have sewerage systems in our three principal towns, but they are far from being fully utilized. Sewer and water mains have been installed through funds made available by the Federal Government, but they are not being used in order to improve the sanitary and health conditions of our people. This is a very sad commentary. Again I am appealing to the members of the Legislative Assembly to enact the necessary legislation. There is before you a simple bill which, if enacted, will provide the necessary legal machinery to stimulate extensions and the sewerage systems in Charlotte, Emerald, Christ Church and Frederickville.

Street, Trade Law

In our attempt to reduce juvenile delinquency in our communities, it is necessary for some kind of control to be placed on the different types of peddling and other activities in which juveniles are often engaged. It is known that peddling on the streets, and in bars and restaurants that a number of our youth develop into delinquents. The Virgin Islands Street Trade Law is designed to deal with this problem. It is patterned after similar legislation in existence in several States and Territories.

Medical & Allied Health Practice Acts

Three separate proposals for the establishment of legislation for the supervision and licensing of doctors, dentists, and nurses have been submitted. Basically, these proposals provide a uniform method of supervising and licensing persons to practice in the health professions. I am sure that representatives of the different professions, who are included in the bill, will wish to be heard. I am sure to stress the fact that we need this law in order to be able to maintain high standards of health care.

Conclusion

Members of the Legislative Assembly
The work we have to do is prodigious but the cause is one which demands super devotion to our task. Each of us, each legislator, each government official, each citizen, can begin his mission where he is, spite of all that is happening, & see that we are marching forward. The duties which society imposes upon us are to protect our people by our action, to enlighten them by our knowledge, to give them strength by our virtues, to assist them in their needs, to sacrifice all personal resentment, and to seek all that can contribute to peace and to progress.

We are all human beings. We have not only bad tendencies but also good tendencies. We are capable not only of selfishness and greed, but of goodwill, and love! The evil created that way. Let us, in our work and in our daily lives, work with that mind, and that will, and that love, which we all recognize as God-given attributes. There are constructive forces, just as potent as destructive forces, in the creation of finer social order. Let us use the constructive forces and thus arouse our social conscience. Politics today concerns itself more and more with the social problems of the community or of the state. Education emphasizes leadership to the social organism, and development of effectiveness and readiness of thought. Criminology condemns not only the criminal but blames the social body for the bad incidents society for making the conditions what he is. Modern philanthropy seeks not only to relieve distress but to create conditions which prevent it. To all of us there comes the great challenge to rebuild the social and economic order. Let us accept that challenge and devote every ounce of our energy to its achievement.

The list of correspondence of the Assembly was read and replaced for perusal of the members.

The Organic Act Committee was read discussed and accepted by 10 yeas - 4 nays and 1 not voting.

The Report of the Committee elected to proceed to the Island of Puerto Rico to study the agricultural activities of that island was read by the Chairman of the Committee, Roy S. Gordon. The report was adopted after corrections by a vote of 12 for, 1 Nay and 3 not voting.

The following appointments were confirmed:
Banking Board:

Darwin Creque
 J. Rodriguez
 Norman C. Cissel
 Henry E. Fohlson
 Alexander Moorhead

Insular Commission on Children & Youth
 Sasha A. Manson
 Anath Jackson

Housing & Redevelopment Authority
 Roy St. Brown
 Louis E. Brown

Division of Personnel
 Willmont L. James, Director
 Rita Shullbrandt, Clerk

Office of the Public Auditor
 Eugene Loelike, Messenger

Civilian Defense
 Ralph Shreve, Director

The following Resolutions were adopted by the following votes and in the following form:

Resolution

The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
 of the United States
 3rd Session 1951

Authorizing the President and the Congress of the United States to include the Virgin Islands in the benefits of the Civilian Defense Act for the creation and maintenance of Civilian Defense Units and the creation of Civilian Defense Units in the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, In Congressional Acts dated August 13, 1946 (Chapter No. 962, paragraph 14, 60 Stat. 1061) and June 30, 1950 (Chapter 421, paragraph 4, 60 Stat. 305), is made for the appointments of Cadets to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Whereas, These acts prescribe that all Cadets to enter these schools shall come from mainland of the United States, the District of Columbia, the territories of Alaska, Hawaii, and the Canal Zone, but the Virgin Islands not included to partake of the benefits and share responsibilities imposed by these acts on all other American citizens; and

Whereas, The Virgin Islands were not included in the original Selective Service Act adopted by Congress for the drafting of men to serve in World War II, but the people of the Islands urgently requested and made strong representation to the appropriate authorities to be permitted to shoulder a fair share of the responsibility for the national defense, and after several such requests and representations, the islands were finally included in the Selective Service Act, and made subject to conscription like Americans in other places; and

Whereas, Since the inclusion of the Virgin Islands under the requirements of the Selective Service Act, 1183 men were inducted into the Armed Forces of the United States; and

Whereas, The people of the Virgin Islands are particularly noted for their loyalty as American citizens, and devotion to the principles and ideals of American democracy; and

Whereas, Virgin Islanders leaving their homeland for study abroad or for enlistment and service in the Armed Forces of the United States have consistently built up and maintained a fine reputation for a high I. Q. and excellent study record in all institutions and organizations in which they were enrolled or of which they formed a part; and

Whereas, The record of study, application and service of Virgin Islanders in the Armed Forces of the United States has always won a credit to the United States and to the Virgin Islands; and

Whereas, It is sincerely believed that not more than 100 years of compulsory education, and 20 years of senior high school training, available to the people of the Virgin Islands, may have developed sufficiently, educationally, to fully appreciate, and if granted the opportunity, take the advantage of the right to send cadets to the Military and Naval Academies of the

United States selected from the Virgin Islands on a basis of competitive examination. Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in Session assembled, That the President and the Congress of the United States be and they are hereby petitioned to amend the Congressional Act providing for the naming of Cadets to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland to provide for the appointment by the Governor of the Virgin Islands of two Cadets annually from the Virgin Islands to attend the U.S. Military Academy and two Cadets to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, said appointments to be made by the Governor in accordance with rules prescribed by him, provided that in said rules there shall be provisions for making such appointments based on the results of competitive examination. and Be It further Resolved, and it is hereby further Resolved That this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States and that copies thereof be transmitted to the Honorable, The Vice President of the United States, The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Chairman and Members of the Senate and House Committee on Armed Forces, The Chairman and Members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the Senate and House, The Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Brown	Yea
Mr. Carroll	"
Mr. Chase	"
Mr. Gardiner	"
Mr. Goodson	"
Mr. Harris	"
Mr. Heywood	"
Mr. Hodge	"
Mr. James	"
Mr. McFarlane	"
Mr. Miller	"
Mr. Nelson	"
Mr. Spencer	"
Mr. Richards	"
Mr. Whitson	"
Mr. Weaver	"

Resolution
The Sixteenth Legislature Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
3rd Session 1957

To Petition the President and Congress of the United States to Amend the Federal Social Security Act to provide greatly needed improvement in the Federal Categories in the Public Law Program in the Virgin Islands of the United States

Whereas, By the Social Security Act Amendments of 1950, as passed by the Congress and approved by the President of the United States, the Virgin Islands of the United States are now included into the public assistance titles of the Social Security Act of the United States; and

Whereas, The Government and people of the Virgin Islands are deeply appreciative of this manifestation by the President and the Congress of their concern for the well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands of the United States;

Whereas, The Social Security Act amendment of 1950 aforementioned, provide a matching of one Federal dollar for one Virgin Islands dollar expended in the Virgin Islands in the Federal categories of public assistance, instead of the now favorable matching provided by all States of the Union, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, which latter includes matching of three Federal dollars to one State or Territorial dollar for the first hundred dollars in the average assistance payment in Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, and for the first hundred dollars in the average assistance payments paid to Dependent Children, with dollar for dollar matching of amounts in excess of these averages within the various maximums per recipient set up in the Act; and

Whereas, The executive and legislative branches of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the past few years have put their very best efforts into organizing and improving public assistance according to the standards set up in the Act;

in the hope of providing adequate aid for all persons in the islands truly in need, and, despite the present depressed economy of the islands in general and their consequent low governmental revenues, the municipalities of the Virgin Islands are providing appropriations for the public assistance program that exceed those of the previous fiscal year by approximately 30% this at a time when many other services of the Government are being curtailed for lack of funds; and,

Whereas, Despite the above increase in funds dedicated by the Virgin Islands Government to public assistance, it is impossible, with the dollar for dollar matching formula to maintain a decent standard of assistance and the Virgin Islands Government has been obliged to restrict public assistance to recipients in these islands to less than half of the minimum cost of their minimum living requirements; and,

Whereas, It has become clear that, with Federal matching on the dollar for dollar basis, there is no hope in the foreseeable future that the Virgin Islands Government can meet the needs of those truly in want in these islands on a decent standard; and,

Whereas, The provision of the more favorable matching formula for the Virgin Islands, comparable to that currently in the rest of the nation (even without raising the special low maximum grants for recipient provided for the Virgin Islands by the Congress Act), would make possible a sound public assistance program in the Virgin Islands in which the needs of the needy in the islands would be more adequately met, even though the standards would remain below those prevailing in the United States and other territories;

Now, therefore, Be it Enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, that the President and the Congress of the United States be respectfully petitioned to do other among the United States (2) to provide Federal matching in the Virgin Islands as is now provided in the United States and other territories for assistance to the needy in the islands.

dollars per month and (b) to provide Federal matching in the Federal category of public assistance in the Virgin Islands follows:

In the case of Old Age Assistance Aid to the Blind and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled:

75% of the first twelve dollars in the monthly average of assistance payments which are within the prescribed maximums for the Virgin Islands.

50% of the amount in excess of the above twelve dollars but within the maximum of thirty dollars for each recipient.

In the case of Aid to Dependent Children:

75% of the first eight dollars in the monthly coverage of assistance payments which are within the prescribed maximums for the Virgin Islands.

50% of the amount in excess of the above eight dollars but within the maximum of eighteen dollars for the first dependent child, twelve dollars each for all other dependent children in the family group, and eighteen dollars for the caretaker relative.

Be it further Resolved, and it is hereby further Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States and that copies thereof be transmitted to the Honorable, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman and members of the Senate and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, Administration, Social Security Administration, Secretary of the Interior, Director, Department of Territories and Island Possessions, and the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Brown... go
Mr. Carroll... go
Mr. Chase... go
Mr. Perkins... go
Mr. Brown... go

Mr. Hayward... go
Mr. Hodge... go
Mr. Jones... go
Mr. [unclear]... go
Mr. [unclear]... go

Mr. [unclear]... go
Mr. [unclear]... go
Mr. [unclear]... go
Mr. [unclear]... go
Mr. [unclear]... go

The below named resolution was discussed, and following a vote of 2 nays, 8 nays, and 6 not voting, was declared lost:

Resolution Requests the Governor of the Virgin Islands to make available to the people of the Country District of Christiansted, St. Croix, water facilities from the Potable Water System located at Concordia Estate, and Punning East, to the Town of Christiansted St. Croix.

The following bills were adopted following discussions and amendments;

Bill No. 2

The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
3rd Session 1951

An Act to Provide for the Identification of Laws Enacted by the Legislative Assembly and the respective Municipal Councils.

Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. Effective upon the date of the approval of this act:

(a) All laws and ordinances enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands shall be identified as "Statute Law" with appropriate number in sequence to be included in the text of such legislation as "S.L. -"

(b) All laws and ordinances enacted by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and the Municipal Council of St. John shall be identified as "Municipal Law" with appropriate number in sequence to be included in the text of such legislation as "M.L. -"

Done at St. John's, Virgin Islands, this 1st day of January, 1951.

Attest:

Clerk of the Assembly

Speaker of the Assembly

Member of the Assembly

Member of the Assembly

Member of the Assembly

Done at St. John's, Virgin Islands, this 1st day of January, 1951.

Attest:

Clerk of the Assembly

Speaker of the Assembly

Member of the Assembly

Member of the Assembly

Member of the Assembly

Bill No. 8
The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

2nd Session 1951

An Act to Amend "An Act to Establish a Civil Defense Agency within the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes," Approved September 19, 1950

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands this session assembled:

Section 1. The Act to establish a Civil Defense Agency within the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes, approved September 19, 1950 be and is hereby amended as follows:

Section 2. Section 4 is hereby amended by the addition of the following sub-section:

(c) The Governor is hereby authorized to cooperate with the President and the Heads of the Armed Forces, and the Civil Defense Agency of the United States, and with officers and agencies of the States and Territories in matters pertaining to civil defense and the incidents thereof and in connection therewith; to take any measures which he may deem proper to carry into effect any request of the President and the appropriate Federal officers and agencies for any action looking to civil defense including the direction or control of (a) blackout and practice drills, air raid drills, mobilization of civil defense forces, and other drills and exercises; (b) warnings and signals in drills or attacks and the mechanical devices to be used in connection therewith; (c) the effective dissemination of information and knowledge of civil defense and the requirements and measures to be taken in connection with drills and exercises; and (d) the control of civilians and the movement and use of motor vehicles, pedestrians, and other traffic during drills and exercises and the evacuation of the population in connection with the same.

(d) The Governor is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Virgin Islands, to enter into reciprocal aid agreements or compacts with other Territories, the States, and the Federal Government. Such mutual aid arrangements shall be limited to the furnishing or exchange of food, clothing, medicine, and other supplies; engineering services; emergency housing; fire fighting, rescue, transportation, and construction services and equipment; personnel necessary to provide or conduct these services; and such other supplies, equipment, facilities, personnel, and services as may be needed. The reimbursement of costs and expenses for equipment, supplies, personnel, and similar items for mobile support units, fire fighting, and police, health and health units; and on such terms and conditions as are deemed necessary.

Brown yea
 Carroll yea
 Chase yea
 Gardine yea
 Gordon yea
 Harris yea
 Heywood yea
 Hodge yea

James yea
 McFarlane yea
 Otley yea
 Petro yea
 Rhymor yea
 Richards yea
 Sullivan yea
 Spruance yea

Bill No. 10

The Seventeenth Legislature Assembly of the Virgin Islands
 of the United States

3rd Session 1951

Law to Provide for Employees of the
 Government and all Political Sub-divisions thereof not
 now covered by either Municipal Ordinance
 or Ordinance for Participation in and
 Receive Benefits of the Social Security Act and
 Government Employees' Insurance Act of the
 United States as amended by the Statute No. 10.

Enacted by the Legislature Assembly
 of the Virgin Islands on the 1st day of March 1951.

Section 1. That the Government of the Virgin Islands in behalf of all its officers and employees of all political subdivisions which levy taxes and employ or pay salaries and wages to its officers or employees who are not now covered by either municipal retirement ordinance hereby accepts the benefits of the provisions of the Federal Security Act 53, Statute 137, for Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Benefit, whenever the provisions of such Act are extended to embrace such officers and employees.

Section 2. Any and all officials, be Commission, directors and authorities having charge and preparation of payrolls and payment of salaries and wages to officers and employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands, or any of its political subdivisions as set forth in Section 1 are hereby authorized and directed to make payroll and salary and wage deductions and to handle and dispose of the same as required by the Federal Social Security Act, as amended to include such officers and employees within the eligible group, and any official or board being authorized to disburse funds for the salary or wages of any officer or employee who shall come within such eligible group is authorized to pay and disburse out of any funds available for operation and maintenance and dispose or handle the same in such manner as it may deem and necessary to make payments and benefits of said Federal Social Security Act available to such officers and employees who shall become eligible.

Section 3. Nothing contained in this Act should deprive any person of one or more under an existing retirement legislation not repealed, amended, modified or superseded any law, charter, ordinance or ordinance established or pertaining to existing retirement legislation.

Section 4. Each report made and survey of the Government of the Virgin Islands and each political subdivision as required in Section 1, which shall show and include salary and wage separately and how many days worked and after the same is approved by the Law, within

necessary steps to include its officers and employees within such eligible groups.

Brown.....	Yea	James.....	Yea
Carroll.....	Yea	McFarlane.....	Yea
Chase.....	Yea	Olley.....	Yea
Laraine.....	Yea	Peltro.....	Yea
Gordon.....	Yea	Rhymer.....	Yea
Harris.....	Yea	Richards.....	Yea
Haywood.....	Yea	Sellers.....	Yea
Hodge.....	Yea	Sprague.....	Yea

Bill No. 5 Revised Act to Establish the Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor, was discussed and lost by a vote 4 in favor and 8 against!

Bill No. 15 was next taken up and passed in the following manner

Bill No. 15

The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
2nd Session 1951

Law Concerning Public Contracts in the Virgin Islands

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. The Commissioner of Finance for the Virgin Islands shall have the power, and it shall be his duty, to purchase or contract for all supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services needed by any and all departments, institutions, boards, commissions and agencies of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and to incur or incur liability therefor to the Virgin Islands. The words "supplies," "materials," and "equipment" as used throughout this ordinance shall be construed to mean any and all articles or things which are purchased or contracted for by the Government of the Virgin Islands, including any and all printing, binding, or reproduction of any kind, and any and all other articles or things which are purchased or contracted for by the Government of the Virgin Islands.

service; insurance; leases for all grounds, buildings, office or other space required by the using agencies; and the rental, repair or maintenance of equipment, machinery and other Government-owned personal property.

Section 20(a). All purchases of, contracts for, supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services, and sales of personal property which have become obsolete and unusable, shall be based wherever possible on competitive bids. If the amount of the expenditure is estimated to exceed \$500, written contract shall be awarded. Invitations inviting sealed competitive bids shall be circulated. Such invitations to bid shall include a general description of the articles to be purchased, shall state when bid blanks and specifications shall be secured, and the time and place for opening the bids. All bids shall be submitted sealed to the Commissioner of Finance, and if deemed necessary by him, should be accompanied by surety in the form of check, cash or bond, in the amount as shall be prescribed in the invitation to bid. Bids shall be opened in public at the time and place stated in the invitation to bid. If tabulation of all bids received shall be posted for public inspection. The Commissioner of Finance may receive any or all bids for the bid for any or more commodities, or contractual services included in the proposed contract when the public interest will be served thereby.

[illegible]

(2) It may be the author's intention to indicate that the author is not responsible for the content of the work.

(d) If the amount of the sale contract is estimated to exceed \$500 written contract shall be awarded. Notices inviting sealed competitive bids shall be published at least three times in a local newspaper and at least five calendar days must intervene between the date of the last publication and the final date for submitting bids. Such notices shall include a general description of the articles to be sold, should state where bid blanks and specifications may be secured and the time and place for the opening of bids. All bids shall be submitted sealed to the Commissioner of Finance, and if deemed necessary by him, should be accompanied by security in the form of check, cash, or bond, in the amount as shall be prescribed in the public notice inviting bids. The bids shall be opened in public at the time and place stated in the newspaper notice. A tabulation of all bids received shall be posted for public inspection. The Commissioner of Finance may reject one or more bids if upon the public interest will be served thereon. If all bids received are for the same total amount or unit price, the Commissioner of Finance shall have the authority to accept one of the bidders by drawing lots in public, otherwise the bid shall be made to the highest bidder.

Section 3. All purchases of supplies, materials, equipment or contracted services of less than five hundred dollars (\$500) in amount may be made in the open market without advertisement, and without observing the procedure prescribed by section 2 of the award of contracts. In case of an emergency which requires immediate purchase of supplies, materials, equipment or contracted services, notwithstanding the amount of the expenditure involved, however, that the full explanation of the circumstances of such emergency shall be recorded, and no such purchase shall be made without advertisement or without the payment of the cost to the public.

Section 4. In case of actual emergency and with the consent of the Commissioner of Finance, any purchase of supplies, materials, equipment or

immediate procurement is essential to prevent delays in the work of the ^{various} agency which may vitally affect the life, health or convenience of citizens. The head of such using agency shall send to the Commissioner of Finance a requisition and a copy of the ledger record together with full written explanation of the circumstances of the emergency, which shall be filed by the Commissioner of Finance as a permanent and public record of the purchase. The Commissioner of Finance shall by rules and regulations not inconsistent with this act prescribe the procedure under which such emergency purchases may be made.

Section 5. Any agency may be permitted to make direct purchase, or contract for supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services in accordance with rules and regulations not inconsistent with this act, to be prescribed by the Commissioner of Finance.

Section 6. No employee or member of the Executive, Legislative or Judiciary branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands should be permitted to supply any materials, equipment or supplies to the Government of the Virgin Islands; provided, however, that such employee or member shall not be deprived of the right to participate in competitive bidding.

Section 7. No contract or purchase on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands shall be made unless the same is authorized by law or is under an express or implied authority to its fulfillment.

Section 8. The Commissioner of Finance shall make, and from time to time amend, all rules and regulations authorized by this act and any other necessary to its execution. He shall also exercise the power to suspend in the manner of contracts, when necessary, agreements, commitments, and other obligations of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Section 9. No ordinance or part of ordinance in conflict with the provisions of this act shall be valid.

Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear] Mr. [unclear]

Bill No 6
 The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
 of the United States
 3rd Session
 1951

An Act to Regulate the Practice of Medicine
 and Related Science of the Virgin Islands.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. This act shall be known and referred to as "The Medical Practice Act of the Virgin Islands."

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of medicine, surgery, osteopathy, optometry or any other system of treatment of injuries, diseases, pain or deformity, or to hold himself forth as a practitioner thereof or to assume the title of Doctor in relation thereto, except as hereinafter set forth, provided, that this act shall not apply to dentistry, pharmacy, nursing or veterinary medicine.

Section 3. Any person desiring to practice any of the sciences covered by the foregoing section shall first obtain a license to do so in accordance with the provisions of this act.

Section 4. For the purpose of administering the provisions thereof, there is hereby created the Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners, to be composed of three (3) duly qualified physicians, each of whom must be licensed to practice in the Virgin Islands prior to appointment, to be appointed by the Governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, for a term of five (5) years; provided, that in the initial appointment of members of said board one shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of three years. The members of the board shall hold office until their successors are appointed and during the absence of any member, shall the Governor, shall have authority to fill vacancies with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly to make interim provisions for the practice of medicine.

Section 5. The Board shall have authority to administer the provisions of this Act except as otherwise specifically provided, and shall without limitation to the generality of foregoing, have the duty, power and authority to:

- (a) Adopt an official seal;
- (b) To recommend the issuance, suspension or revocation of licenses hereunder.
- (c) To determine whether any medical school is one entitled to recognition under the provisions hereof as a medical school of good standing.
- (d) To adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations (and by-laws not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, and in accordance with generally accepted medical standards, relating to the organization and operation of the Board, and the licensing and registration of practitioners hereunder; upon finding that such are necessary for the furtherance of the provisions of this Act, which rules, regulations, or by-laws when approved by the Governor shall be deemed to be a part and of the same effect as this law.

Section 6. The Board of Medical Examiners shall elect from its membership a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary, and shall in its by-laws define the duties of each officer. It is provided that members of the Board shall serve without compensation, except for reimbursement to each member for services rendered on duly authorized business of the Board; provided, further, that in the case of travel between islands of the Virgin Islands, reimbursement shall be in the amount of \$9 per day or fraction thereof in addition to actual travelling expenses.

Section 7. Two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, one of whom may constitute a supervising board for the purpose of examining applicants for admission to practice. The board shall have power to grant

its own rules and also shall have the right to employ Counsel, to subpoena witnesses and to administer oaths.

Section 8. The Board shall submit to the Governor of the Virgin Islands, through the Commissioner of Health, an annual report containing a summary of its work and any such other data as the Governor or the Commissioner of Health may request.

Section 9. The Board shall hold regular examinations twice a year in the Virgin Islands on the second Wednesday of June and November for admission to practice medicine or other sciences covered by the provisions of this Act. The examination shall cover all subjects as the Board shall prescribe, which, in accordance with accepted medical standards, are adequate and sufficient for proper evaluation of an applicant's qualification to practice medicine or other sciences under this act.

Section 10. Applications for license shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant is: (a) at least one year of age or over (birth certificate or similar evidence thereof), (b) of good moral character as shown by at least two letters of favorable character testimony, (c) is not addicted to intemperate use of alcoholic stimulants or narcotic drugs, and (d) is a graduate of an accredited "A" school of medicine, or a graduate of any other system of treatment for disease for in this act and the standards require-ments of which are the equivalent of a grade "A" medical school, and in the case of medicine the applicant must have satisfied within at least one year immediately preceding the application, the American Medical Association. (extended, however, that this provision shall not apply to persons who have been licensed by the Board in the past and who are not seeking a license for the first time. They shall be required to pay the usual license fee and to submit to an examination.)

Section 11. Application for admission to the practice of medicine shall be accompanied by a certificate from the applicant's medical school or other institution from which he graduated, showing that he has completed the course of study and has been recommended for graduation by the faculty of the institution.

provisions of this Act, the Board of Medical Examiners may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Health, accept the certificate of the National Board of Medical Examiners of the United States in lieu of and as an equivalent to its own professional examination. Every applicant for a license upon the basis of such certificate shall, upon making application show necessary qualifications as above set or be required to pay the same fee required of applicants who take the examination before the Board; provided however, that the Board may, under regulations or provision of its by-laws, admit (without examination) legally qualified practitioners of medicine who hold certificates to practice medicine in any State of the United States, or the District of Columbia, with equal educational requirement of the Virgin Islands, and may extend like privileges to legally qualified practitioners from the Virgin Islands upon the applicant paying the license certificate fee required hereunder.

Section 13. Fee for examination and license certificate shall be as follows:

	Examination	License Certificate
Physicians-Surgeons	\$ 65.00	\$ 5.00
All others	50.00	5.00

All fees shall be paid in accordance with regulations issued by the Board or incorporated in its by-laws. Any person, upon showing proper justification, or who failed to appear for the required examination, shall be admitted to one re-examination without payment of further fee, provided that the fee paid in advance for prior examination shall not be returned to the applicant.

Section 14. Funds. The sum collected as examination or license certificate fees in accordance with this Act shall be deposited in the name of the Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands and shall be placed in a separate fund to be administered in "Medical Education" and not paid out on special warrants. The Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands shall approve the disbursement of the funds.

Section 15. The Board of Medical Examiners shall be recommended by the Commissioner of Health.

all requirements have been met shall issue licenses to each qualifying applicant, provided that on the recommendation of the Board of Medical Examiners the Commissioner of Health may, in extraordinary cases, issue temporary licenses, not to exceed six months, and for which no fees shall be required.

Section 16. Every person who obtains a license under the provisions of this Act shall, within thirty (30) days after issuance register the said license in the office of the Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands. Thereafter such license shall be annually registered as a condition to further practice upon payment at the office of the Commissioner of Health of a fee of \$50. The Commissioner of Health, upon recommendation of the Board of Medical Examiners, and subject to appeal to the Governor may revoke or suspend the license to practice issued to any person hereunder who after due notice and hearing by the Board shall have been found to be guilty of any unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, including habitual drunkenness, the drug habit, excessive use of narcotics, the producing of criminal abortion or the soliciting of patronage by agents.

Section 17. The provisions of this Act, insofar as they relate to examinations and registration of practitioners, shall not apply to duly commissioned or appointed practitioners of the United States Army, Navy, Public Health Service or other Federal agency with respect to the performance of any official duties.

Section 18. Any person who practices any system of treatment in the Virgin Islands of that United States covered by Act without having first obtained the license required herein or who shall willfully violate any of the provisions hereof, or any rule and regulations issued hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed six months or by both a fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Section 19. All laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

All Ys. (Chm. Sec. 1; Sec. 2; Sec. 3; Sec. 4; Sec. 5; Sec. 6; Sec. 7; Sec. 8; Sec. 9; Sec. 10; Sec. 11; Sec. 12; Sec. 13; Sec. 14; Sec. 15; Sec. 16; Sec. 17; Sec. 18; Sec. 19; Sec. 20; Sec. 21; Sec. 22; Sec. 23; Sec. 24; Sec. 25; Sec. 26; Sec. 27; Sec. 28; Sec. 29; Sec. 30; Sec. 31; Sec. 32; Sec. 33; Sec. 34; Sec. 35; Sec. 36; Sec. 37; Sec. 38; Sec. 39; Sec. 40; Sec. 41; Sec. 42; Sec. 43; Sec. 44; Sec. 45; Sec. 46; Sec. 47; Sec. 48; Sec. 49; Sec. 50; Sec. 51; Sec. 52; Sec. 53; Sec. 54; Sec. 55; Sec. 56; Sec. 57; Sec. 58; Sec. 59; Sec. 60; Sec. 61; Sec. 62; Sec. 63; Sec. 64; Sec. 65; Sec. 66; Sec. 67; Sec. 68; Sec. 69; Sec. 70; Sec. 71; Sec. 72; Sec. 73; Sec. 74; Sec. 75; Sec. 76; Sec. 77; Sec. 78; Sec. 79; Sec. 80; Sec. 81; Sec. 82; Sec. 83; Sec. 84; Sec. 85; Sec. 86; Sec. 87; Sec. 88; Sec. 89; Sec. 90; Sec. 91; Sec. 92; Sec. 93; Sec. 94; Sec. 95; Sec. 96; Sec. 97; Sec. 98; Sec. 99; Sec. 100; Sec. 101; Sec. 102; Sec. 103; Sec. 104; Sec. 105; Sec. 106; Sec. 107; Sec. 108; Sec. 109; Sec. 110; Sec. 111; 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Bill No. 11
The Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
3rd Session 1951

An Act to Regulate the Practice of
Dentistry in the Virgin Islands and for
other Purposes.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of
the Virgin Islands:

Section 1. This Act shall be known
as the "Dental Practice Act of the Virgin Islands."

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for
any person to practice or to offer to practice
dentistry in the Virgin Islands, or to use any
title, abbreviation, sign, card or device to
indicate that such person is practicing
dentistry, except as hereinafter set forth.

Section 3. Any person desiring to practice
dentistry in the Virgin Islands shall first
obtain a license to do so in accordance with the
provisions of this act.

Section 4. As used in this law
"practice of dentistry" means: any act, operation
or service which attempts or professes to
perform, adjust, remove, treat, design,
construct, replace, directly or indirectly,
any means or methods any impressions, fill
teeth, teeth, jaws, restorations, furnish
replacements, artificial substitutes, crowns,
bridges, appliances, or any
structural restorations in the human
oral cavity or its contiguous parts
accomplished for compensation, for
profit, or gratuitously.

Section 5. For the purpose of
administering the provisions of this act
there is hereby created the Virgin Islands
Board of Dental Examiners, to be composed
of three (3) duly qualified dentists, one of whom
must be in active practice in the
Virgin Islands for at least one year
prior to appointment, to be appointed by
the Governor, subject to the advice and
consent of the Legislative Assembly of
the Virgin Islands, for a term of
four years, provided, that in the event
of the death or resignation of the Governor
the Board shall be appointed by the Governor.

one for a term of two years and the third for a term of three years. Members of the Board shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified; Provided, that the Governor shall have authority to fill vacancies, with the advice and consent of the Assembly, or to make interim appointments for the remainder of unexpired terms.

Section 6. The board shall have authority to administer the provisions of this act, except as otherwise specifically provided, and shall without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, have the duty, power and authority to:

- (a) Adopt an official seal;
- (b) To recommend the issuance, suspension or revocation of licenses hereunder;
- (c) To determine whether any dental school is one entitled to recognition under the provisions thereof as a dental school of good standing.
- (d) To adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations and by-laws not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, and in accordance with generally accepted dental standards, relating to the organization and operation of the board and the licensing and registration of dentists hereunder; upon finding that such are necessary for the furtherance of the provisions of this act, which rules, regulations, or by-laws, when approved by the board, shall have the same force and effect as this law.

Section 7. The Board of Dental Regulation shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary, and shall in its ex-officio capacity the duties of each officer. It shall have the right to call upon any person who may be interested in the carrying out of its duties, and in the case of former officers, members of the Dental Board, to produce any records or papers in their possession or control which may be of use to the Board in the carrying out of its duties. It shall have the right to call upon any person who may be interested in the carrying out of its duties, and in the case of former officers, members of the Dental Board, to produce any records or papers in their possession or control which may be of use to the Board in the carrying out of its duties.

Section 8. Two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, one of whom may constitute a Supervisory board for the purpose of examining applicants for admission to practice. The Board shall have power to frame its own rules, and also shall have the right to employ counsel, to subpoena witnesses, and to administer oaths.

Section 9. The Board shall submit to the Governor of the Virgin Islands through the Commissioner of Health, an annual report containing a summary of its work and any such other data as the Governor or the Commissioner of Health may request.

Section 10. The Board shall hold regular examinations twice a year in the Virgin Islands on the second Wednesday of June and November for admission to practice dentistry. The examination shall cover all subjects as the Board shall prescribe, which, in accordance with accepted dental standards, are adequate and sufficient for proper evaluation of an applicant's qualifications to practice dentistry under this Act.

Section 11. Applications for license shall be sent to the Secretary of the Board and shall be accompanied by the prescribed examination fee and by satisfactory proof that the applicant is twenty-one years of age or older (birth certificate or similar evidence thereof), is of good moral character as shown by at least two letters from qualified dental practitioners in the State from where he comes, is not addicted to intemperate use of alcoholic stimulants or narcotic drugs and is a graduate of an accredited grade "B" School of dentistry as approved by the American Dental Association. Provided, however, that this section shall not be construed to exclude any bona fide research worker residing in the State or a citizen who does not practice for a fee and such workers shall not be required to pay the usual license fee nor to submit to an examination.

Section 12. Candidates for admission to practice shall be required to attain a general average of 75 per cent on the subjects examined on.

Section 13. In determining the qualifications necessary for registration as a dentist under the provisions of this Act.

Board of dental examiners may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Health, accept the Certificate of the National Board of Dental Examiners of the United States in lieu of and as an equivalent to its own professional examination. Every applicant for a license upon the basis of such certificate shall, upon making application showing necessary qualifications as above set out, be required to pay the same fee required of applicants who take the examination before the Board. Provided, further, that said Board may, under regulations or provisions of its by-law, admit, without examination, legally qualified dentists who hold certificates to practice dentistry in any State of the United States, or the District of Columbia, with equal educational requirement of the Virgin Islands, and may extend like privileges to legally-qualified dentists from the Virgin Islands, upon the applicant paying the license certificate fee required hereunder.

Section 14. Fees for examination and license certificate shall be as follows:

Dentists	Examination	License Certificate
	\$65.00	\$5.00

All fees shall be paid in accordance with regulations issued by the Board or incorporated in its by-law. Any person upon showing of proper justification or who fails to pass the required examination shall be admitted to another examination without payment of further fee, provided that the fee paid in advance for prior examinations shall not be returned to the applicant.

Section 15. The funds collected as examination or license certificate fees, in accordance with this Act shall be deposited in the name of the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands and said funds shall be covered into a special fund to be designated the "Dental Practice Fund" and paid out on special warrants of the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands for the benefit of said Board.

Section 16. The Board shall report its recommendation with respect to applications to practice, including the results of all examinations, upon the regulations to the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands for the benefit of said Board.

all requirements have been met shall issue licenses to each qualifying applicant, provided, that on the recommendation of the Board of Dental Examiners, the Commissioner of Health, may in extraordinary cases, issue temporary licenses, not to exceed six months, and for which no fees shall be required.

Section 17. Every person who obtains a license under the provisions of this Act shall, within thirty (30) days after issuance, register the said license in the Office of the Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands. Hereafter such license shall be annually registered as a condition to further practice upon payment at the office of the Commissioner of Health of a fee of \$50. The Commissioner of Health, upon recommendation of the Board of Dental Examiners, and subject to appeal to the Governor, may revoke or suspend the license to practice issued to any person hereunder who, after due notice and hearing by the Board shall have been found to be guilty of any unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, including habitual drunkenness, the drug habit, or excessive use of narcotics, or the soliciting of patronage by agents.

Section 18. The provisions of this Act, insofar as they relate to examination and registration of dentists, shall not apply to duly commissioned or appointed dentists of the United States Army, Navy, Public Health Service, or of any Federal, Municipal or other Federal agency with respect to the performance of any official duties.

Section 19. Any person who practices dentistry in the Virgin Islands of the United States as covered by this law without having first obtained the license prescribed herein or who shall willfully violate any of the provisions hereof, or any rules and regulations issued hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the discretion of the Court.

Mr. Brown Yes
Mr. Carroll Yes
Mr. Chase Yes
Mr. Fisher Yes
Mr. Gordon Yes

Mr. H. J. ... Yes
Mr. H. J. ... Yes
Mr. H. J. ... Yes
Mr. H. J. ... Yes
Mr. H. J. ... Yes

Mr. Rhym Yes
Mr. Richards Yes
Mr. Robinson Yes
Mr. Spence Yes
Mr. T. ... Yes

Bill No 19
The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
3rd Session 1951

A Law to Provide for the Examination, Licensure and Regulation of Persons to Practice Nursing, to Provide for a Board of Nurses Registration and Nursing Education, to Define the Powers and Duties of the Board and also to Prescribe Penalties for Violation of the Provisions of this Law.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Short Title

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Nursing Practice Act for the Virgin Islands".

Purpose

Section 2. In order to safeguard life and health, any person practicing or offering to practice nursing in the Virgin Islands for compensation or personal profit shall thereafter be required to submit evidence that he or she is qualified so as to practice and shall be licensed as hereinafter provided. After January 1, 1954, it shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to offer to practice nursing in this territory or to use any title, abbreviation, sign, card or device, to indicate that such a person is practicing nursing unless such a person has been duly licensed and registered under the provisions of this law.

Definitions

Section 3. As used in this Act —

- (a) "Board" means the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education.

(b) "Registered Nurse" means a person practicing professional nursing who for compensation or personal profit performs any professional services requiring the application of principles of the biological, physical or social sciences and who is qualified in the care of the sick, in the prevention of disease or in the conservation of health.

(c) "Licensed Practical Nurse" means a person who for compensation or personal profit performs such duties as are required in the physical care of a convalescent, a chronically ill person aged or infirm patient and in carrying out such medical orders as prescribed by a licensed physician, requiring a knowledge of simple nursing procedures but not requiring the professional knowledge and skills required for professional nursing.

Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education

Section 4(A). The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint a board consisting of five members, provided, however, that the present members of the Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Examiners, holding office under the provisions of the "Law Regarding the Practice of Medicine and Allied Professions in the Virgin Islands of the United States," as amended January 8, 1945, shall serve as members of said board until the expiration of their present term of office. Two members shall be appointed for a term of one year and three members for a term of two years. Hereafter, in order to provide for continuity of service, two members and three members shall be appointed in alternate years for a term of two years each.

(b) The governor may remove any member from the board for neglect of any duty required by law or for incompetency or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

(c) No person shall be appointed a member of the board unless he or she is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Virgin Islands, licensed as a nurse in the Virgin Islands and has at least five years experience in nursing or nursing education and has been engaged in active practice of nursing within two years of the appointment.

(d) Each member shall be entitled to receive a salary to be determined by the Legislative Assembly and shall be entitled to receive expenses for a reasonable amount.

Duties and Powers of the Board

Section 5 (a). The Board shall meet annually and shall elect from its members a president and secretary-treasurer. It shall hold such other meetings as may be deemed necessary to transact its business. Three members of the Board, including an officer, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

(b) The board is authorized to adopt and, from time to time, revise such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the law as may be necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this law. The board shall prescribe curricula and standards for schools of nursing and courses preparing persons in the Virgin Islands for licensure under this law. It shall provide for journals of such schools and courses at such times as it may deem necessary. It shall accredit such schools and courses as meet the requirements of this law and of the board. It shall evaluate and approve courses for affiliation. It shall examine, license, renew the license of duly qualified applicants. It shall conduct hearings upon charges calling for discipline of a licensee or revocation of a license. It shall have power to issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses, and administer oaths to persons giving testimony at hearings. It shall cause the prosecution of all persons violating this law and have power to incur such necessary expenses therefor. It shall keep a record of all its proceedings and make an annual report to the governor. The board may appoint and employ such qualified personnel as may be necessary to carry on the work of the board and to fix their compensation and define their duties.

(c) Each member of the board shall receive, in addition to necessary traveling, hotel and other necessary expenses, \$10.00 per day for each day actually engaged in the discharge of his or her official duties.

Registered Nurses

Section 6 (A). An applicant for license to practice as a registered nurse shall submit to the board written evidence, verified by oath that said applicant:

1. Is a citizen of the United States or has legally declared intentions of becoming a citizen;
2. Is of good character;
3. Is in good physical and mental health;
4. Has completed, or after such four years high school education of which at least equivalent thereof has determined

by the Department of Education and shall meet such other preliminary qualification requirements as the board may prescribe;

5. Has completed the basic professional curriculum in an accredited school of nursing and holds a diploma therefrom.

(b) The applicant shall be required to pass a written examination in such subjects as the board may determine. Each examination may be supplemented by oral or practical examination. Upon successfully passing such examination the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse.

(c) The board will issue a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse without examination to an applicant who has been duly licensed as a registered nurse by examination under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country, if in the opinion of the board the applicant meets the qualifications required of a registered nurse in this territory.

(d) The applicant for a license to practice as a registered nurse shall pay a fee of \$15 to the board.

(e) Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in the Virgin Islands shall have the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate the person using the same is a registered nurse.

(f) Any person who holds a license or certificate of registration to practice nursing as a registered nurse issued by the board which is valid on December 31, 1953, shall thereafter be deemed to be licensed as a registered nurse under the provisions of this law.

Licensed Practical Nurse

Section 7 (a). An applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall submit to the board written evidence, verified by oath, that the applicant...

1. Is a citizen of the United States or has legally declared intentions of becoming one;
2. Is of good character;
3. Is in good physical and mental health;
4. Has completed the tenth grade or its equivalent or is in the process of doing so.

5. Has completed grammar school if over 25 years of age, such other preliminary requirements as the board may prescribe.

6. Has successfully completed the prescribed curriculum in an accredited school of practical nursing and holds a diploma therefrom.

(b) The applicant shall be required to pass a written examination in such subjects as the board may determine. Each written examination may be supplemented by an oral or practical examination. Upon successfully passing this examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse.

(c) The Board may issue a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse without examination to any applicant who has been duly licensed or registered as a licensed practical nurse or a person entitled to perform similar services under a different title, under laws of another state, territory or foreign country, if in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets the requirements for a licensed practical nurse in the Virgin Islands.

d. The applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall be required to pay a fee of \$10 to the board.

e) Any person holding a license to practice as a practical nurse in the Virgin Islands shall have the right to use the title "licensed practical nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or other words letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a licensed practical nurse.

f) License by Waiver: Application for license under this provision must be made before July 1, 1958. The board may issue a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse to any person who shall submit to the board written evidence verified by oath that said applicant ---

1. Is a citizen of the United States or has legally declared intention of becoming one;
2. Is of good character;
3. Is in good physical and mental health;
4. Is a resident of the United States;
5. Has had at least one year of experience in

nursing care of the sick in the Virgin Islands prior to January 1, 1957.

6. Has passed a state board examination.

Applicant must be endorsed by a physician licensed in the Virgin Islands who has personal knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and by two Registered Nurses who have supervised the applicant.

Renewal of License

Section 8. The license of every person licensed under the provisions of this Law shall be annually renewed, except as hereinafter provided. On or before April 1 the board shall mail an application for renewal of license to every person to whom a license was issued or renewed during the current period. The applicant shall fill in the application blank and return it to the board with a renewal fee of \$1 before May 1. Upon receipt of the application, and the fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of the application and issue to the applicant a certificate of renewal for the current period beginning July 1 and expiring June 30. Such certificate of renewal shall render the holder thereof a legal practitioner of nursing for the period stated on the certificate of renewal.

(b) Any licensee who allows his or her license to lapse by failing to renew the license as provided above may be reinstated by the board on satisfactory explanation for such failure to renew his or her license and on payment of current renewal fee.

(c) Any person practicing nursing during the term his or her license has lapsed shall be considered an illegal practitioner and shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of this law.

(d) A nurse who does not intend to engage in nursing in the Virgin Islands during the next year upon written request to the board, may have her name transferred to an inactive list and shall not be required to pay renewal fee so long as she remains inactive. Should he or she wish to resume nursing at some future time he or she shall so notify the board and remit the renewal fee for the current year.

Dispositions Fees

Section 9. All fees received by the board and taxes collected under this Law shall be paid to the treasurer of the board. The treasurer shall place the money to the credit of the Virgin Islands Nurse Legislation and Nursing.

Education Fund with the Finance Department of the Virgin Islands on a monthly basis. All amounts paid into this fund shall be held subject to the order of the board to be used only for purposes of this law and the duties imposed thereby, as well as the promotion of nursing education and standards of nursing care in the Virgin Islands through surveys, inquiries, conferences and such other means as may result in improving nursing service in the Virgin Islands.

(b) All funds which may have accumulated to the credit of board under the sections of the law which are now being repealed shall be continued for use by the board in the administration of this law.

(c) An annual appropriation of \$150 shall be made by each Municipal Council for the purpose of carrying out the functions of this law.

Schools of Nursing

Section 13(a) Accreditation. The schools of nursing in the Virgin Islands in order to be accredited must meet and maintain qualifications listed in the rules and regulations set up and observed by the Board of Nurses of the Virgin Islands.

(b) Survey. Whenever deemed necessary by the board, it shall appoint a qualified person to survey the schools of nursing in the Virgin Islands. Written reports of such surveys shall be submitted to the board. The board determine that any school is not maintaining the standards required by the board, notice in writing advising the school shall be given to the school. The school shall have a reasonable time within which to comply with the standards of the board. If the school fails to comply with the standards of the board, the board may revoke its accreditation.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Section 14 Standards of Practice. The board shall have the power to lay down rules and regulations for the practice of nursing in the Virgin Islands. Any person who is guilty of an offence under these rules and regulations shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings.

1. Is guilty of fraud or deceit in practice or in the discharge of his duties.

2. Is guilty of negligence in practice.

3. Is guilty of misconduct in practice.

4. Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit forming drugs;
5. Is mentally incompetent;
6. Is guilty of unprofessional conduct;
7. Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this law.
8. Failed to complete citizenship, if license was granted on declaration of intention of becoming one.

(b) Proceedings: Upon filing a sworn complaint with the Board charging a person with having been guilty of any of the acts specified as a ground for disciplinary action, the Board shall have members investigate the charge, fix a time and place for hearing and cause a copy of the charge, together with a notice of the hearing to be served on the accused at least 10 days prior thereto. The attendance of witnesses, production of evidence and hearing may be compelled by subpoenas issued by the board, which shall be served in accordance with law. The accused shall have the right to appear personally or by counsel, to call and produce witnesses and evidence for his or her own defense.

(c) If the accused is found guilty of the charges the board may refuse to issue a license, revoke the license or suspend it, or suspend a license or otherwise discipline a licensee.

(d) It is provided in paragraph seven of the constitution of the State that the discretion of the Board.

Violations of Law - Penalties

Section 12 of the law shall be a misdemeanor for any person to...

1. Sell or manufacture, offer or furnish a dangerous drug or poison or sell or distribute them.

2. Practice nursing without a license or under any other name or title, or practice, illustrate, or perform any other act, which would be prohibited.

3. Practice nursing or perform any other act, which would be prohibited to the public.

4. Practice nursing or perform any other act, which would be prohibited to the public.

5. Practice nursing or perform any other act, which would be prohibited to the public.

7. Otherwise violate any provisions of this law.

(b) Such misdemeanor shall be punishable by a fine or not more than \$500 or by imprisonment of not more than six months or by both a fine and imprisonment.

(c) Courts of the Virgin Islands, within their respective jurisdiction, are hereby empowered to hear, try and determine such misdemeanor and to impose in full the punishment herein prescribed. In order to constitute a violation it shall be necessary to prove the commission of only a single act prohibited by law under this article.

(d) Such misdemeanor shall be prosecuted by the District Attorney, in the name of the People of Virgin Islands, provided, however, that nothing in this article shall be interpreted to prevent or impede the proceedings by the District Attorney after such proceedings have been initiated by him.

Exemption From Law

Section 13. No provision of this law shall be construed as prohibited ---

1. The incidental care of the sick by relatives, domestic servants or persons primarily employed as housekeepers is long as they do not practice nursing within the meaning of this law.

2. Nursing assistance in the case of emergency.

3. The practice of nursing by students enrolled in accredited schools of nursing in line with their training nor by graduates of such schools pending the results of the first licensing examination scheduled by the Board following such graduation.

4. The practice of nursing by a legally qualified nurse of another state whose engagement requires her to care for a patient temporarily residing in the Virgin Islands during the period of such engagement not to exceed six months in length.

5. The practice of a legally qualified nurse of another state who is employed by the United States Government or any bureau, division or agency thereof while in the discharge of her official duties.

Section 14. All sections of the law regarding the Practice of Medicine and its Allied Sciences which apply to the practice of Nursing are hereby repealed.

Separability

Section 15. If any provision of this law or of any rule, regulation or order thereunder or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of this law and the application of such provision of this law or of such rule, regulation or order to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Effective Date

Section 16. This law shall take effect January 1, 1954

Mr. Brown.....	Yea	Mr. James.....	Yea
Mr. Carroll.....	Yea	Mr. McFarlane.....	Yea
Mr. Chase.....	Yea	Mr. Otley.....	Yea
Mr. Gardine.....	Yea	Mr. Peters.....	Yea
Mr. Gordon.....	Yea	Mr. Rhymur.....	Yea
Mr. Harris.....	Yea	Mr. Richards.....	Yea
Mr. Woodward.....	Absent	Mr. Robison.....	Yea
Mr. Hodge.....	Absent	Mr. Sprague.....	Absent

Bill No. 3

The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd Session 1951

An Act to Amend an act to Establish an Insular Planning
Commission for Children and Youth, Approved August 14, 1949.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. That section 1, second paragraph of an act to Establish an Insular Planning Commission for Children and Youth, approved August 14, 1949, be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Commission shall have as its members, representing the interest in the welfare of the children and youth of the Virgin Islands, to be appointed by the Governor, and provided, that two of the members shall be youths, not less than fifteen (15) years of age, one selected from the Municipality of St. John's and one from the Municipality of St. Thomas.

the Municipality of St. Croix. Members shall be appointed for three years after initial staggered appointments for one, two and three years respectively.

Mr. Brown	Yes	Mr. James	Yes
Mr. Curall	Yes	Mr. McFarlane	Yes
Mr. Chase	Yes	Mr. Otley	Yes
Mr. Gardine	Yes	Mr. Balis	Yes
Mr. Gordon	Yes	Mr. Schyner	Yes
Mr. Harris	Yes	Mr. Richards	Yes
Mr. Baywood	Absent	Mr. Robles	Yes
Mr. Dodge	Absent	Mr. Sprance	Absent

Bill No. 22

The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd Session 1951

Law to Facilitate the Cooperation of this Territory with other Units of Government and to Establish an Unpaid Commission for that Purpose.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled.

Section 1. There is hereby established a standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, to be officially known as the Assembly's Committee on Inter-Island Cooperation, and to consist of five members. The members and the Chairman of this Committee shall be elected. In addition to the regular members, the Chairman of the Assembly shall be ex-officio an honorary non-voting member of this Committee.

Section 2. There is hereby established a committee of administrative officials and employees of the Virgin Islands to be officially known as the Governor's Committee on Inter-Island Cooperation, and to consist of five members. Its members shall be: the Commissioner of Prisons, ex-officio; the District Attorney, ex-officio; the Chairman of the Planning Board, ex-officio; and two other administrative officials or employees to be designated by the Governor. If there is uncertainty as to the identity of any of the ex-officio members of this Committee, the Governor shall determine the question and his determination and designation shall be conclusive. The Governor shall appoint one of the five members of this Committee as Chairman. In addition to the regular members, the Governor shall be ex-officio an honorary non-voting member of this Committee.

Section 3. There is hereby established the Virgin Islands Commission on Inter-Island Cooperation. This Commission shall be composed of ten regular members.

(1) The five members of the Assembly's Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and

(2) The five members of the Governor's Committee on Interstate Cooperation.

(3) The Governor and the Chairman of the Assembly shall be ex-officio honorary non-voting members of this commission. The Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Interstate Cooperation shall be ex-officio Chairman of this Commission and the Chairman of this Assembly's Committee on Interstate Cooperation shall be ex-officio first Vice Chairman of the Commission.

Section 4. The said standing Committee of the Assembly shall function during the regular sessions of the Legislature and also during the interim periods between such sessions; their members shall serve until their successors are qualified and they shall respectively constitute for this Territory the Assembly Council of the American Legislators' Association. Each administrative member of this Commission shall serve for a term of one year.

Section 5. It shall be the function of this commission -

(1) To carry forward the participation of this Territory as a member of the Council of State Governments.

(2) To encourage and assist the legislative, executive, administrative and judicial officials and employees of this Territory to develop and maintain friendly contact by correspondence, by conference, and otherwise, with officials and employees of the other States, of the Federal Government, and of local units of Governments.

(3) To endeavor to advance cooperation between this Territory and other units of governments whenever it seems advisable to do so by formulating proposals for, and by facilitating -

(a) The adoption of Compacts,

(b) The enactment of uniform or reciprocal statutes,

(c) The adoption of uniform or reciprocal administrative rules and regulations;

(d) The personal cooperation of governmental officials with one another;

e cooperation of governmental officials with one another, individually, in the course of research and

4. In short, to do all such acts as will, in the opinion of this Commission, enable this Territory to do its part or more than its part - in forming a more perfect union among the various governments in the United States and in developing the Council of State Governments for that purpose.

Section 6. The Commission shall establish such delegations and committees as it deems advisable, in order that they confer and formulate proposals concerning effective means to secure intergovernmental harmony, and may perform other functions for the Commission, in obedience to its decisions. Subject to the approval of the Commission, the member or members of each such delegation or committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. Territorial officials or employees who are not members of the Commission or Interstate Cooperation may be appointed as members of any such delegation or committee, but private citizens holding no governmental position in this territory shall not be eligible. The Commission may provide such other rules as it considers appropriate concerning the membership and the functioning of any such delegation or committee. The Commission may provide for advisory boards for itself and for its various delegations and committees, and may authorize private citizens to serve on such boards.

Section 7. The Commission shall report to the Governor and to the Legislature, within fifteen days after the convening of each regular legislative session, and at such other times as it deems appropriate. Its members and the members of all delegations and committees which it establishes shall serve without compensation for such service, but they shall be paid their necessary expenses in carrying out their obligations under this act. The Commission may employ a secretary and a stenographer, it may incur such other expenses as may be necessary for the proper performance of its duties, and it may, by contribution to the Council of State Governments, participate with other states in maintaining the said Council's district and central secretariate and its other governmental services.

Section 8. The Commission and the Commission established by this act shall be informally known, respectively, as the Locally Cooperative Committee, the Governor's Cooperation Committee and the Virgin Islands Cooperation Commission.

Section 9. The Council of State Governments is hereby declared to be a joint governmental agency of this Territory and of the other states which cooperate with it.

Section 10. The Governor shall forthwith communicate the text of this measure to the Senate and the House of Representatives of each state of the Union already admitted to the Union, and shall advise each legislature of its action thereon.

thus establishing a similar commission, and thus joining with this territory in the common cause of reducing the burdens which are imposed upon the citizens of every state by governmental confusion, competition and conflict.

Section 11. This act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Section 12. If any clause or other portion of this act is held to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this act. The legislature hereby declares that all such remaining portions of this act are severable, and that it would have enacted such remaining portions if the invalid portions had not been included in this act.

Mr. Brown	Yea	Mr. James	Yea
Mr. Carroll	Yea	Mr. McFarlane	Yea
Mr. Chase	Yea	Mr. Otley	Yea
Mr. Gordin	Yea	Mr. Pedro	Yea
Mr. Gorden	Yea	Mr. Rhymen	Yea
Mr. Harris	Yea	Mr. Richards	Yea
Mr. Heywood	Absent	Mr. Salsen	Yea
Mr. Dodge	Absent	Mr. Sprauve	Absent

Resolution to Request the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the Municipal Council of St. Croix to Acquire a Piece of Beach Property Situated North of the Public Bathing Beach at Frederiksted St. Croix and to take whatever steps are necessary to make this Property available to the Public for Bathing Purposes. Sponsored by Ray B. Gorden.

The above Resolution failed to reach an agreement among members and was therefore dropped from the agenda.

Bill No. 27

An Act to Permit Absentee Voting by Members of the Armed Forces was discussed and rejected by the following vote:

Mr. Brown	Yay	Mr. James	Yea
Mr. Carroll	Yea	Mr. McFarlane	Yay
Mr. Chase	Yay	Mr. Otley	Yea
Mr. Gordin	Yay	Mr. Pedro	Yea
Mr. Gorden	Yay	Mr. Rhymen	Yay
Mr. Harris	Yea	Mr. Richards	Yay
Mr. Heywood	Absent	Mr. Salsen	Yea
Mr. Dodge	Absent	Mr. Sprauve	Absent

Bill No. 24
 The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of
 the Virgin Islands of the United States
 3rd Session 1951

An Act to Create a Virgin Islands Merit Award Board.
 As it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin
 Islands in session Assembly:

Section 1. There is hereby created a Board to be known as the Virgin Islands Employees Merit Award Board, to consist of three persons to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly or, if the Assembly is not in session of the Municipal Councils, for a term of two years. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be entitled to \$7.00 per day or fraction thereof in addition to travelling expenses incurred in their discharge of their duties while travelling between the Virgin Islands. The Board shall meet at least once a year and may request and shall receive from any department, agency or commission such assistance as it may require to carry out the purposes of this Act, and each such department, agency or commission shall make available to the Board, upon its request, any of its personnel and facilities required for the furtherance of the work of the Board.

Powers and Duties

Section 2. The Board shall have power and it shall be its duty--

- (1) to formulate, establish and maintain a plan or plans to encourage and reward unusual and meritorious suggestions and accomplishments by employees of the Municipal Governments promoting efficiency and economy in the performance of any function of the Municipal or Virgin Islands Government.
- (2) to analyze and review suggestions and accomplishments of municipal employees submitted for consideration under such plans or plans and to make and render merit awards to persons in behalf of employees who are deemed deserving.

Awards

Section 3. The Board shall have the power to determine the nature and extent of the Merit Award to be made and the criteria which may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Certificates, medals or other appropriate insignia which shall be in such form and shall be awarded at such times as the Board may fix and determine.
- (b) Cash awards, which shall be of such amount and shall be payable at such times as the Board may fix and determine.
- (c) In lieu of or in addition to a cash award, the Board may with the approval of the Governor, increase the compensation of any employee who has been selected for a merit award, provided that no such award of increased compensation shall result in increasing the compensation of such employee beyond the maximum salary of the salary grade to which his position is allocated, notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulations promulgated thereunder. An employee receiving an award of increased compensation under this act shall be deemed to have rendered satisfactory service in the position held by him for the period of time which would otherwise have elapsed before he became entitled to the amount of the annual increment or increments corresponding to the amount of such increased compensation.

Section 4. The separate Municipal Councils shall annually appropriate funds necessary to carry out the purposes of this act based upon the recommendations of the Merit Award Board and the Governor.

Section 5. The Board shall have full power and authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of any plan or plans established under this act; the eligibility and qualification of employees participating therein, the character and quality of suggestions and accomplishments submitted for consideration, the method of their submission and the procedure for their review, nominations for merit awards, and the kind, character and value awards, and such other rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate for the proper administration of this act or for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof.

Mr. Brown	-----	Mr. James	-----	Yes
Mr. Carroll	-----	Mr. McFarlane	-----	Yes
Mr. Chase	-----	Mr. Otley	-----	Yes
Mr. Gardine	-----	Mr. Pedro	-----	Yes
Mr. Gordon	-----	Mr. Edgmer	-----	Abst
Mr. Harris	-----	Mr. Richards	-----	Abst
Mr. Kippwood	-----	Mr. Sullivan	-----	Yes
Mr. Dodge	-----	Mr. Spruce	-----	Yes

Bill No. 28

The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States 3rd Session 1951

An Act to Amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled.

Section 1. Sub-section (5) of section 2 of the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved by the Governor on December 16, 1946, is hereby amended as follows:

5. "Department Head" means the administrative head of any department agency or other separate branch of the Government Service, but not including the heads of the Legislative bodies in the Virgin Islands.

Section 2. Add sub-section 7 under section 9(a) as follows:

7. All employees of the Legislative bodies in the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Brown	-----	Absent
Mr. Carroll	-----	yes
Mr. Chase	-----	yes
Mr. Gardine	-----	yes
Mr. Gordon	-----	yes
Mr. Harris	-----	yes
Mr. Heywood	-----	Absent
Mr. Dodge	-----	yes

Mr. James	-----	yes
Mr. McFarlane	-----	yes
Mr. Utley	-----	yes
Mr. Webb	-----	yes
Mr. Chymner	-----	Absent
Mr. Richards	-----	Absent
Mr. Stephens	-----	yes
Mr. Spruce	-----	yes

Bill No. 25 - Law to Create Virgin Islands Information Service in Washington was discussed at length and rejected by the following votes:

Mr. Brown	-----	Yes
Mr. Carroll	-----	Absent
Mr. Chase	-----	Yes
Mr. Gardine	-----	Yes
Mr. Gordon	-----	yes
Mr. Harris	-----	yes
Mr. Heywood	-----	Absent
Mr. Dodge	-----	yes

Mr. James	-----	Yes
Mr. McFarlane	-----	Yes
Mr. Utley	-----	Absent
Mr. Webb	-----	Yes
Mr. Chymner	-----	Absent
Mr. Richards	-----	Yes
Mr. Stephens	-----	Yes
Mr. Spruce	-----	yes

establishments selling at retail, and workers doing domestic type service in other than private homes.

- (f) "Unskilled Labor" means any type of manual work including agricultural labor that does not require technical training, or any particular skill for its execution, or that requires only the use of simple hand tools which can be readily handled. This term also includes watchman, janitors and porters but does not include the type of employees mentioned under the classification "Sales or Service Clerk".
- (g) "Semi-skilled Labor" means such work as is performed by assistants and helpers of any and all types of skilled labor. This term does not include the type of employees mentioned under the classification, "Sales or Service Clerks", or "Unskilled Labor".
- (h) "Skilled Labor" means any type of work that requires technical training, skill, special knowledge or experience, or the use of complex tools and machinery. This term includes all types of mechanical work and craftsmanship, and is the opposite of the classification "Unskilled Labor". This term does not cover the type of employee mentioned under the classification, "Sales or Service Clerk", or "Semi-skilled Labor".
- (i) "Classify" and "classification" means to prescribe standards for, as well as to classify and reclassify, occupations, and includes allocation and reallocation of workers under occupations and prescribed categories.

Section 3. Every employer shall pay to each employee employed by him wages at the following rates:

- (1) Sales or service clerks not less than 35¢ per hour.
- (2) Unskilled labor not less than 40¢ per hour.
- (3) Semi-skilled labor not less than 50¢ per hour.
- (4) Skilled labor not less than 65¢ per hour.

Section 4.

(a) No employer shall employ an employee in excess of eight hours a day or forty hours a week, unless such employee receives compensation for employment in excess of such daily or weekly hours. Such compensation shall be calculated to give an employee at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for the hours in excess of the prescribed limit. This section shall not apply to any industry or in any occupation in which the regular rate of pay for the hours in excess of the prescribed limit is not less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for the hours within the prescribed limit.

established custom, prior to the enactment of this act, to pay overtime rates for night work, that basis for overtime payments shall be substituted for the basis heretofore established in this sub-section; provided that such overtime rates shall not be less than one and one-half times the regular rate, and provided further, such overtime rates for night work shall be paid for all work performed after six p. m., and before six a. m., and overtime payments shall be required for work in such industries performed between six a. m. and six p. m.

(b) Additional compensation on the basis of time and a half fixed by this act for extra hours may not be waived. Any agreement by virtue of which the employee agrees to waive payments to the additional compensation for extra hours fixed by this act shall be null.

(c) The provisions of section 4(a) shall not apply to any employee employed in such extraordinary emergencies as those resulting directly from fire, flood, storm or similar natural forces, or epidemic of illness or disease, or emergencies involving public safety, which require employment in excess of the hours specified in section 4(a) in order that life, health, property may be preserved; provided, however, that the employer shall pay each employee so employed at not less than his regular rate of pay for each hour employed in excess of the hours specified in section 4(a); provided further, that in each such case, the employer shall immediately notify the commissioner of such excess employment in such manner as the commissioner may require.

Section 5 (a) There is hereby created, for the administration of this law, the office of Wage Commissioner for the Virgin Islands. The Governor of the Virgin Islands shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, a Wage Commissioner and an Assistant Wage Commissioner, and such other personnel as may be necessary. Funds for the proper functioning of this office shall be provided by the Municipal Authorities. The Commissioner of the Assistant Commissioner shall have power to classify occupations in the categories prescribed in section 3. Upon application by any person entitled to a public hearing by the Assistant Commissioner, which hearing shall be held.

(b.) There is hereby created a Board of Appeals in each Municipality comprising of three (3) members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the separate Municipal Councils. It shall be the duty of the Board to hear and decide appeals of any aggrieved party taken from any decision of the Wage Commissioner or the Assistant Wage Commissioner. An appeal from the decision of the Appeal Board may be taken to the District Court of the Virgin Islands within thirty days after said decision has been rendered. Members of the Board shall receive compensation of \$5 per meeting. Both Municipal Councils shall appropriate annually the funds necessary for the functioning of the Boards.

(c.) The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner or their authorized representative may investigate and gather data regarding the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment in the Virgin Islands, and may enter and inspect such places and such records (and make such transcription thereof), question such employees, and investigate such facts, conditions, practices, or matters as he may deem necessary or appropriate to determine whether any person has violated any provisions of this Act or which may aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act or in connection with the recommendations of future legislation.

d. Every employer shall keep a printed abstract of the law and a copy of any classification order to which he may be subject, conspicuously posted in an easily accessible place in his business establishment. Employees shall be furnished copies of such abstract and orders on request without charge.

e. Every employer, subject to any provision of the Act or of any order issued under this Act, shall keep and preserve such records of the persons employed by him and of the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of the employees as may be required by the Commissioner, and shall make such records available to the Commissioner in the manner and form as he shall prescribe by order. The Commissioner may also require the employer to produce such records at any time and place as he shall prescribe by order.

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or crustacea or anyone employed as a musician, or to executives, professionals, outside salesman or anyone doing piece work or job work; as such terms are defined and delimited by regulations of the Wage Commissioner; or to any employee paid a salary of \$100 or more per month.

(b) With the approval of the Board of Appeals the Wage Commissioner, to the extent necessary in order to prevent curtailment of opportunities for employment, shall by regulations or orders provide for (1) the employment of learners, or apprentices under special certificate issued pursuant to regulations of the Commissioner, at such wages lower than the minimum wage application under section 3 and subject to such limitations as to time, number, proportion and length of service as the Commissioner shall prescribe and (2) the employment of individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury, under special certificates issued by the Commissioner at such wages lower than the minimum wage applicable under section 3 and for such periods as shall be fixed in such certificates.

Section 7 (a) Any employer who fails to pay the rate of wages stipulated in this act for regular hours or for extra hours of work, or who permits, induces, or obliges an employee to waive, to accept or to agree to waive, the compensation on the basis of time and a half for extra hours, or who does not keep the payrolls of the wages as determined by the Commissioner, or who does not submit the reports, in regards to wages that the Commissioner may request, or prevents the examination of said payrolls by the Commissioner or his duly authorized agents, or knowingly sets forth false data in said payrolls or reports, or who violates any provision of this act or of the orders, rules or regulations that the Commissioner may prescribe, or who discharges or otherwise discriminates against any employee because the latter has instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding in accordance with this act or connected therewith, or who commits himself of any resources, fraud, deceit or subterfuge in order not to pay, to evade or refuse payment of or deprive any employee of the right to receive time and a half for extra hours shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$50.00, or by imprisonment for not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment, and any violation shall continue so long as the offender.

(b) In the minimum wage required by the act of 1911

any employer who fails to know an employee that is not a bona fide resident of the city of New York shall be liable for a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$50.00, or by imprisonment for not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment, and any violation shall continue so long as the offender.

wages were earned, shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of a violation of this act.

(C) Any employer who violates any provision of Section 3 or 4 of this act shall be liable to the employee or employees affected in the amount of their unpaid minimum wages, or unpaid over-time compensation, as the case may be, and in addition an equal amount of liquidated damages.

(D) Action to recover such liability may be maintained in the District Court of the Virgin Islands by any one or more employees for and on behalf of himself or themselves and other employees similarly situated or such employee or employees may designate an agent or representative to maintain such action for and on behalf of all employees similarly situated. The court in such action shall in addition to any judgment awarded to the plaintiff or plaintiffs, allow a reasonable attorney's fee to be paid by the defendant and costs of the action. At the request of any person said less than the amount to which he is entitled under the provisions of this act, the Commissioner may take an assignment in trust for the assigning employee of the full amount to which he is entitled under the sub-section and may bring any legal action necessary to collect such claims, and the employer shall be required to pay the costs and such reasonable attorney's fees as may be allowed by the court. The Commissioner shall not be required to pay the filing fee, or other costs, in connection with any action. The Commissioner, in any suit shall have power to join various claims against the same employer in one cause of action.

(E) Whenever it shall appear to the Commissioner that any employer is engaged in any act or practice which constitutes or will constitute a violation of any provision of this act or of any classification order under this act, he may, in his discretion, bring an action in the District Court of the Virgin Islands to enforce such act or practice and to enforce compliance with the act or with such classification order; and upon a proper showing, a permanent or temporary injunction or decree or restraining order may be granted without bond.

Section 8. Nothing shall interfere with, or take away the right of any employee or representative of such employee to sue for wages or to sue for a violation of this act, or to establish the applicable minimum

shall be deemed as a domestic industry through order to collect wages under the act.

Section 9. This Act shall take effect upon the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date of its enactment.

Section 10. If any provision of this Act or any rule, regulation or order thereunder or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision of this Act, or of such rule, regulation or order to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Mr. Brown	-----	Absent
Mr. Carroll	-----	Yea
Mr. Chase	-----	Yea
Mr. Gardine	-----	Yea
Mr. Jordan	-----	Yea
Mr. Harris	-----	Yea
Mr. Wynwood	-----	Absent
Mr. Dodge	-----	Yea

Mr. James	-----	Yea
Mr. McFarlane	-----	Yea
Mr. Otley	-----	Absent
Mr. Pedro	-----	Yea
Mr. Rhyma	-----	Absent
Mr. Richards	-----	Yea
Mr. Sahlber	-----	Yea
Mr. Sprance	-----	Yea

Bill No. 26

Law to amend an Act Creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board.

Was rejected by 6 Yea, 7 Nays and 3 Absent.

The following ad-Interim appointments were confirmed:

Virgin Islands Auditor Office

Percy de Jongh, a Virgin Islands Auditor, \$4,200 per annum, effective on and after July 18, 1951, for a period of two (2) years.

Arthur C. Bryan as Principal Accounting Clerk, \$3,508 per annum, effective on and after the third session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands called by the Governor, is hereby adjourned.

Adjourned on Wednesday November 28, 1951
at 7:05 o'clock P.M.

Alma C. McFarlane
Chairman

Cyprian Gardine
Secretary

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

1st Session

The 1st session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for 1952, convened by joint Resolution passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and the Municipal Council of St. Croix, was called to order pursuant to said Resolutions on Wednesday, April 16, 1952, at 10:00 o'clock A. M., the put going Chairman, Alvin C. McFarlane, Presiding.

Present were the following members:

Omar Brown	Aloysius L. James	Julius E. Sprauve
Eugene A. Carroll	Alvin C. McFarlane	
L. Christine Chase	Charles B. Otley	
Cyprian Jordan	Raymond A. Pedro	
Oswald E. Harris	Wynmouth Chymers	
Herbert H. Heywood	Henry V. Richards	
Walter L. M. Dodge	Henry E. Collins	

(15 answered the roll)

Report on Membership of both Councils took place. Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John had six members present due to E. G. Jordan's resignation. Municipal Council of St. Croix had all members present.

The Resolutions convening the Assembly were read in full, for example as indicated below:

Resolution

The Eight Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John.
1951-1952

Convening a Session of the Legislative Assembly
of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John deems it necessary in the public interest to convene the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands;

St. Thomas and St. John deems it necessary in the public interest to convene the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands;

Whereas, Section 1 of the

Act of the Virgin

Islands authorizes sessions of Legislative Assembly by joint resolution of both Municipal Councils:

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved and it is hereby Resolved, by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John, in session assembled, that pursuant to section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, the Legislative Assembly be convened in informal session on Wednesday, April 16, 1952 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., for consideration of the following:

1. Resolution Petitioning the President of the United States to reappoint the Senate Judiciary Committee to recommend and the Senate of the United States to confirm the reappointment of the Honorable Norman C. Moore as Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands. (Hon. Omar Brown) (Hon. Oswald C. Harris) (Hon. Walter L. A. Dodge).
2. Law to Amend an Act Creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, etc. (Hon. A. C. McFarlane) (Hon. E. Gordon).
3. Law to Amend the Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands. (Hon. Oswald C. Harris).

Thus passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John at its Extraordinary Meeting, held Wednesday, April 16, 1952.

Witness our Hands and the Seal of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John this 7th Day of April, A.D., 1952.

Omar Brown
Chairman

Walter L. A. Dodge
Secretary

A list of correspondence of the Council which was received from the last session to the present was read for the information of the members.

The first reading of the Resolution, concerning the appointment of the Senate Judiciary Committee to recommend and the Senate of the United States to confirm the reappointment of the Honorable Norman C. Moore as Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands, was read and the members of the Council were asked to vote thereon. The vote was as follows:

Unanimous

The Senate of the United States
District of Columbia

1952

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands of the United States have learned that the term of office of Honorable Herman E. Moore, of Illinois, as Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands will expire on May 6, 1952; and

Whereas, During the twelve years that Judge Moore has presided over the United States District Court for the Virgin Islands, justice has been administered with dignity, impartiality, and with full regard for the Constitution of the United States, the laws of the United States applicable to the Virgin Islands, and the laws of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, Due to the outstanding record of Judge Moore as the head of the Judicial Branch of the Government of these Islands, the people from all groups of the population of the Virgin Islands look to the Courts of the Virgin Islands with the highest esteem, respect, and confidence; and,

Whereas, The American Bar Association, in 1945 after its investigation at the request of the Senate Judiciary Committee reported an unqualified endorsement of Judge Moore and recommended his confirmation and reappointment by the American Bar Association; and,

Whereas, The Virgin Islands Bar Association unanimously endorsed and recommended the reappointment and Senate confirmation of Judge Moore for another term as Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, Judge Moore's strong stand for Constitutional Government, his firm belief in the orderly administration of the law, and his fairness and justice to all have inspired the people here to cherish more highly their American citizenship and the American way of life, to the exclusion of any and all foreign ideologies; and,

Whereas, Judge Moore has shown himself to be eminently worthy of the confidence which the great Congress of our Nation has reposed in him during the last twenty years and favorable action on the reappointment of the District Judge, the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate of the United States are urged to take prompt action on the reappointment of Judge Moore to the District Court of the Virgin Islands with the greatest satisfaction of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Now, therefore, be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That

Section 1. That the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, do hereby recommend the reappointment of Judge Herman E. Moore to the District Court of the Virgin Islands.

as possible, prior to May 6, 1952, to the Senate of the United States for its confirmation; and,

Be it further Resolved, and it is hereby further Resolved, that the Senate of the United States is hereby petitioned to confirm the reappointment of Honorable Herman C. Moore as Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands for another term following May 6, 1952, as promptly as possible after receipt of such reappointment from the President, and,

Be it further Resolved, and it is hereby further Resolved, that this Resolution be forwarded to His Excellency, the President of the United States; the Honorable, the Senate of the United States through its President; the Honorable, the Senate Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate through its chairman; and that copies hereof be forwarded to each of the Members of the aforesaid Committee and the Honorable, the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Brown	Yea	Mr. McFarlane	Yea
Mr. Carroll	Yea	Mr. Utley	Yea
Mr. Chase	Yea	Mr. Feltro	Yea
Mr. Gardin	Yea	Mr. Chynner	Yea
Mr. Harris	Yea	Mr. Richards	Yea
Mr. Wedge	Yea	Mr. Roberson	Yea
Mr. Jones	Yea	Mr. Sprague	Yea

Bill No. 30

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States 1st Session 1952

An Act to Continue in force and Effect "an Act Creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, Establishing and Defining its Duties and Powers, Establishing the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Fund, and for other purposes." Approved September 8, 1950.

Whereas Section 1 of "an Act Creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, Establishing and Defining its Duties and Powers, Establishing the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Fund, and for other purposes" approved September 8, 1950, provides that the Act shall expire on September 8, 1952, and,

Address, *Responsible for the promotion and advancement of the Virgin Islands to the public.*

Be it enacted by the Assembly of the Virgin Islands

Section 1. "An Act Creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, Establishing and Defining its duties and Powers, Establishing the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Fund, and for other purposes." approved September 18, 1956, is hereby indefinitely continued in force and effect; provided that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total expenses of the Tourist Development Board is borne by the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John and the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ is borne by the Municipality of St. Croix, until such time as an increase of Tourist business in St. Croix warrants the revision of this provision.

Mr. Brown	--- Yes	Mr. McFarlane	--- Yes
Mr. Chase	--- Yes	Mr. Pedro	--- Yes
Mr. Gardine	--- Yes	Mr. Carlson	--- Yes
Mr. Heywood	--- Yes	Mr. Sprague	--- Yes
Mr. James	--- Yes		

Bill No. 31 - An Act to provide for a vote of Confidence at the General Elections in the Virgin Islands and for other purposes, was rejected on account of not having the required number of votes. The votes were as follows:
(9 yeas) (1 nay) (4 abstaining) (1 absent)

The Report of the Organic Act Committee of the Legislative Assembly was submitted by Assemblyman Harris and its adoption was moved by Member Richards, seconded by Assemblyman Gardine and it was unanimously adopted, as follows:

Upon completion of the business before the House the meeting was declared adjourned.

Adjourned at 12:50 P.M. Friday April 18, 1962

Comr. Brown
Chairman

Wendy J. Richards
Secretary

The following appointments were confirmed.

Virgin Islands Auditor Office:

Mr. Arthur C. Sykes as Principal Accounting Clerk, \$2500 per annum, effective on and after April 1, 1962 up to and including March 31, 1962.

Assembly's Committee on Administration:

Mr. Comr. Brown, ex-officio

Mr. S. Christian Chase

Mr. Carl McFarlane

Mr. Richard H. Heywood

Mr. Carl B. James

Mr. Wendy J. Richards

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

The 2nd Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for 1952, called by the Governor by Proclamation was convened on Monday, July 7, 1952, at 10:00 A.M.

Omar Brown - Presiding

The following members answered the Roll Call:

Omar Brown
Eric H. Carroll
L. Christian Chase
Cyprus A. Gardine
Herbert H. Heywood
Clayton A. James

Alva C. McFarlane
Charles B. Otley
Weymouth Thymmer
Henry V. Richards
Henry C. Robison
Julius C. Spraupe

(12 members answered the roll)

The Chairman of the Municipal Council reported that Henry C. Robison was elected to Roy D. Gordon's place, and he was presently off the island attending the Republican Convention in Chicago.

The Chairman of the Municipal Council from St. Croix reported that there was no change in his membership.

The following Proclamation was read:

A Proclamation

Concerning the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands

I, Morris L. De Castro, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, do hereby convene a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to be held at the Municipal Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at 11:00 A.M. Monday, July 7, 1952 for consideration of the following subject matters:

1) An Act to amend the Municipal and Municipal Employees Security System (S. and H. Omar Brown)

2) An Act to amend the Municipal and Municipal Employees Security System (S. and H. Omar Brown)

- 3) An Act to create an Economic Development Administration.
(Hon. Seymour Dwyer and Hon. Cyprian A. Gardine)
- 4) An Act to Regulate Sewage Disposal, Connection with the Public Sewage System, and for other purposes.
(Hon. Cyprian A. Gardine and Hon. Seymour Dwyer)
- 5) An Act to amend School Law, by relieving the Public Department of the duty of making a School Census Annually.
(Hon. Omar Brown and A. Christian Chase).
- 6) An Act to Regulate the Practice of Nursing in the Virgin Islands.
(Hon. Alma C. McFarlane, Hon. Omar Brown and Hon. Henry E. Saksen)
- 7) An Act to Regulate the Practice of Medicine, and of Science in the Virgin Islands.
(Hon. Julius E. Sprauve and Hon. Cyprian A. Gardine)
- 8) An Act to Regulate the Practice of Dentistry in the Virgin Islands and for other purposes.
(Hon. Alma C. McFarlane, and Hon. Julius E. Sprauve)
- 9) An Act to Amend the Holiday Law. (Hon. Cyprian A. Gardine, Hon. Raymond P. Pedro and Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge.)
- 10) An Act to Establish an Insular Wage and Hour Law. (Hon. Aloysius A. James, Hon. Herbert H. Heywood, Hon. Raymond P. Pedro, Hon. Julius E. Sprauve, and Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge.)
- 11) An Act to Create a Virgin Islands Office of Information in Washington. (Hon. Seymour Dwyer and Hon. Henry E. Saksen).
- 12) An Act to Create a Virgin Islands Food Production Administration.
(Hon. Henry E. Saksen and Hon. Herbert H. Heywood)
- 13) An Act to Amend the Insular Food Supply Law.
(Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge and Hon. Omar Brown)
- 14) An Insular Workmen's Compensation Act. (Hon. Herbert H. Heywood and Henry E. Saksen).
- 15) An Act to Create and Establish a Department of Public Libraries of the Virgin Islands.
(Hon. ...)

An Act to Declare

the ... of ...
in ...

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Christianssted, St. Croix, V.I., this 27th Day of May, as amended June 25, July 2 in the year of our Lord 1952, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy-six.

15/ Morris A. de Castro
Governor.

Correspondence was read by the Secretary, after which the Governor of the Virgin Islands delivered the following address:

The Social Security Law was discussed, and sent to the Committee of the whole pending a report from the Committee (Comprised of Henry C. Richards, Julius C. Sprague, Carl E. Otley, Herbert H. Graywood, S. Christian Chase, and Cyprian A. Gardine), to study Social Security coverage to employees of the Virgin Islands Government and report back to the Assembly not later than November 15th.

The Assembly adopted the following Resolutions and Bills by the vote, and in the form indicated.

Resolution

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session

1952

To Create Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands.

Be it Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. The following standing committees of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands are hereby created:

a) The Committee on Education and Labor.

b) The Committee on Health and Welfare.

c) The Committee on Finance and Public Works.

d) The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Section 2.

That the members of the

Legislative Assembly shall

be divided into the following

and appointments, relating to their respective fields. The committees shall be appointed at the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly following each General Election. The members shall serve for the term of office for which they are elected in their respective municipalities. Each committee shall make studies and investigations on its own motion, or upon direction of the Assembly; it shall be empowered to recommend legislation from time to time to the Assembly. Each committee shall make a report on its activities at the last meeting of the Assembly each year.

Section 3. All committees created herein shall be vested with the power to subpoena witnesses and documents and take testimony under oath in accordance with Section 11 of the organic Act for the Virgin Islands.

Action 4. The Chairman of the Assembly, shall determine what legislation, appointments, studies and other matters fall within the jurisdiction of the respective committees and shall make appropriate assignments to such committees whether or not the Assembly is in session.

Section 5. Each committee shall be composed of five members at least two of whom shall be from each Municipality, and shall elect its own chairman, and adopt its own rules and regulations. Every member of the Assembly shall be a member of at least one Committee. Members shall be appointed to committees by the Chairman of the Assembly, who so far as practicable shall make such appointments to conform to the preference of members.

Section 6. There shall also be a committee, composed of the chairman of the executive and the chairmen of each of the standing committees, in addition to their duties, will act in a number of the following ways, to wit: to receive and discuss and to prepare suggestions to the House as to the conduct of work generally. This committee shall make a selection of the resolutions and amendments to the members and the House, and shall also be responsible for strengthening the ties between the House and the other branches of the government; it shall also be responsible for the rules, precedents of the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of the government. It shall have authority to hear and report on matters which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the other committees.

Mr. Brown	absent	Mr. James	yea
Mr. Carroll	yea	Mr. McFarlane	yea
Mr. Creque	absent	Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Chase	yea	Mr. Pedro	yea
Mr. Gardine	yea	Mr. Rhymen	yea
Mr. Harris	absent	Mr. Richards	absent
Mr. Hodge	absent	Mr. Rohlsen	yea
Mr. Keywood	yea	Mr. Sprauve	yea

Resolution

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

Expressing the Appreciation of the People of the Virgin Islands for the Contribution made to the People and the Government of Virgin Islands by John M. Keyser.

Whereas, Mr. John M. Keyser, Internal Revenue Agent assigned to the Government of the Virgin Islands in the last three years, has performed his assignments with exceptional skill, ability and understand; and,

Whereas, Mr. Keyser is a very zealous and conscientious worker; and,

Whereas, through his tireless efforts he has contributed immeasurably to the welfare of the people and Governments of the Virgin Islands:

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, and it is hereby resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, that due recognition be given, and is hereby given for the outstanding contribution, in line of duty, of Mr. John M. Keyser and the esteem in which he is held in the Virgin Islands; that this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this Assembly and inscribed and presented to Mr. Keyser; and, further, that a copy be transmitted to the Governor of the Virgin Islands and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Brown	James	absent
Mr. Carroll	McFarlane	yea
Mr. Creque	Otley	yea
Mr. Chase	Pedro	yea
Mr. Gardine	Rhymen	yea
Mr. Harris	Richards	yea
Mr. Hodge	Rohlsen	yea
Mr. Keywood	Sprauve	absent

Bill No. 33

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

An Act to Regulate Contracts for Workmen or Employees whose Services are to be used in any State of the United States, in Territories thereof, or in any Foreign Country, and for other Purposes.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. It shall be illegal for any person, firm, business, or corporation to engage in contracting for domestic help, workmen, or employees whose services are to be used outside of the Virgin Islands, in any state of the United States, territories thereof, or in any foreign country, without first securing from the Government Secretary a license to operate as an Employment Agency in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 2. Any person, firm, business, or corporation desiring to operate an Employment Agency shall make application for a license to the Government Secretary and submit for his approval all contract forms to be used in contracting for the services of persons seeking employment. Such forms after approval can not be altered, changed, or amended without the approval of the Government Secretary.

Section 3. Upon payment of a license fee of \$25. to be deposited in the Treasury of the Municipality in which the business operations are to be conducted, and approval of the contract forms to be used, the Government Secretary shall issue to the applicant a license to operate an Employment Agency.

Section 4. The Government Secretary shall not approve contract forms to be used for the purpose of contracting for labor to be employed outside the Virgin Islands unless the contract shall set forth the following provisions:

- (a) The total amount of the fee of the
employed 10% of the
total, that is
to be collected from
of which shall be

(b) The employee shall be guaranteed return expenses to the point of departure at any time during the first year of employment if the conditions of employment offered in the employment contract are not adhered to.

(c) Conditions of employment and wages shall not be inferior in any respect to the minimum conditions of employment and wages offered for similar work in the locality in which the employee contracts to work, and in no case less favorable in any respect than similar conditions in the Virgin Islands.

(d) The contract shall contain an accurate description of the work to be performed and all pertinent information concerning the job. The employment agency shall fully explain to the employee all the conditions stipulated in the contract.

Section 5. Bonds or other security shall be posted by the Employment Agency in such amounts as may be required by the Government Secretary from time to time to guarantee the carrying out of the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 6. Any employee covered by this act shall communicate to the Government Secretary any breach of his or her employment contract. The Government Secretary shall immediately investigate the matter and take whatever action he may deem necessary to correct or remedy the situation.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the employment agency contracting the services of workmen or employees from the Virgin Islands, to furnish all information or records to the Government Secretary as he may require.

Section 8. Contracting for the services of minors under 16 and persons under 60 years of age is absolutely prohibited.

Section 9. The United States District Court of the Virgin Islands shall have exclusive jurisdiction in cases of violation of this Act.

Section 10. The Government Secretary shall have authority to suspend any worker, after due investigation and hearing, for any violation of the provisions of this act issued hereafter for gross or willful violation.

Section 11. Any corporation or individual who violates any of the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.

any person, employment agency, or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 and not more

Mr. Brown ----- Absent
 Mr. Carroll ----- yes
 Mr. Creque ----- Absent
 Mr. Chase ----- yes
 Mr. Gardine ----- yes
 Mr. Harris ----- Absent
 Mr. Hodge ----- Absent
 Mr. Heywood ----- yes

Mr. James ----- yes
 Mr. McArthur ----- yes
 Mr. Otley ----- yes
 Mr. Peters ----- yes
 Mr. Chymner ----- yes
 Mr. Richards ----- Absent
 Mr. Robles ----- yes
 Mr. Sprauve ----- yes

Bill No 35

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

An Act

To Regulate Sewage Disposal, connection with the Public Sewerage System, and for other purposes.

Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in Session Assembled:

Section 1. This Act may be cited as "The Public Sewerage Act of the Virgin Islands."

Section 2. As used herein, and unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(A) "Public sewerage system" shall mean the system of drainage from buildings through the sewer lines owned or operated by the respective municipalities.

(B) "Superintendent" shall mean the Superintendent of Public Works of the respective municipalities.

(C) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, association, or corporation.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any owner of a building to maintain any privy, cesspool, or nightsoil can for the purpose of receiving organic wastes wherever a connection can be made to the Public sewerage system in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The owner of any building occupied for habitation, commercial, or public assembly, or place of private or public assembly, shall, within six months after notification by the Superintendent, at such place or places as may be required, and such closets or closets as may be required, including

sinks, latrines and similar appurtenances, located in the said building and the property line at the point of connection. Owners of superficially houses are exempted from the provision of this law. Owners of properties assessed at not more than one thousand \$1,000. dollars for real property tax purposes shall not be required to install sanitary facilities and connect their premises to the public sewerage lines. The Public Works Department, through the Superintendent, shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Act and shall have the following responsibilities and authorities hereunder.

(a) To issue from time to time rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act necessary to carry out its provisions, which rules and regulations shall have the force and effect of law upon the approval of the separate Municipal Councils.

(b) To determine the type of construction and quality of materials used in installations hereunder in accordance with approved sanitary engineering standards.

(c) To determine from time to time the types of waste that may be discharged into the public sewerage system, bearing in mind the type of sewerage lines and pipes available, and to establish methods of testing or sampling the quality and quantity of wastes flowing into the public sewerage system.

Section 5. The Superintendent or any duly authorized agent of his shall have authority at all reasonable times to enter upon all properties to make any inspections or tests necessary to secure enforcement of this Act and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Section 6. Loans may be approved by the Council from available public or trust funds upon the recommendation of the Municipal Committee of the respective municipality to any person for the installation of sanitary facilities as required herein, to be repaid in installments within ten years with simple interest at the rate of four per cent provided that an applicant for such loan shall produce satisfactory proof that he is unable, in good faith, and because of lack of means, to comply with the provisions of this Act; and provided that the application for a such loan for this purpose be not denied.

Section 7. The Superintendent shall have authority to issue orders which shall be enforceable by the Public Works Department.

property lines to the public sewerage lines. This Act shall be, made in all cases where the public sewerage lines are not available. The Council shall have the authority to make such orders.

all such connections when made by private contractors.

Section 8. Violation of any provisions of this Act, or rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than fifty (\$50.00) Dollars.

Section 9. Should any section or sections or part of any section, or any single provision, or provisions of this Act be declared unconstitutional, illegal, or void, by any competent court it shall not affect the remaining provisions or sections or part of sections or sections, as the case may be, which shall remain in full force and effect.

All laws or ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Mr. Brown ----- absent
Mr. Carroll ----- yes
Mr. Chase ----- yes
Mr. Creque ----- yes
Mr. Erdine ----- yes
Mr. Harris ----- absent
Mr. Heywood ----- absent
Mr. Hodge ----- yes

Mr. James ----- yes
Mr. McFarlane ----- yes
Mr. Otley ----- yes
Mr. Pedro ----- yes
Mr. Rhymen ----- absent
Mr. Richards ----- yes
Mr. Collier ----- may
Mr. Sprague ----- yes

Bill No. 36

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

An Act to amend the School Law of the Virgin Islands,
Approved January 25, 1940.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. That Section 3, Chapter 10 of the School Law of the Virgin Islands, approved January 25, 1940, be amended to read as follows:

In the month of _____ the Department of Education, shall _____ children residing in the _____ age of _____ required _____ which _____ into _____

the Department of _____ children residing _____ are retained _____ with data and _____ school records _____ of the

Mr. Brown	absent
Mr. Carroll	yes
Mr. Chase	yes
Mr. Creque	absent
Mr. Gardine	yes
Mr. Harris	absent
Mr. Heywood	yes
Mr. Hodge	absent

Mr. James	yes
Mr. McFarlane	yes
Mr. Pelly	absent
Mr. Sedro	yes
Mr. Thymmer	yes
Mr. Richards	absent
Mr. Spilser	yes
Mr. Sprauve	yes

Bill No. 37

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

A Law to Provide for the Examination, Licensure and Regulation of Person to Practice Nursing; to Provide for the Board of Nurses Registration and Nursing Education; to Define the Powers and Duties of the Board, and also to Prescribe Penalties for Violation of the Provisions of this Law.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in Session assembled:

Short Title

Section 1. This Act may be cited, as the "Nursing Practice Act for the Virgin Islands."

Purpose

Section 2. In order to safeguard life and health, any person practicing, or offering to practice nursing, in the Virgin Islands, for compensation or personal profit, and hereafter be required to submit evidence that he is qualified to practice, and shall be licensed as provided. It is hereby enacted, that no person shall practice or offer to practice nursing in this Territory, or to any individual, institution, or person, or during the absence of a person who is practicing, nursing, unless such a person has been duly licensed and registered under the provisions of this Law.

Section

this act...

(3) "Law
Law"

and of the...

professional nursing who for compensation or personal profit performs any professional services requiring the application of principles of the biological, physical or social sciences and nursing skills in the care of the sick, in the prevention of disease or in the conservation of health.

(C) "Licensed Practical Nurse" means a person who for compensation or personal profit performs such duties as are required in the physical care of a convalescent, chronically ill, or aged or infirm patient and in carrying out such medical orders as prescribed by a licensed physician, requiring a knowledge of simple nursing procedures but not requiring the professional knowledge and skills required for professional nursing.

Section 4. (a) The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint a Board consisting of five members, who shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Provided, however, that the present members of the Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Examiners, holding office under the provisions of the "Law Regulating the Practice of Medicine and its Allied Sciences in the Virgin Islands of the United States", as amended January 8, 1945, shall serve as members of said Board until the expiration of their present terms of office. Two members shall be appointed for a term of one year and three members for a term of two years. Thereafter, in order to provide for continuity of service, two members and three members shall be appointed in alternate years for a term of two years each. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by appointment of the Governor subject to confirmation by the Legislative Assembly or the Board of Municipal Authorities, when the Assembly is not in session.

(b) The Governor may remove any member from the Board, for neglect and duty required by law, or for incompetency, immorality or dishonorable conduct.

(c) No person shall be appointed a member of the Board unless he or she is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Virgin Islands, is a registered nurse in the United States and has at least five years experience in nursing following graduation and has been employed in the field of nursing with two years of experience.

(d) Each member of the Board shall be sworn to the following oath of office before assuming office:

Duties and Powers of the Board

Section 5 (a). The Board shall meet annually and shall elect from its members a president and secretary - treasurer. It shall hold such other meetings as may be deemed necessary to transact its business. Three members of the Board, including one officer, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

(b) The Board is authorized to adopt and, from time to time, revise such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the law as may be necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this law. The Board shall prescribe curricula and standards for schools of nursing and courses preparing persons in the Virgin Islands for licensure under this law. It shall provide for surveys of such schools and courses at such time as it may deem necessary. It shall accredit such schools and courses as meet the requirements of this law and of the Board. It shall evaluate and approve courses for affiliation. It shall examine, renew the license of, duly qualified applicants. It shall conduct hearings upon charges calling for discipline of a licensee or revocation of a license. It shall have power to issue subpoenas, and to compel the attendance of witnesses, and administer oaths to persons giving testimony at hearings. It shall cause the prosecution of all persons violating this law and have power to incur such necessary expenses therefor. It shall keep a record of all the proceedings and make an annual report to the Governor. The Board may employ such qualified personnel as may be necessary to carry on its work, provided that such employment shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Law of the Virgin Islands subject to the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly is not in session.

(c) Each member of the Board shall receive, in addition to actual traveling expenses, \$9.00 per day or fraction thereof for each day actually engaged in the discharge of his or her official duties.

Registered Nurse

Section 6 (a) Any person desiring to be licensed for license to practice as a Registered Nurse shall submit to the Board written evidence verified by a physician or other duly qualified person that the applicant:

(1) Is

the United States or has intentions of becoming a

2. Is of good Character;
3. Is in good physical and mental health;
4. Has completed an approved four years high school course of study or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Department of Education and shall meet such other preliminary qualification requirements as the board may prescribe;
5. Has completed the basic professional curriculum in an accredited school of nursing and holds a diploma therefrom.

(b) The applicant shall be required to pass a written examination in such subjects as the board may determine. Each examination may be supplemented by an oral or practical examination. Upon successfully passing such examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice nursing as a Registered Nurse.

(c) The board will issue a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse without examination to an applicant who has been duly licensed as a registered nurse by examination under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country, if in the opinion of the board the applicant meets the qualifications required of a registered nurse in this territory.

(d) The applicant for license to practice as a registered nurse shall pay a fee of \$15.00 to the board.

(e) Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in the Virgin Islands shall have the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs or figures to indicate the person using the same is a registered nurse.

(f) Any person who holds a license or certificate of registration to practice nursing as a registered nurse issued by the board prior to or on or after December 31, 1953, shall thereafter be considered a registered nurse under the provisions of this law.

Section 2

Section 2 (a) in its
entirety shall be
repealed and the following
written: "The board shall

to the board
at the board

1. Is a citizen of the United States or has legally declared intentions of becoming one;
2. Is of good character;
3. Is in good physical and mental health;
4. Has completed the tenth grade or its equivalent, if under 25 years of age;
5. Has completed grammar school if over 25 years and such other preliminary requirements as the board may prescribe;
6. Has successfully completed the prescribed curriculum in an accredited school of practical nursing and holds a diploma therefrom.

(b) The applicant shall be required to pass a written examination in such subjects as the board may determine. Each written examination may be supplemented by an oral or practical examination. Upon successfully passing such examination, the board shall issue to the applicant a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse.

(c) The board may issue a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse without examination to any applicant who has been duly licensed or registered as a licensed practical nurse or a person entitled to perform similar services under a different title, under laws of another state, territory or foreign country, if in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets the requirements for a licensed practical nurse in the Virgin Islands.

(d) The applicant for license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall be required to pay a fee of \$10.00 to the board.

(e) Any person holding a license to practice as a practical nurse in the Virgin Islands shall have the right to use the title "licensed practical nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or other words, letters, signs or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a licensed practical nurse.

(f) ~~License~~ ~~by~~ ~~renewal~~ Application for license under this provision shall be made before July 1, 1954. The applicant shall submit to the board with said application --

1. Is a citizen of the United States or has legally declared intentions of becoming one;

2. Is of good character;
3. Is in good physical and mental health;
4. Is a resident of the Virgin Islands;
5. Has had at least one year of experience in nursing care of the sick in the Virgin Islands prior to January 1, 1954;
6. Has passed a state board examination.

Application must be endorsed by a physician licensed in the Virgin Islands who has personal knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and by two Registered Nurses who have supervised the applicant.

Renewal of License

Section 8. The license of every person licensed under the provisions of this Law shall be annually renewed, except as hereinafter provided. On or before April 1, the Board shall mail an application for renewal of license to every person to whom the license was issued or renewed during the current period. The applicant shall fill in the application blank and return it to the Board with a renewal fee of \$1.00 before May 1. Upon receipt of the application and the fee, the Board will verify the accuracy of the application, and issue to the applicant a certificate of renewal for the current period beginning May 1 and expiring June 30. Such certificate of renewal shall render the holder thereof a legal practitioner of nursing for the period stated on the certificate of renewal.

(b) Any license who allows his or her license to lapse by failing to renew the license as provided above may be re-admitted by the Board on application after expiration of the period of suspension. The Board may require the applicant to pass a written examination.

(c) Any person practicing nursing during the term of his or her license has expired shall be considered an unlicensed practitioner and shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of this Law.

(d) A nurse who has been suspended from the practice of nursing for a period of more than six months shall be required to pass a written examination before being re-admitted to the practice of nursing. The Board may require the applicant to pass a written examination before being re-admitted to the practice of nursing. The Board may require the applicant to pass a written examination before being re-admitted to the practice of nursing.

Disposition of Fees

Section 9. All fees received by the board and fines collected under this law shall be paid to the treasurer of the board. The treasurer shall place the money to the credit of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education Fund with the Finance Department of the Virgin Islands on a monthly basis. All amounts paid into this fund shall be held subject to the order of the Board to be used only for the purpose of this law and the duties imposed thereby, as well as the promotion of nursing education and standards of nursing care in the Virgin Islands through surveys, institutes, conferences and such other means as may result in improving nursing service in the Virgin Islands.

(b) All funds which may have accumulated to the credit of the board under the sections of the law which are now being repealed shall be continued for use by the board in the administration of this law.

(c) An annual appropriation of \$150.00 shall be made by each Municipal Council for the purpose of carrying out the functions of this law.

Schools of Nursing

Section 10. (a) Accreditation. The schools of nursing in the Virgin Islands in order to be accredited must meet and maintain qualifications listed in the rules and regulations set up and approved by the Board of Nurse Examiners of the Virgin Islands.

(b) Survey. Whenever deemed necessary by the board, it shall appoint a qualified person to survey all schools of nursing in the Virgin Islands. Written reports of such surveys shall be submitted to the Board. If the board determines that any school is not maintaining the standards required by the board policy in getting, keeping the facts and going to the school. A report which fails to correct these conditions to the satisfaction of the board within a year to correct these conditions to the satisfaction of the board shall be removed from the list of accredited schools of nursing.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Section 11. power to deny nursing and accorlance. people that

provision: The board shall have the power to deny, suspend, or revoke any license to practice nursing or to apply for a license under this law.

2. Is guilty of a felony or gross immorality;
3. Is unfit or incompetent by reason of negligence or other cause;
4. Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit forming drugs;
5. Is mentally incompetent;
6. Is guilty of unprofessional conduct;
7. Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this law;
8. Failed to complete citizenship, if licensed was granted on declaration of intention of becoming one.

(b) Proceedings: Upon filing a sworn complaint with the Board charging a person with having been guilty of any of the actions specified as a ground for disciplinary action, the Board shall have members investigate the charge with a notice of the hearing to be served on the accused at least ten (10) days prior thereto. The attendance of witnesses, production of evidence at the hearing may be compelled by subpoena issued by the board which shall be signed in accordance with law. The accused shall have the right to appear personally or by counsel or both to produce witnesses and evidence for his or her self. A complete stenographic record of all hearings shall be kept and shall be made available in case of appeals. Appeals from decisions of the Board may be made to the Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands.

(c) If the accused is found guilty of the charges the board may refuse to issue a license to the applicant or may revoke or suspend the license.

(d) A revoked or suspended license may be renewed after one (1) year in the discretion of the Board.

Violations of Law - Penalties

Section 12(a). It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to --

1. Sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish a diploma, license or record or use or assist therein;
2. Practice nursing or hold out as such under cover of any diploma, license or record fraudulently obtained, signed or used;
3. Practice nursing or hold out as such without being duly licensed or registered.

4. Practice nursing during the time his or her license is suspended, ~~except as here~~
5. Conduct a school of nursing unless the school has been accredited by the board;
6. Use with his or her name any designation to imply that he or she is duly licensed, so to practice as provided for in this law;
7. Otherwise violate any provisions of this law.

(b) Such misdemeanor shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or by imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or by both a fine and imprisonment.

(c) Courts of the Virgin Islands, within their respective jurisdiction, are hereby empowered to hear, try and determine such misdemeanor and to impose in such the punishment therein prescribed. In order to constitute a misdemeanor it shall be necessary to prove the commission of only a single act prohibited by law under this article.

(d) Such misdemeanor shall be prosecuted by the District Attorney, in the name of the people of the Virgin Islands, provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prevent or inhibit the proceedings by the District Attorney, after such proceedings have been initiated by him.

Exemption From Law

Section 13. No provision of this law shall be construed as prohibiting ---

1. An incidental care of one sick by another domestic servant or person in a private home as practiced as such in the home of the sick person within the meaning of the law.

2. Nursing assistance in the case of an accident.

3. The practice of nursing the student nurse in a hospital or other place of instruction in the course of a course of instruction in the practice of nursing as required by the law.

4. The practice of nursing the student nurse in a hospital or other place of instruction in the course of a course of instruction in the practice of nursing as required by the law.

5. The practice of a legally qualified nurse of another state who is employed by the United States Government or any Bureau, Division or agency thereof, while in the discharge of official duties.

Section 14. All Sections of the law regarding the practice of medicine and its allied science in the Virgin Islands that apply to the practice of nursing and nurse midwifery are hereby repealed.

Severability

Section 15. If any provision of this law or of any rule, regulation or order thereunder if the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of this law and the application of such provision of this law or of such rule, regulation or order to person or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 16. This law shall take effect January 1, 1954.

Mr. Brown	---	yes	Mr. James	---	yes
Mr. Carroll	---	absent	Mr. McFarlane	---	yes
Mr. Chase	---	yes	Mr. Otley	---	yes
Mr. Cline	---	yes	Mr. Peters	---	yes
Mr. Gardine	---	yes	Mr. Rhynes	---	yes
Mr. Harris	---	absent	Mr. Richards	---	yes
Mr. Heywood	---	yes	Mr. Cohen	---	yes
Mr. Hodge	---	yes	Mr. Sprave	---	absent

Bill No. 38.

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

Do act to regulate the practice of medicine and related science in the Virgin Islands.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. *[Faint, illegible text]*

other system of injuries, disease, pain or deformity, or to hold himself forth as a practitioner thereof or to assume the title of doctor for relative thereto, except as hereinafter set forth, provided, that this Act shall not apply to dentistry, or nursing.

Section 3. Any person desiring to practice any of the science covered by the preceding section shall first obtain a license to do so in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. For the purpose of administering the provisions hereof there are hereby created the Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners to be composed in the following manner:

For the practice of Medicine + Surgery ----- 3 M.D.'s
 For the practice of Pharmacy ----- 2 Pharmacists + 1 P.D.
 For the practice of Veterinary Medicine ----- 1 Veterinarian + 2 M.D.'s

Appointments to the Board must be in active practice in the Virgin Islands for at least one year prior to appointment. Appointments shall be made by the Governor, subject to the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly. The Virgin Islands Law term of four (4) years; provided, that in the initial appointment of members of the Board one shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and the third for a term of three years. Members shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified. Provided, that the Governor shall have the authority to fill vacancies with the advice and consent of the Assembly or to make interim appointments for the remainder of unexpired terms.

Section 5. The Board shall have authority to administer the provisions of this Act except as otherwise specifically provided, and shall without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, have the duty, power, and authority to:

(a) Adopt an official seal;

(b) To recommend the issuance, suspension or revocation of license hereunder.

(c) To determine whether any medical school is entitled to recognition under the provisions hereof, as a medical school of good standing.

(d) To adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations and by-laws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, in accordance with generally accepted medical standards, relating to the organization, functions of the Board, and the education of practitioners hereunder, and such other matters as may be necessary or proper for the purposes of this Act, which shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

the Virgin Islands who have been absent studying or practicing any of sciences covered by this Act.

Section 11. Candidates for admission to practice shall be required to attain a general average of 75% on the subjects examined on.

Section 12. In determining the qualifications necessary for registering as a qualified practitioner under the provisions of this Act, the Board of Medical Examiners may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Health, accept the certificate of the National Boards of Medical Examiners of the United States or any other National Boards related to the other sciences covered in this Act in lieu of and as an equivalent to their own professional examination. Every applicant for a license upon the basis of such certificate shall upon making application showing necessary qualifications as above set out be required to pay the same fee required of applicants who take the examination before the Boards, provided, further, that said boards may, under regulations or provision of their by-laws, admit without examination legally qualified practitioners of medicine or its allied subjects as covered by the provisions of this Act who hold certificates to practice in any State of the United States or the District of Columbia with equal education in all requirements of the Virgin Islands and may extend like privileges to legally qualified practitioners from the Virgin Islands upon the applicant paying the license certificate fee required hereunder.

Section 13. Fees for examination and license certificate shall be as follows:

	Examination	License Certificate
Physician Surgeons - - - - -	\$ 65.00	5.00
All Others - - - - -	50.00	5.00

All fees shall be paid in accordance with regulations issued by the Board or incorporated in their by-laws. Any person upon showing of proper jurisdiction or who failed to pass the required examination shall be admitted to re-examination without payment of further fee provided that the fee paid in advance for prior examinations shall not be returned to the applicant.

Section 14. The funds collected as examination or license certificate fees in accordance with this Act shall be deposited in the name of the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands and said funds shall be covered into a special fund to be known as the Medical Practice Fund and shall be paid out as required by the Commission of Finance of the Virgin Islands for the expenses of the Board.

Section 15. The Boards shall report their recommendations with respect to all applications to practice, including the results of all examinations, where such are required, to the Commissioner of Health who upon due consideration that all requirements have been met shall issue licenses to such qualifying the Applicant. Provided, that on the recommendations of the Boards the Commissioner of Health may issue temporary licenses to persons in the employ of the Government for a period not exceeding six months, and for which no fee shall be required.

Section 16. Persons who obtain licenses under the provisions of this Act shall within thirty (30) days after issuance register said license in the office of the Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands. Thereafter such licenses shall be annually registered as a condition to further practice upon payment at the office of the Commissioner of Health of fees hereinafter provided:

For the practice of Medicine, Surgery and Veterinary Medicine -- \$50.00
 For the practice of Pharmacy ----- 20.00

The Commissioner of Health, upon recommendation of the Boards of Medical Examiners, and subject to appeal to the Governor, may revoke or suspend the license to practice issued to any person hereunder who after due notice and hearing by the Boards shall have been found to be guilty of any unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, including habitual drunkenness, the drug habit or excessive use of narcotics, the producing of criminal abortion, or the soliciting of patronage by agents.

Section 17. The provisions of this Act shall not apply insofar as they relate to examinations and registrations of practitioners of the United States Army, Navy, Public Health Service or other Federal Agency with respect to the performance of any official duties.

Section 18. Any person who practices any system of medicine in the Virgin Islands of the United States without having first obtained the license prescribed herein or who shall violate any of the provisions hereof or any other law relating to the practice of medicine, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months or both a fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

Section 19. All laws inconsistent with the provisions hereof.

are inconsistent
 repealed.

Mr. Brown	yes
Mr. Carroll	absent
Mr. Chase	yes
Mr. Creque	absent
Mr. Girdine	yes
Mr. Harris	absent
Mr. Heywood	yes
Mr. Hodge	absent

Mr. James	not voting
Mr. McFarlane	yes
Mr. Otley	yes
Mr. Salvo	yes
Mr. Schoner	yes
Mr. Richards	yes
Mr. Carlson	absent
Mr. Spruance	absent

Bill 39

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

Act to Regulate the Practice of Dentistry in the Virgin Islands and for Other Purposes.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "Dental Practice Act of the Virgin Islands".

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to offer to practice dentistry in the Virgin Islands or to use any title, abbreviation, sign, card or device to indicate that such person is practicing dentistry, except as hereinafter set forth.

Section 3. Any person desiring to practice dentistry in the Virgin Islands shall first obtain a license to do so in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. As used in this law "practice of dentistry" means: any act, operation, or service which attempts or professes to perform, adjust, remove, treat, disfigure, construct, replace, directly or indirectly by any means or methods any impression, tooth, teeth, jaws, restoration, furnishings, replacements, artificial substitutes, bands, crowns, bridges, appliances, or any structural restoration in the human oral cavity or its contiguous parts accomplished for compensation, personal profit, or gratification.

Section 5. For the purpose of administering the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created the Virgin Islands Board of Dental Examiners. The Board shall be composed of three (3) duly qualified dentists, one of whom must be in active practice in the Virgin Islands. The Board shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Governor of the Virgin Islands for a term of four (4) years. The Board shall be organized and shall be subject to the following provisions:

of one year, one for a term of two years and the third for a term of three years. Members of the Board shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified; Provided, that the Governor shall have authority to fill vacancies, with the advice and consent of the Assembly, or to make interim appointments for the remainder of unexpired terms.

Section 6. The Board shall have authority to administer the provisions of this Act, except as otherwise specifically provided, and shall without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, have the duty, power and authority to:

- (a) Adopt an official seal.
- (b) To recommend the issuance, suspension, revocation or reinstatement of license hereunder.
- (c) To adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations and by-laws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, and in accordance with generally accepted dental standards, relating to the organization and operation of the Board, and the licensing and registration of dentists hereunder, upon finding that such are necessary for the furtherance of the provisions of this Act, which rules, regulations or by-laws shall be approved by the Commissioner of Health.

Section 7. The Board of Dental Examiners shall elect from its membership a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary, and shall in its by-laws define the duties of each officer; provided that members of the Board shall serve without compensation and provided further that in the case of travel between islands of the Virgin Islands, reimbursement shall be in accordance with Standard Travel Regulations in the Virgin Islands.

Section 8. Two members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, one of whom may constitute a supervisory Board for the Board shall have power to frame its own rules, and also shall have the right to employ counsel, to subpoena witnesses, and to administer oaths.

Section 9. The Board shall submit to the Governor of the Virgin Islands, through the Commissioner of Health, an annual report containing a summary of its work.

Section 10. The Board shall hold regular examinations twice a year in the Virgin Islands on the first Wednesday of June and November for admission to practice dentistry. All examinations shall cover all subjects as prescribed by the Board, which shall be adequate and sufficient for practice. The Board shall also hold examinations for the purpose of upgrading the qualifications of dentists.

qualifications to practice dentistry under this Act.

Section 11. Applications for license shall be sent to the Board and shall be accompanied by the prescribed examination fee and by satisfactory proof that the applicant is twenty-one years of age or over (birth certificate or similar evidence thereof), is of good moral character as shown by at least two letters from qualified dental practitioners in the state from where he comes, is not addicted to intemperate use of alcoholic stimulants or narcotic drugs, and is a graduate of an accredited grade "A" school of dentistry as approved by the American Dental Association; Provided, however, that this section shall not be construed to exclude any bona fide research worker, whether an alien or a citizen who does not practice for a fee and such workers shall not be required to pay the usual license fee nor to submit to an examination.

Section 12. Candidates for admission to practice shall be required to attain a general average of 75 per cent on the subjects examined on.

Section 13. In determining the qualifications necessary for registration as a qualified dentist under the provisions of this Act, the Board of Dental Examiners may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Health, accept the certificate of the National Board of Dental Examiners of the United States in lieu of and as an equivalent to its own professional examination. Every applicant for a license upon the basis of such certificate shall, upon making application showing necessary qualifications as above set out be required to pay the same fee required of applicants who take the examination before the Board; Provided, further, that said Board may, under regulation or provisions of its by-laws, admit without examination legally qualified dentists who hold certificates to practice dentistry in any state of the United States, territory or possession thereof or the District of Columbia, with equal education requirements of the Virgin Islands, and may extend like privileges to legally qualified dentists from the Virgin Islands upon the applicant paying the license certificate fee required hereunder.

Section 14. Fees for examination and license certificate shall be as follows:

Dentist

Examination
\$ 5.00

License
\$ 5.00

All fees shall be paid in accordance with regulations issued by the Board or incorporated in the by-laws. Any person, upon showing of proper identification, who fails to pay the required examination fee, shall be admitted to an examination without payment of further fee, but the fee paid in advance for such examination shall be returned to the applicant.

Section 15. Any person who is admitted to an examination without payment of the examination fee shall be considered as having failed the examination.

in the name of the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands and said funds shall be covered into a special fund to be designated "The Dental Institute Fund" and paid out on special warrant of the Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands for the expense of said Board.

Section 16. The Board shall report its recommendations with respects to all applications to practice, including the results of all examinations, where such are required, to the Commissioner of Health who upon due consideration that all requirements have been met shall issue licenses to each qualifying applicant; provided, that on the recommendation of the Board of Dental Examiners the Commissioner of Health may issue temporary licenses to persons in the employ of the Government, not to exceed six months, and for which no fee shall be required.

Section 17. Every person who obtains a license under the provisions of this Act, shall, within thirty (30) days after issuance, register the said license in the office of the Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands. Thereafter, such license shall be annually registered as a condition to further practice upon payment at the office of the Commissioner of Health of a fee of \$50. The Commissioner of Health, upon recommendation of the Board of Dental Examiners, and subject to appeal to the Governor may revoke or suspend the license to practice issued to any person hereunder who, after due notice and hearing by the Board, shall have been found to be guilty of any unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, including habitual drunkenness, or excessive use of narcotics, or the soliciting of patronage by agents.

Section 18. The provisions of this Act, insofar as they relate to examinations and registration of dentists, shall not apply to duly commissioned or appointed dentists of the United States Army, Navy, Public Health Service or other Federal agency with respect to the performance of any official duties.

Section 19. Any person who practices dentistry in the Virgin Islands of the United States not covered by this law without having first obtained the license described herein or who shall willfully violate any of the provisions hereof, or any rules and regulations issued hereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars or imprisonment not to exceed six months or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Section 20. All provisions of this Act inconsistent with the provisions hereby specified.

Mr. Brown	absent
Mr. Carroll	present
Mr. Paul	absent
Mr. Reed	present
Mr. Gardine	present
Mr. Harris	present
Mr. Cameron	present

Bill No. 42
 The Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin
 Islands of the United States.
 2nd Session 1952

An Act to Create the Office of the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be Established in the Nation's Capital.

Whereas, despite repeated and concerted efforts on the part of the People of the Virgin Islands, these islands are still without direct representation in the Nation's Capital; and,

Whereas, other territories of the United States are fully represented in the House of Representatives by either Resident Commissioners or Delegates; and,

Whereas, It is imperative that the People of the Virgin Islands have at least a representative in the Nation's Capital:

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. There is hereby created the office of the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be established in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of disseminating information about the Virgin Islands and obtaining the maximum Congressional good will and support necessary to improve and promote the political, social and economic conditions of the people of the said islands.

Section 2. The Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands shall be elected by the Legislative Assembly to serve for a term of two years. He shall be a citizen of the United States, at least twenty-five years of age, and shall have a knowledge of the history, economic and social development of the islands. He shall also be conversant with current public affairs in the Virgin Islands. He shall receive a salary of not more than \$15,000 per annum and an expense account of not more than \$10,000 to be appropriated on an equal basis by each Municipality.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Legislative Contact Representative to maintain an office in Washington, D.C. The Representative is hereby authorized to expend such funds for the proper operation of the office including entertainment in accordance with the laws of the Virgin Islands applicable to public financial transactions.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Representative to disseminate accurate information about the Virgin Islands which

will tend to promote the islands, politically, socially, and economically. He shall work under the direction of and in coordination with the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands. The Representative shall submit to the Legislative Assembly within 60 days after the close of each fiscal year a complete report on the status and progress of all his undertakings and activities. He shall also submit from time to time such other reports as may be required by the Legislative Assembly. In addition to his other duties the Representative shall make such representations on behalf of the Legislative Assembly as the Assembly may direct.

Mr. Brown ----- yes
 Mr. Carroll ----- absent
 Mr. Chase ----- absent
 Mr. Crewe ----- nay
 Mr. Darline ----- yes
 Mr. Harris ----- absent
 Mr. Heywood ----- yes
 Mr. Hodge ----- absent

Mr. James ----- absent
 Mr. MacFarlane ----- yes
 Mr. Otley ----- yes
 Mr. Peters ----- yes
 Mr. Rhynes ----- yes
 Mr. Richards ----- nay
 Mr. Solomon ----- yes
 Mr. Sprague ----- absent

Bill No. 44.

The Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

An Act to amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, Approved December 16, 1944, as amended:

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. Section 7 of the "Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands" approved December 16, 1944, as amended, is amended by the addition of the following:

5. Upon appeal to review and settle all disputes involving the allocation of positions in the District service.

Section 2. Section 12 is amended to read as follows:
 As promptly as practicable after the advent of a vacancy in a position, the District Commissioner shall, by a written order, appoint a person to fill the position. The person appointed shall be a person who is qualified for the position and who is a resident of the Virgin Islands. The District Commissioner shall, after consultation with the District Council, make such allocation of positions in the District service as he may deem appropriate. The District Commissioner shall, after consultation with the District Council, make such allocation of positions in the District service as he may deem appropriate. The District Commissioner shall, after consultation with the District Council, make such allocation of positions in the District service as he may deem appropriate.

Mr. Brown	yes	Mr. James	absent
Mr. Carroll	yes	Mr. McFarlane	yes
Mr. Chase	yes	Mr. Otley	yes
Mr. Cregue	yes	Mr. Pedro	yes
Mr. Gardine	yes	Mr. Symer	yes
Mr. Harris	absent	Mr. Edwards	absent
Mr. Heywood	yes	Mr. Sullivan	yes
Mr. Hodge	absent	Mr. Jerome	absent

Bill No. 46.

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

2nd Session 1952

An Act to Declare the First Friday of the Month of May of Each Year as Teachers' Day in the Virgin Islands and for other Purposes.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. Statement of Motives: The future of the Virgin Islands depends to a very great degree on the physical, moral, and cultural preparation which boys and girls are receiving and may hereafter receive at schools. Such arduous labor is entrusted to the teachers, who, with a spirit of abnegation and sacrifice, work earnestly to instill into juvenile minds the knowledge, habits, and precepts that are indispensable for a useful and efficiently assuming the responsibilities of citizens. The Legislative Assembly and the People of the Virgin Islands should recognize the useful, fruitful, and meritorious work of the Virgin Islands' teachers, by consecrating it through this Act which creates "Teachers' Day".

Section 2. It is hereby provided that from after the approval of this Act, the first Friday of the month of May of each year shall be observed as Teachers' Day throughout the Virgin Islands. On that day, preferential attention shall be given in the schools to the holding of all public acts and demonstrations which, as homage to school teachers, may be announced, as hereinafter provided.

Section 3. As soon as this Act takes effect, the Governor of the Virgin Islands, on occasion of Teachers' Day and at least fifteen (15) days in advance, shall promulgate through a proclamation that shall be announced in the press and by radio the date on which shall be rendered a tribute of admiration for the work of school teachers, and he shall recommend such public or private acts and demonstrations as he may deem fit to be carried out in celebration of Teachers' Day in the Virgin Islands.

Section 4. As soon as the proclamation of the Governor to which Section 3 of this act refers is published a committee to be known as "Committee for the Celebration of Teachers' Day," shall be organized and shall be in charge of managing and directing the acts, demonstrations and other public activities to be observed on Teachers' Day. In each Municipality the Superintendent of Education shall be Chairman of said Committee for the celebration of Teachers' Day. The Governor shall designate the other members who are to compose said committee, in accordance with the following order.

1. The Chairmen of the School Boards to be designated Vice Chairmen of the Committee
2. Six persons representing public opinion, who may also represent local institutions of an educational, cultural, and civic nature.

Section 5. The festival and all other acts which under this act may be held in the Virgin Islands on Teachers' Day in any year hereafter, shall be understood as homage and tribute of appreciation to --

- (A) all persons of both sexes who, having licenses from the Department of Education to act as teachers in the public and private schools of the Virgin Islands, are practicing as such on the date of the celebration of Teachers' Day, or who, being entitled to practice, are on leave.
- (b) all teachers of both sexes who have been retired in accordance with the laws of the Virgin Islands or who are enjoying a pension for physical disability contracted while they were teaching;
- (c) all officials and employees of the Department of Education of the Virgin Islands, including the Superintendent of Education who have practiced as teachers;
- (d) the deceased teachers who distinguished themselves during their apprenticeship by reason of their devotion as educators and mentors of youth; and,
- (e) the professors of American or foreign universities or colleges who are in the islands on some cultural mission or are guests of honor of any of our educational institutions.

Section 6. All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 7. This act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Mr. Brown	yes	Mr. James	absent
Mr. Carroll	yes	Mr. McFarlane	yes
Mr. Chase	yes	Mr. Otley	yes
Mr. Cregar	absent	Mr. Polio	yes
Mr. Gardine	yes	Mr. Symer	yes
Mr. Harris	absent	Mr. Richards	yes
Mr. Heywood	yes	Mr. Robson	yes
Mr. Hodge	absent	Mr. Sprague	absent

Resolution

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

1952

Extending the congratulations of the People of the Virgin Islands of Puerto Rico on the occasion of their celebration of "Commonwealth Day".

Whereas, On July 3, 1952, a new Constitution, approved in a Referendum by the People of Puerto Rico, was signed into Law by the President of the United States and,

Whereas, This glorious victory achieved by the People of Puerto Rico was won through the vigorous, intelligent and enlightened leadership of Governor Luis Muñoz Marín and his associates, whose ceaseless struggles and selfless devotion to the task of improving the social, economic and political life of the People of Puerto Rico is worthy of the highest commendation and,

Whereas, On July 25, 1952, public ceremonies will be held in Puerto Rico in celebration of "Commonwealth Day" and,

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands who are seeking the extension of a greater measure of self-government are greatly inspired and encouraged by the remarkable achievements made by the People of Puerto Rico and share with them their feeling of pride and joy in this most auspicious occasion.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, and it is hereby resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, that the People of the Virgin Islands of the United States of America, through their duly elected representatives, extend to the people of Puerto Rico their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on their success and by this expression do hereby join them in the celebration of "Commonwealth Day" and the attainment of the most distinctive political advancement in Puerto Rico's fifty-four years under the American flag and,

Be it further resolved, and it is hereby further resolved that this Resolution be given full and favorable consideration.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on behalf of the People of Puerto Rico. ---

Mr. Brown	yes	Mr. James	yes
Mr. Carroll	yes	Mr. McTulane	yes
Mr. Chase	yes	Mr. Otting	yes
Mr. Creque	absent	Mr. Pedro	absent
Mr. Sardino	yes	Mr. Pymmer	yes
Mr. Harris	yes	Mr. Richards	yes
Mr. Heywood	yes	Mr. Sollesen	yes
Mr. Hodge	absent	Mr. Sprance	absent

The following notes were taken for Great Hon. Carroll Leave of Absent while in the United States with Pay:

Mr. Brown	yes	Mr. James	yes
Mr. Carroll	yes	Mr. McTulane	yes
Mr. Chase	absent	Mr. Otting	yes
Mr. Creque	absent	Mr. Pedro	absent
Mr. Sardino	yes	Mr. Pymmer	absent
Mr. Harris	not voting	Mr. Richards	yes
Mr. Heywood	yes	Mr. Sollesen	yes
Mr. Hodge	yes	Mr. Sprance	absent

The following Bills were not taken up:

Bill No. 34.- An Act to Create an Economic Development Administration

Bill No. 45.- An Act Re-Insular Workmen's Compensation Act.

Bill No. 47.- An Act to Create and Establish the Department of Public Libraries of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

Bill No. 48.- A Revised Act to Establish the Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor.

The following Bill Rejected:

Bill No. 40.- An Act to Amend the Holiday Law.

The following bill was tabled:

Bill No. 43.- An Act to Create a Virgin Islands Food Production Administration.

After completion of the business before the House the Meeting was adjourned.

Adjourned at 7:10 P.M. August 8/52

James Brown
Chairman

Henry Richards
Secretary

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd Session 1952

The 3rd Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for 1952, commenced by Proclamation issued by the Governor for Saturday,

August 9, 1952, at 11:00 Clock A.M.

Chairman. Omar Brown - Presiding

Present were the following members:

Omar Brown
Eugene H. Canall
S. Christine Chan
Herbert H. Heywood
Cyprus A. Lardine
Walter F. M. Hodge
Aloysius A. James

Alma C. McManis
Earle B. Otting
Raymond A. Peters
Wynand Schyns
Henry V. Richards
Henry E. Sohlson
Julius E. Sprague

The Secretary Read the Governor's Proclamation concerning the special session of the Assembly to discuss the following

An Act to provide for the proper dispatch of the Work of the Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 49.

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd Session 1952

An Act to provide for the proper dispatch of the Work of the Legislative Assembly

Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. For the transcription and presentation to the Chairman of both House and Senate of the verbatim record of the proceedings of all public Legislative Assembly meetings of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, the transcriber shall be paid a fee of \$20.00 per thousand words transcribed. Provided, however, that the total cost shall not exceed \$100.00 per session. This price shall cover all expenses and two copies of said record.

Section 2. The regular employees of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and the Municipal Council of St. Croix may be required shall receive compensation for work performed for the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands while in session. Compensation shall be on a per diem basis and shall be at a rate equal to 90 per cent of the daily rate of pay received by the employee for regular services. No one shall the employee be required to be on a "leave status" from his regular employment in order to receive the compensation therein authorized.

Section 3. Ordinance of December 20, 1937 as amended, providing for compensation for the assistance and messengers of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and Bill No. 8 of the 13th Legislative Assembly to provide for the proper dispatch of the work of the Legislative Assembly are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This law shall be retroactive to July 2, 1952.

After the proper procedure was followed and the discussion took place, the motion was made, seconded and adopted by all members voting in favor; none against for the adoption of the Bill.

At this point the following salaried appointments were confirmed:

Mr. Arthur C. Bryan as Principal Accounting Clerk in the Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor, with pay at the rate of \$2250 per annum, effective on and after July 1, 1952.

It was then moved, seconded and adopted that the 3rd Session of the Assembly be adjourned.

Adjourned at 5:30 P.M. Saturday August 9, 1952

Joseph Brown
Chairman

Henry Richards
Secretary

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

4th Session 1952

The 4th Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for 1952 was convened in a Special Session in accordance with Identical Resolutions passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and the Municipal Council of St. Croix on September 18 and 19, 1952 for Friday September 26, 1952 at 11:20 A.M.

Chairman, Omar Brown - Presiding

The following members were present:

Omar Brown
Eric H. Carroll
L. Christensen
Lynne A. Larkins
Cecil E. Harris
Walter T. M. Hodge
Herbert H. Houghton

Aloysius G. Jones
Alma C. McFarlane
Earl B. Otley
Raymond A. Peters
Henry V. Richards
Kenny E. Robinson
(14 Present and 2 absent)

The Chairman of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John reported that Weymouth Palmer had to make an urgent trip to Saint John and Julius E. Greene was unable to obtain boat transportation from Cockle Bay, St. John.

The Chairman of St. Croix reported that all of his members were present and qualified to sit in the Assembly.

The two Resolutions were read by the Secretary, identical as follows:

Municipal Council
Eight Council - Saint Thomas
1952

Resolution concerning a Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas the Municipal Council of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix and in the best interest of the Islands to convene a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for the purpose of considering matters of great importance; and

Whereas, Section 2 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands authorizes a session of the Legislative Assembly by joint resolution of the Municipal Councils;

Now therefore, it is resolved, and it is hereby declared, that the Municipal Council of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix do hereby authorize the convening of a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for the purpose of considering matters of great importance;

Charlotte Amalie on September 26, 1952 at 11:00 o'clock, A.M. for consideration of the following:

Veto Message by the Governor re Bill No. 42 of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands "An Act to Create an Office of the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be Established in the Nation's Capital," enacted August 8, 1952.

Thus passed by the Municipal Council of St. Croix on September 18, 1952.

Witness our hands and the Seal of the Municipal Council of St. Croix this 18th day of September, A.D. 1952.

18/ L. Christian Chase
Chairman

18/ Cyrius A. Jordan
Secretary

The Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John amended its Resolution of September 19, 1952, concerning a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to include "an Act to Amend Law to Establish the Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor, approved May 16, 1952" which was passed on September 24, 1952.

Since the Municipal Council of St. Croix failed to pass a similar Resolution the Amendment to the Auditor Bill could not be taken up.

The Governor's veto message on Bill No. 42 of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands -- 2nd Session, an Act to Create the Office of Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be Established in the Nation's Capital, passed by the Assembly on August 8, 1952 was read in full by the Secretary.

September 3, 1952

The Honorable

The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly,
Charlotte Amalie,

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

A veto message, without comment, Bill No. 42 of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands -- 2nd Session, 1952, an Act to Create the Office of the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be Established in the Nation's Capital, passed by the Assembly on August 8, 1952.

This Bill amends the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to place the known as the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands whose name is known as the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands.

This bill specifically contravenes Section 2 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands which provides that:

"The Governor shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Municipal Council having jurisdiction, all salaried officers and employees of the Municipal governments whose salaries are provided for in the budgets of the Municipal Governments."

It also specifies the legislative powers vested in the Legislative Assembly in other sections of the Organic Act.

The position here sought to be created does not differ in legal significance from other so-called insular positions created by the Legislative Assembly, the salaries of which are paid from both municipal budgets. All such officers are officers of the two municipal governments and are required to be appointed by the Governor.

I am in favor of the creation by Congress of the position of Resident Commissioner, without his authority and prestige as a nonvoting member of the House of Representatives would, in my opinion, be inadequate and ineffectual, for example a Delegate or Resident Commissioner for territorial possessions when authorized by Congress, is a member of the important Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, as well as the Agricultural Committee, of the House of Representatives, thus, he participates in the formation of legislation for the territories. A representative appointed under local authority would not be in such a strategic position.

If the municipalities were self-supporting, no one would properly question the expenditure of \$25,000 for lobbying. However, in the face of recent action of the House of Representatives in passing a new Organic Act without the inclusion of the office of Resident Commissioner for the Virgin Islands and in view of continuing federal appropriations towards the support of the Municipal governments, I would seriously doubt the wisdom of this attempt to do by indirect what Congress has directly expressed shall not be done now.

On purely constitutional grounds alone, this bill is manifestly invalid and cannot be approved as it seeks to exercise an authority which was not conferred on the Legislative Assembly by the Congress of the United States. In my opinion, we should devote our energy to continuing efforts to convince Congress that we need a Resident Commissioner in Washington. The bill I know, without the possibility of immediate substantial benefits, would stand, rather than advance this objective.

Sincerely yours

W. Morris De Castro

W. Morris De Castro

Bill No. 42

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1952

An Act to Create the Office of the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be Established in the Nation's Capital.

Whereas, Despite repeated and concerted efforts on the part of the People of the Virgin Islands, these islands are still without direct representation in the Nation's Capital; and

Whereas, Other territories of the United States are fully represented in the House of Representatives by either Resident Commissioners or Delegates; and,

Whereas, It is imperative that the people of the Virgin Islands have at least a representative in the Nation's Capital.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. There is hereby created the Office of the Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands to be established in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of disseminating information about the Virgin Islands and obtaining the maximum congressional good will and support necessary to improve and promote the political, social and economic conditions of the people of the said islands.

Section 2. The Legislative Contact Representative of the Virgin Islands shall be elected by the Legislative Assembly to serve for a term of two years. He shall be a citizen of the United States, at least twenty-five years of age, and shall have knowledge of the history, economic and social development of the islands. He shall also be conversant with current public affairs in the Virgin Islands. He shall receive a salary of not more than \$15,000 per annum and an expense account of not more than \$1,000 to be appropriated on an equal basis by each territory.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Legislative Contact Representative to maintain an office in Washington D.C. He shall receive in each year a sum of money to be expended for the operation of the office, including entertainment in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Virgin Islands applicable to public financial transactions.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Representative to disseminate accurate information about the Virgin Islands.

which will tend to promote the islands politically, socially, and economically. He shall work under the direction of and in coordination with the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands. The Representative shall submit to the Legislative Assembly within 60 days after the close of each fiscal year, a complete report of the status and progress of all his undertakings and activities. He shall also submit from time to time such other reports as may be required by the Legislative Assembly. In addition to his other duties the Representative shall make such representation on behalf of the Legislative Assembly as the Assembly may direct.

Mr. Brown ----- yes
 Mr. Carroll ----- yes
 Mr. Chase ----- yes
 Mr. Creque ----- yes
 Mr. Gardine ----- yes
 Mr. Harris ----- yes
 Mr. Heywood ----- yes
 Mr. Hodge ----- yes

Mr. James ----- yes
 Mr. McFarlane ----- yes
 Mr. Otley ----- yes
 Mr. Adams ----- yes
 Mr. Bygner ----- absent
 Mr. Hansen ----- yes
 Mr. Sprague ----- absent
 Mr. Richards ----- yes

The assembly questioned current rumors which was circulated in the newspapers and on the streets that the position of Contact Representative was created for Mr. Fred L. Crawford. After a lengthy discussion on this matter, the assembly went on record stating that the position of Contact Representative was not created for any particular person.

The assembly then declared itself adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Adjourned at 1:50 P.M. Friday, September 26, 1952

Mr. Brown
 Chairman

Henry V. Gierke
 Secretary

Journal Entries

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

1st Session 1953

Held

February 16, 1953 to March 3, 1953

St. Thomas, V. I.

Pursuant to concurrent resolutions of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and the Municipal Council of St. Croix, adopted on January 29, 1953, as amended, The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands convened in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, in the Chamber of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and St. John, on February 16, 1953, at 10:00 o'clock.

Honorable Herbert H. Heywood, Acting Chairman, presided.

The following members were certified as eligible to sit and vote in the Legislative Assembly.

Ann E. Abramson, 2nd Member for Fredericksted Town
 John W. Benjamin, 2nd member for Christiansted Country
 Eric H. Carroll, 2nd member for Christiansted Town &
 Henry C. Creque, 2nd member at Large for St. Thomas
 John E. Dick, 1st member for Christiansted Country
 Joseph A. Gomez, 2nd member for St. Thomas Country
 Herbert H. Heywood, 1st member for Christiansted Town
 Walter J. M. Hodge, 1st member for Fredericksted Country
 Earle B. Little, 1st member St. Thomas Town
 Raymond L. Price, 2nd member for Fredericksted Country
 Admiral H. Price, 2nd member St. Thomas Town
 Wymouth Pymon, 1st member for St. Thomas Country
 Henry J. Richards, 1st member at Large for St. Thomas
 Charles E. Sanders, Member at Large for St. Croix
 Earl H. Wade, 1st member for Fredericksted Town
 John E. Wade, Member for St. John.

Admitted:

only as allowed.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I desire, on behalf of the Executive branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, to offer Congratulations to the newly elected Officers of the Legislative Assembly and to pledge the wholehearted cooperation of the branch of government which I represent to this, the highest Legislature of the Virgin Islands, in all measures which are calculated to improve the political, social and economic well being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

This is a special session of the Legislative Assembly, convened by concurrent resolutions of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and the Municipal Council of St. Croix with the agenda fixed as required by law by the two Municipal Councils. There are many important legislative items to be discussed and I express the hope that the ultimate good of all the people will guide and govern the deliberations of this Body in all these measures. I do not desire to comment at this time on any of these measures but I assure you that I shall be available at all times for discussion of these and any other matters which the Assembly may desire to discuss.

I shall also hope to embrace the opportunity of the presence here of members of the Legislatures of the Virgin Islands to discuss informally some of the problems of government which are insular in character and upon which the collaboration of both branches of the Government is necessary.

Just a little over a month ago I addressed both municipal councils at their 1952 organization sessions and I then reviewed the highlights of last year's accomplishments and set forth a number of goals for action of the Assembly. I attempt to restate these objectives but shall reserve such further review as may be necessary for the regular sessions of the Legislative Assembly which is required to be called by the Governor under the provisions of the Act.

In these and all our deliberations I ask for strength in the blessings of Almighty God. I thank you.

After completing election of officers the Assembly, pursuant to its Rules of Business and the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, proceeded with its business and appointed and/or elected the following committees and adopted the following bills:

Committee on Education

Raymond A. [unclear]
 Percival [unclear]
 Capt. W. [unclear]
 Carl B. [unclear]
 Walter D. [unclear]

Committee on Statute Code

Henry C. [unclear]
 Percy H. [unclear]
 Carl B. [unclear]
 [unclear]
 [unclear]

Committee on Public Works + Public Safety

John W. Benjamin
Eric H. Carball
Henry O. Crespe
Joseph A. James
Julius E. Germaine

Organic Act Committee

Joseph A. James
Weymouth Chymner
Henry O. Crespe
John W. Shick
Walter D. M. Hodge

Committee on Health + Welfare

Ann E. Abramson
Henry O. Richards
Henry E. Pohlson
John W. Shick
Weymouth Chymner

Citizen's Advisory Committee

The Governor or his Deputy
Charles E. Clarke
Almerie Christian
Joseph Alexander
Ray B. Gordon
Ralph Baricowsky
Chas Brown.

Committee on Finance + Expenditures

Earle B. Otley
Herbert H. Heywood
Eric H. Carball
Henry O. Crespe
Henry O. Richards

Walter D. M. Hodge, Chairman
Earle B. Otley, Vice Chairman
Raymond H. Catlin, Secretary
Henry O. Richards, Asst. Secretary

Resolution

The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

1st Session 1953

Do provide for the selection of a special Legislative Committee to hold hearings and public discussions on behalf of Organic Act for the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. A committee of five members, three of whom shall be from the Government, is hereby created to be elected by the Legislative Assembly from among its members to represent the Virgin Islands in the Congress, which has the honor and responsibility to organize the following functions:

- (A) To conduct hearings and programs of information throughout the Virgin Islands on the Draft of Organic Act of the Virgin Islands recommended by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to the Congress of the United States;
- (B) To hold discussions with, and obtain the views of, the Secretary of the Interior, the Governor of the Virgin Islands, the Insular Affairs Committee of Congress, and other responsible officials and groups on the amendments, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly for revision of the Organic Act;
- (C) To present the Draft of Organic Act prepared by the Legislative Assembly formally to Congress, and to appear and give testimony in the name of the Assembly and people at Congressional hearings whenever and wherever held;
- (D) To formally transmit said draft to the Secretary of the Interior, and to urge for his acceptance of said recommendations so that we may have full support of said department;
- (E) To enlist the active support of various organizations of Virgin Islanders in the United States in addition to other influential groups who are in sympathy with greater autonomy for territorial peoples;
- (F) To report its activities and accomplishment at each session of this Assembly;

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies on said committee, created in Section 1 hereof, the respective Municipal Council shall fill such vacancies from among the membership of the Municipal Council from which the vacancy or vacancies occur.

Section 3. Each Municipal Council shall appropriate the necessary funds to defray such travel expenses and subsistence as may be incurred by the delegates selected from that Municipality. Clerical help and other expenses incurred by the Committee shall be borne equally by both municipalities. If the members of the committee should travel to the United States to perform any of the duties herein enumerated, each member of the committee shall receive a per diem in lieu of subsistence at the rate of \$20 per day or any fraction thereof payable in advance and subject to the usual accounting upon return from the United States.

Section 4. (a) There shall be an advisory Citizens Committee to be composed of seven citizens who are not members of the Assembly to give necessary advice to the Legislative Organic Act Committee and to make suggestions and suggestions that the Organic Act Committee may deem necessary. This committee shall be selected by the Assembly. Provided that the Governor or his representative shall be a member of this Committee.

(c) In the event of a vacancy or vacancies on the said citizens committee, created in section 4(a) hereof, the respective Municipal Councils shall fill such vacancy or vacancies from among the citizens of the Municipality from which the vacancy or vacancies occur.

Abramsen, Ann C. (Mrs)	-----	yes
Benjamin, John Alfred	-----	yes
Carroll, Eric H.	-----	yes
Cramer, Henry O.	-----	yes
Ellis, John W.	-----	yes
Gomez, Joseph	-----	yes
Haywood, Herbert H.	-----	yes
Hodge, Walter D. Jr.	-----	yes
Ottley, Earl B.	-----	yes
Pedro, Raymond	-----	yes
Peter, Edward H.	-----	yes
Thymer, Weymouth	-----	absent
Richards, Harry V.	-----	yes
Solomon, Henry E.	-----	yes
Schade, Axel W.	-----	yes
Sproune, Julius E.	-----	yes

Resolution

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States
1st Session 1953

To authorize the Governor of the Virgin Islands to contract for Representative Services for the Virgin Islands in Washington D.C.

Whereas, the full development of the political, economic and social possibilities of the Virgin Islands demands a better understanding by the American people, including but not limited to the Congress of the United States of the problems of the people of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, this can be accomplished by placing before the Government and the American people of the United States, through a specialized agency, all information and data relating to all aspects of governmental and cultural life; and,

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands being aware of this condition considered that it should adopt all necessary measures to further this end.

Now, therefore, be it enacted, and it is hereby resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

1. The Governor of the Virgin Islands, shall with the approval of the Legislative Assembly, contract for the services of a person, firm or corporation in Washington, D.C. to act for and on behalf of the People of the Virgin Islands. Such person, firm or corporation, when directed by Resolution of the Legislative Assembly or by Concurrent resolution of the Municipal Councils shall conscientiously represent the best interests of the People of the Virgin Islands.

2. The person, firm or corporation contracted with shall furnish all persons interested in the commerce, industry, human and natural resources of the Islands the proper information tending to the economic development of the Virgin Islands and shall endeavor to promote the general welfare of the people.

3. The contract for said services shall not exceed the sum of \$15,000 per annum payable in monthly installments. Funds for the services to be covered under the contract shall be made available by both Municipal Councils on an equal basis.

Abramsan, John C. (Pres)	absent
Benjamin, John Alfred	yes
Caprall, Erick H.	yes
Cregue, Henry O.	yes
Black, John 2d	yes
Gomez, Joseph	absent
Haywood, Herbert H.	yes
Hodge, Whitford M.	yes
Ottley, Earl B.	yes
Edro, Raymond	yes
Reese, Percival H.	yes
Chapman, Seymour	yes
Richards, Henry U.	Abstaining
Cashen, Percy E.	absent
Schade, April 2d	yes
Sprague, Julius E.	yes

Bill No. 52

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

1st Session 1953

an act

To Provide for a Referendum on certain amendments to the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands is aware of the great interest which exists among the People of the Virgin Islands and its representative officials in such matters and elsewhere in a revision of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, The people of the Virgin Islands are giving increasing thought to the many basic reforms which may be incorporated in a revision of the Organic Act, and,

Whereas, The people of the Virgin Islands would desire that their views be taken into consideration by the President and the Congress of the United States in the matter of the revision of the Organic Act;

Now, therefore, in order that the sentiment of the people of the Virgin Islands with respect to certain basic reforms in the Organic Act may be known:

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. On April 30, 1953, which day is hereby designated as a special public Holiday to be known as "Referendum Day", there shall be submitted to the voters for an indication of their sentiment with respect thereto the following questions:

1. Do you favor the creation of a single Legislature for the Virgin Islands?
2. Do you favor the creation of a single Treasury for the Virgin Islands?
3. Do you favor the election of the Governor by the people of the Virgin Islands?
4. Do you favor a Resident Commissioner for the Virgin Islands of the United States?

Section 2. The Chairman of the Election Board in each Municipality shall prepare and have printed an official ballot which shall contain the above questions followed in each case by the words "yes" and "no". He shall also prepare and insofar as practicable the said official ballot shall be prepared and used in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Section 3. The manner of asking upon the questions submitted to the voters shall be the same as is now in use, may be required and provided by law; provided, that voters and the questions shall be conducted in a voting booth. The votes on the questions shall be counted, canvassed and returned.

Section 4. The Chairman of each Election Board shall proceed within five days after the determination, or canvass by the Election Board to notify the Legislative Assembly and the Governor of the Virgin Islands in writing as to the results of the voting on the questions, and the Governor shall forthwith issue a proclamation, giving the whole number of votes cast in each municipality in the Virgin Islands for and against each question, and copies of said proclamation shall be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to the Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and to the Secretary of the Interior. Said copies shall be accompanied by an appropriate statement, to be prepared by the Governor, reciting that the Congress and the President amend the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands in accordance with the voting of the People of the Virgin Islands on each question.

Section 5. The Governor is authorized to prepare and issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary, in order to carry out the purpose of, and not inconsistent with, this Act.

Abramson, Ann C. (Mrs.)	-----	yes
Benjamin, John Wilfred	-----	yes
Caball, Eric H.	-----	yes
Cresce, Henry O.	-----	yes
Dick, John W.	-----	yes
Gomez, Joseph	-----	yes
Hammond, Robert H.	-----	yes
Hodge, Walter S. M.	-----	yes
Little, Earle B.	-----	yes
Reeds, Raymond	-----	yes
Reese, Archival H.	-----	yes
Rhomer, Weymouth	-----	yes
Scherde, Henry V.	-----	yes
Splawn, Henry E.	-----	yes
Schade, April W.	-----	yes
Sprance, Julius E.	-----	yes

Resolution

The Senate and Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

1st Session 1953

Petitioning the President of the United States to appoint a qualified Native Virgin Islander as Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, the Virgin Islands became a possession of the United States by purchase from Denmark in the year 1917, and

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands, subsequently become citizens of the United States and have tried under a democratic form of Government and the Constitution of the United States during the last thirty five years; and consideration for greater autonomy for non-self governing territories is a principle of the United States Government; and,

Whereas, self-government has been the high hope and ideal of the people of the Virgin Islands during the last thirty four years and greater strides have been made in this direction; and,

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands have demonstrated a maturity that testifies to their ability to shoulder greater responsibilities in the conduct of their own governmental affairs and are therefore entitled to enjoy the fullest benefit of democracy; and,

Whereas, The appointment of a native Governor for the Virgin Islands by the President of the United States in March 1950, was viewed not only as a great political advancement but also as an expression of faith and confidence by the President in the capacity of the people to govern themselves; and.

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands through their elected representatives, desire to petition the President of the United States to continue the expression of faith and confidence exhibited by the Government of the United States for the policy of greater autonomy in Government for the People of the Virgin Islands by appointing a qualified native Virgin Islander as Governor of the Virgin Islands:

Know, therefore, Be it Enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in Session Assembled, that the President of the United States be and he is hereby petitioned to appoint a qualified native of the Virgin Islands as Governor of the Virgin of the United States; and,

Be it further resolved and it is hereby further
enacted by the President in assembly of the Virgin Islands that the
results of the visit to the Virgin Islands be communicated
to the Secretary of the Interior, the Senate Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs and the House Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs.

[illegible]

Reese, Percival H.	not voting
Thymer, Elymouth	absent
Richards, Henry D.	absent
Bohlson, Henry E.	yes
Schade, Axel W.	yes
Spranne, Julius E.	yes

Bill No. 53

The Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

1st Session 1953

An Act to amend Law to Establish the Office of the Virgin
Islands Auditor, Approved May 18, 1949.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
in session assembled:

Section 1. Section 2 of Law to "Establish the Office of the
Virgin Islands Auditor," approved May 18, 1949, is hereby amended
to read as follows:

The Governor shall appoint the Auditor and such
assistants and employees as may be required,
by and with the advice and consent of the
Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands. The
Auditor shall serve for a period of four years
and his salary shall be as provided for in the
separate municipal Councils shall authorize and
appropriate in their annual budgets the funds
necessary for the expenses, including salary, of
the Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor, on a basis of
a contribution of not less than 50% by each municipality.

Section 2. The Auditor's salary, as provided for in Section
1, shall be retroactive to July 1, 1952.

Abramson, Ann C. (Mrs.)	yes
Benjamin, John, Wilfred	yes
Cathall, Eric H.	yes
Cregue, Henry D.	yes
Black, John W.	yes
Borner, Joseph	yes
Haywood, Herbert H.	yes
Hodge, Walter W.	yes
Otley, Earl B.	yes
Redd, Raymond	yes
Reese, Percival H.	yes
Thymer, Elymouth	yes
Richards, Henry D.	yes
Bohlson, Henry E.	yes
Schade, Axel W.	yes
Spranne, Julius E.	yes

Bill No. 51

The Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

1st Session 1953

An Act to Amend Law "Regulating Banks and Banking in the Virgin Islands, Creating a Banking Board and Defining its Duties and for other Purposes."

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. That Legislative Assembly Bill No. 14, known as the Gordon Banking Law of the Virgin Islands be and is hereby amended as follows:

Section 2. That Section 31 be amended to be Section 32.

Section 3. That Section 32 be amended to be Section 33.

Section 4. That there be added a new section to the said bill, said section to be and the same is hereby designated Section 34 as follows:

Banks established and doing business in the Virgin Islands prior to June 16, 1949, are not required to meet the provisions of incorporation in this Act and the operating capital of the bank as of June 16, 1949 is deemed to have met the requirements of this Act with respect to subscribed capital.

Abramsen, Sam C. (Pres.)	yes
Benjamin, John Clifford	yes
Carroll, Eric H.	yes
Creevey, Henry D.	yes
Ellis, John W.	yes
Gomez, Joseph	yes
Heywood, Herbert H.	yes
Hodges, Walter D. M.	yes
Ottley, Charles B.	yes
Redbo, Raymond	yes
Reyes, Michael H.	yes
Shannon, Reginald	absent
Richards, Henry V.	not voting
Robinson, Herbert C.	yes
Schade, Arthur W.	yes
Spence, Julius, C.	yes

List of Appointments

Division of Personnel

Alfred Hyman as Clerk III in the Division of Personnel, with pay at the rate of \$1800.00 per annum, effective on and after January 1, 1953 until the return of Persadull, now on Military Detail.

Dorothy Abrahamson as Clerk - Typist II, with pay at the rate of \$1440.00 per annum, effective on and after September 3, 1952.

Thomas R. Blake as Personnel Technician, with pay at the rate of \$2400.00 per annum, effective on and after September 16, 1952, until the return of Victor Ebbesen, now on leave.

Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor

Arthur J. Hsieh as Account Clerk I (Clerical), with pay at the rate of \$1560.00 per annum, effective on and after September 16, 1952.

Acia F. Francis as Clerk - Stenographer III, with pay at the rate of \$2040 per annum, effective on and after September 16, 1952 and to terminate on August 31, 1953.

Insular Advisory Commission on Children and Youth

Mr. Cyprian Gordon, to serve for a period of 3 years.

Mrs. Lucinda Millin, to serve for a period of 3 years.

Mr. Frederick Esannason, to serve for a period of 3 years.

Mr. Frederick D. Jacoby, to serve for the unexpired term of Leonard C. F. Alderley to May 15, 1953.

The Reports of the Committee on Social Security and Interstate Cooperation were accepted.

After completion of the order of the day, the Legislative Assembly and the Island adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Walter L. M. Hodge
Chairman

Raymond Jones
Secretary

The third Session of the Seventeenth Legis-
lative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the
United States, held in Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands from May 11, to
May 20, 1953.

Pursuant to concurrent Resolutions of the
Municipal Council of St. Croix and the Municipal
Council of St. Thomas and St. John, adopted on
April 29, 1953, and May 4, 1953, respectively, the Legis-
lative Assembly of the Virgin Islands convened in
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, in the Chambers of the
Municipal Council of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
and St. John, on Monday, May 11, 1953, at 10:00 o'clock.

Chairman Walter L. M. Hodge presiding.

The following members were present:

Mrs. Ann Abramson
James Wilfred Benjamin
Eric H. Carroll
Henry O. Creque
John W. Flick
Joseph A. Gonen
Herbert H. Heywood
Walter L. M. Hodge

Earl B. Otter
Herival H. Reese
Weymouth Rhymer
Henry I. Richards
Henry E. Rohlfsen
Alex. W. Schade
Julius E. Sprauve

The Resolutions were read by the Secretary
identical as follows:

Resolution
The Ninth Municipal Council of St. Thomas
and St. John.

1953 - 1954
Convening a Session of the Legislative
Assembly of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas the Municipal Council of St. Thomas
and St. John deems it necessary and in the best
interest of the Republic to convene a session of the
Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for the
purpose of considering matters of great importance;
and,

Whereas, Section 7 of the Organic Act of
the Virgin Islands provides for the convening of the
Legislative Assembly by the resolutions of both
Municipal Councils:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John, That pursuant to Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands be, and it is hereby, convened in session at Charlotte Amalie, on Monday, May 11, 1953, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., for consideration of the following subject matters:

1. Report and Recommendation of Organic Act Committee on Revised Organic Act for the Virgin Islands.
2. An Act to Amend "Law Concerning Actions to Declare Void or Dissolve the Marriage Contract, and for other Purposes," approved December 29, 1944.

Thus passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John on May 4, 1953.

Witness our Hands and the Seal of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John this 4th Day of May, A.D., 1953.

1/ Joseph A. Homey
Chairman

1/ Earle B. Otley
Secretary

The following correspondence were read:

1. Letter dated March 9, 1953, to the Governor of the Virgin Islands from the Vice Chairman of the Legislative Assembly, asking the Governor to take steps to effectuate the provisions of Bill No. 10, 3rd Session 1951, approved November 30, 1951, regarding the coverage of certain employees under Social Security.

2. Letter dated March 17, 1953, to the Vice Chairman of the Legislative Assembly, from the Governor of the Virgin Islands, stating that he is quite willing to proceed accordingly, but before taking this action, he would appreciate confirmation from the Assembly to the fact that it recognizes that execution of an agreement to cover these employees under Social Security would completely foreclose the greater benefits for all employees for the future.

3. Letter dated April 22, 1953, to the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, from the Governor of the Virgin Islands, vetoing Bill No. 54 of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States, Second Session, 1953, An Act to Amend "Law Concerning Actions to Declare Void or Dissolve the Marriage Contract, and for other Purposes," approved December 29, 1944, passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands on March 27, 1953, stating that in his opinion that the Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly does not meet the legal objections raised by the opinion of the United States Circuit Court of the Appeals for the Third Circuit although it does seem to dispose of certain ethical objections.

The following appointments were confirmed:
Office of Virgin Islands Auditor:

Ernest Schultenbrandt Jr., as Messenger
Elsa D. O'Bryan, as Clerk-Stenographer.

The following Resolution was adopted in the form and by the votes indicated:

Resolution

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd session 1953

Expressing the Sincere Appreciation of the People of the Virgin Islands for the Genuine and Invaluable Services rendered in Behalf of the People of the Virgin Islands by the Honorable Omar Brown of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands of the United States have enjoyed significant developments in their Government and in the welfare of the Community, principally as a result of the legislative representation in the Municipal Councils and Legislative Assembly, and

Whereas The People of St. Thomas and St. John, Virgin Islands, have demonstrated their confidence by electing the Honorable Omar Brown to their Municipal Council and the Legislative Assembly for seven consecutive terms, constituting a period of fourteen years, during which he manifested his trustworthiness and ability, serving as Chairman of the Municipal Council, Chairman of the Municipal Committee, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Legislative Assembly, and the Honorable Omar Brown was also appointed by the Governor to represent the People of the Virgin Islands as a delegate to the Island of Jamaica; as well as demonstrating his invaluable and sincere services on numerous committees, boards, commissions, agencies, throughout the Virgin Islands of the United States, and,

Whereas, In appreciation of the cooperation and excellent teamwork demonstrated among his fellow colleagues the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John drafted and passed a Resolution petitioning the President of the United States, urging the appointment of the Honorable Omar Brown to serve in the Federal Government Secretary of the Virgin Islands:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved by the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, That the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands express the appreciation of the People of the Virgin Islands to the Honorable Omar Brown of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, for the sincere interest he has evinced and the excellent services he has rendered during the time he served as a Legislator in behalf of the People of the Virgin Islands, and,

Be It Further Resolved, and it is hereby further Resolved, that this Resolution, as hereby engrossed, be presented at a public ceremony to

the Honorable Omar Brown and that copies hereof be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, Senate and House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Abramson	yea
Mr. Benjamin	"
Mr. Carroll	"
Mr. Creque	"
Mr. Flick	"
Mr. Gomez	"
Mr. Heywood	"
Mr. Hodge	"
Mr. Otley	"
Mr. Pedro	"
Mr. Reese	"
Mr. Rhymes	absent
Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Rohlsen	"
Mr. Schade	"
Mr. Sprauve	"

The following bill was adopted in the form and by the votes indicated:

Bill No. 55

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd Session 1953

Act to Amend "Law Concerning Actions to Declare Void or Dissolve the Marriage Contract, and for other Purposes," Approved December 29, 1944.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. Section 9 of "Law Concerning Actions to Declare Void or Dissolve the Marriage Contract, and for other Purposes," approved December 29, 1944, is amended by addition of the following sub-section:

(a) notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1 and 4 hereof, if the plaintiff is of the district

at the time of the filing of the complaint and has been continuously for six weeks immediately prior thereto, this shall be prima facie evidence of domicile, and where the defendant has been personally served within the district or enters a general appearance in the action, then the Court shall have jurisdiction of the action and of the parties thereto without further reference to domicile or to the place where the marriage was solemnized or the cause of action arose.

Section 2. The following section is hereby added to said "Law Concerning Actions to Declare Void or Dissolve the Marriage Contract, and for other purposes," Approved December 29, 1944:

Should any section of this law or part thereof be declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction said declaration shall not invalidate the remainder of this law.

Mr. Abramson	Yea
Mr. Benjamin	"
Mr. Creque	"
Mr. Flick	"
Mr. Gomez	"
Mr. Greenwood	"
Mr. Hodge	"
Mr. Olley	"
Mr. Pedro	"
Mr. Reese	"
Mr. Rymer	absent
Mr. Richards	Yea
Mr. Rohrer	"
Mr. Schade	"
Mr. Sprague	"

The Organic Act Committee submitted a draft of Organic Act for consideration of the Assembly instead of a written report. The draft of Organic Act was read and accepted by the majority.

The meeting was declared adjourned
at 4:05 p.m. on May 20, 1953.

Walter J. M. Hodge
Chairman

Raymond A. Pedro
Secretary

The Fourth Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States, held in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands from May 28, 1953 to June 1, 1953.

The Fourth Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for 1953, called by the Governor by Proclamation was convened on Thursday, May 28, 1953 at 11:00 A.M.

Walter I. M. Hodge - Presiding

The following members were present:

Mr. Benjamin
Mr. Carroll
Mr. Creque
Mr. Flick
Mr. Horney
Mr. Heywood
Mr. Hodge
Mr. Ottley
Mr. Pedro
Mr. Reese
Mr. Richards
Mr. Sprauve

The following Proclamation was read:

Proclamation
Convening the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands

I, Morris F. de Castro, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, do hereby convene a special session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to be held at the Municipal Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 1953, for consideration of the following subject matter:

- (1) An Act to Provide for Reorganization of the Accounting System and

related procedures of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

- (2) An Act to Amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved December 16, 1946.
- (3) An Act to Establish the Pay Periods of Officials and Employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and of the Municipal Governments.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this twentieth day of May, A. D., 1953.

/s/ Morris F. de Castro
Morris F. de Castro
Governor.

By Governor:
s/ Daniel W. Ambrose
Daniel W. Ambrose
Government Secretary.

(Seal)

Mr. Heywood, stated for the benefit of the records that members Schade, Abramson and Rohlsen from St. Croix were unavoidably absent.

The Governor then addressed the Assembly thus:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Assembly, I have no formal message at this time because I believe that the bills before you speak for themselves.

First, I would like to say that I appreciate the fact that the members are meeting so soon after the last session because I know they had an arduous task.

This session was called because it was found necessary because of the urgent necessity of providing by legislation some of the means, means, some of the legal implements we can proceed to reorganize our system. Let me

say that about two or three years ago, I requested the General Accounting Office to undertake on-the-spot audits of the accounts of the Government of the Virgin Islands rather than Washington audits as in the past in order to save time.

There has been prepared several documents which are to be used in modifying our system. All our accounts, Federal and Municipal Funds, have been placed on a complete new modern system of municipal accounting. We have agreed to that procedure because it costs us nothing and we are having the benefit of experts by the Department of the Interior and the General Accounting Office. As one gentleman said the other day, when you are through setting up the system and you are able to keep it up to date you will be glad if and when we have to be converted in a new political status.

The accounts are separate and will continue to be separate, and can be put together without any serious problems. To do that type of work, however, it needs the cooperation of the Executive and the legislative branches of the Government.

A single item in our Merit System Law has been pointed out but there are certain other provisions which have been found to be archaic. We are amending the Personnel Merit System Law to eliminate what now amounts to a physical examination by the Director of Personnel of each payroll. This amendment requires an act of the Assembly.

Let me make it clear that no one intends to disturb the Trust Funds or other funds set up for special programs. We have about 60 to 70 bank accounts which have been established over a period of time. Under the legislation which has been proposed, the Governor will have authority to put them together and consolidate these funds. We are setting up a double entry system by which we will be able to

tell which agency owns which funds.

I have prepared with the guidance of these experts from the Department of the Interior and the General Accounting Office three bills. These bills I know will be amended by the Assembly, but I suggest that in amending these bills that you keep in mind the main principle, and that principle is to give the Governor the Authority to proceed with this reorganization of our accounting system and purchasing system such as it is stated in the bill. It is necessary to act rapidly on this because if we are doing away with the time-consuming we now have.

It is planned to issue executive orders as we go along in order to improve what we have, and the councils will have the right to approve or disapprove these executive orders. If the councils do not like what the orders prescribe they will call us in and discuss the entire matter. The bill also authorizes us to issue manuals, classification plans and so on and authority is also given for us to consolidate the funds where necessary other than the trust funds. I hope that the honorable gentlemen will be able to bring out a bill in form somewhat similar to this.

The other bill concerns the pay periods for our employees. The question of staggering pay periods might cause the most discussions because I have heard some of the arguments already. The objective is a worthy one. How we approach it might well be discussed back and forth.

I understand that since these bills have been written there are some slight amendments which will be made. I will ask the Assembly to have these bills presented to the Committee of the Whole and to have these gentlemen present for discussions. We have with us Mr. Allay from the Department of the Interior and Mr. Gordon from the General Accounting Office. We have expert assistance. Mr. Allay has to leave next week but I am asking to have another man brought down here in order to train our personnel.

Mr. Gordon will stay with us for another month.

At this moment -- an entirely unexpected development -- we have with us Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Orme Lewis, who is leaving today but, when he heard that I was coming before the Legislative Assembly he expressed his desire to accompany me and meet the members informally.

[At this point the Assistant Secretary was presented to the members. Mr. Lewis spoke briefly, expressing joy to be with the members since he at one time served in the legislature. He expressed the desire to answer any question which the members might wish to proffer now or in any communication addressed to his office.]

The following bills were adopted following discussion & amendments:

Bill No. 56

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands
of the United States

4th. Session 1953

An Act to Amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, Approved December 16, 1946, as amended.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

The Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved December 16, 1946, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (5) of section 2 of said Law is hereby amended as follows:

"Department head" means the administrative head of any executive department, agency, division, or other separate branch of the Government service.

Section 2. Paragraph 2b. of said Law

is hereby amended as follows: In the Division of Personnel there shall be a Board of Personnel of three members, no two of whom shall be adherents of the same party, with powers and duties hereinafter enumerated.

Section 3. Section 4 of said law is amended as follows: The Governor shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, appoint the Director of Personnel, who shall serve for a period of four years.

Section 4. Subsection 6 (b) of said law is hereby amended as follows: One member of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Municipal Council of St. Louis. One member of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly or both Municipal Councils if the Assembly is not in session. Each member of the Board shall hold office for a term of two years.

Section 5. The first paragraph of section 8 of said law is hereby amended as follows: The Director shall prepare such rules as he may consider necessary, appropriate or desirable to carry out the provisions of this act and may from time to time recommend amendments thereto. When such rules or amendments are recommended by the Director he shall hold a public hearing and shall consider such suggestions for modifications or other changes as may be presented at such hearing. The rules or amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Board, and shall be submitted to the Governor who shall have the power to approve or reject the recommendations.

Section 6. Paragraph numbered (1) of section 9 (b) of said law is hereby amended as follows: All department heads and other officials who perform independent functions, or who are responsible for the formulation of policy, as the board may from time to time determine.

Section 7. Subsection 9(b) of said law is amended by the addition of the following paragraph(7): Officials and Employees of the Legislative Branch.

Section 8. Section 17 of said law is hereby amended as follows: Admission to tests shall be open to all persons who are desirous of sitting the examination in accordance with specified regulations issued by the Director with the approval of the Governor. The Director may, however, reject the application of any person for admission to a test or may remove the name of any person from the list or refuse to certify the name of any person from a list for a position if he finds that such person lacks any of the required qualifications. Provided: That any person refused admission to any test because of prejudice shall have the right of appeal before the board hereinafter created, and upon certification of the board that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications, the board shall order that the applicant be permitted to take a test and if found eligible his name shall be placed on the list. The Director may also reject any applicant who is found physically unfit to perform effectively the duties of the position in which he seeks employment or is addicted to the habitual excessive use of drugs or intoxicating liquor, or has been convicted of a crime or guilty of any notoriously disgraceful conduct, or has been dismissed from the public service or has made a false statement of material fact or practiced or attempted to practice any fraud or deception in his application or test or in attempting to secure appointment. Any rejected applicant shall have the right to appeal the Director's decision to the board whose decision shall be final.

Section 9. Sub Section 24 (a) of said law is hereby amended to read as follows: No government purchasing or auditing officer shall make, approve or take any part in making or approving any payment for any service to any person holding a position in the

Government Service, unless the disbursing or auditing officer has in his possession a personnel action certified to by the Director or his authorized agent that the person named therein has been appointed and employed in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules, regulations, and orders hereunder.

Section 10. Sub-section 24 (d) of said law is hereby repealed.

Section 11. Section 25 of said law is hereby amended as follows: A department head may recommend the dismissal of any regular employee in his department when he considers that the good of the service will be served thereby. The department head shall give to the employee a written statement of the reason for the dismissal and file a copy of such statement with the director. The employee shall have an opportunity to file with the department head a written statement regarding the dismissal, a copy of which shall be filed with the director. The director shall recommend to the appointing authority the action he deems advisable, and such dismissal shall become effective if approved by the appointing authority. Any employee who is dismissed shall have the right of appeal to the Board provided under section 26 of this Act. If the board determines that the employee was dismissed for political, racial, religious or personal reasons, or without just cause, the employee shall be reinstated to his former position.

Section 12. The first and original paragraphs of section 26 of said law is hereby amended as follows: Any regular employee who is dismissed, demoted or suspended may appeal to the Board within thirty days after such action is taken. Upon appeal the department head's action is being reviewed by the Board, the employee, and the Government representative, and the right to be

heard publicly and to present evidence. At the hearings of such appeals, technical rules or evidence shall not apply. The decision of the Board shall be final. Such decision shall not be reviewable by any court. If such final action is in favor of the employee he shall be reinstated to his former position with full payment of any salary or wages lost by him. Any employee dismissed without prejudice shall be placed on a re-employment list. Any employee who is discharged with prejudice shall not be eligible for appointment to any position in the government service for a period to be determined by the Director, not exceeding one year.

Mrs. Abramson	absent
Mr. Benjamin	yea
Mr. Carol	yea
Mr. Crique	absent
Mr. Flick	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea
Mr. Hodge	yea
Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Pedro	yea
Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Rhymor	absent
Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Gohlson	absent
Mr. Schack	absent
Mr. Sprauve	yea

Bill No. 57

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

4th Session 1953

An Act to Establish the Pay Periods for Officials and Employees of the Executive Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and of the Municipal Governments.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. That the Minister of Finance of the Virgin Islands is hereby authorized and

Information Transferred on
Canal.

February 27, 1976

Violet Lockhart

directed to pay all salaries of all officials and employees of the Executive branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands and of the Municipal Governments on the basis of 2080 hours per year,

Information Transferred on
Card.

February 27, 1976

Violet Lockhart

Mr. Richards yea
 Mr. Rohlsen absent
 Mr. Schade absent
 Mr. Sprauve yea

Bill No. 58

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

4th Session 1953.

An Act to Provide for Reorganization of the Accounting System and Related Procedures of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

— 0 —

Whereas, The Comptroller General of the United States, the Department of the Interior, and the Government of the Virgin Islands, are engaged in a cooperative project for revision and modernization of the accounting system and related procedures of the Government of the Virgin Islands, the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John, the Municipality of St. Croix, and all agencies, authorities, commissions, boards and instrumentalities thereof; and,

Whereas, The modernization of the said accounting system and related procedures, to become effective from and after July 1, 1953, requires prompt and effective action for necessary procedural changes, for reducing the number and categories of special funds, and for simplification of accounting, payrolling, disbursing and purchasing procedures;

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session Assembled:

Section 1. The Governor of the Virgin Islands he and he is hereby authorized to issue Executive Orders, subject to the approval of the Municipal Councils, as provided in section 3 of this Act, reorganizing and modernizing the accounting system and related accounting procedures, including specifically payrolling, disbursing and purchasing procedures of the Government of the Virgin Islands, the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John, the Municipality of St. Croix, and all agencies, authorities, commissions

boards and instrumentalities thereof.

Section 2. The Governor may issue executive orders to combine and consolidate special funds and other public funds (other than trust funds) as may be found necessary to promote the purposes of reorganization, modernization and simplification of the accounting system and he may issue, from time to time, such orders, manuals of procedures, and other directives as may be necessary and requisite to provide compliance with the elements of the new accounting system, including payrolling, disbursing, purchasing and related procedures. The Governor may also transfer special funds to the respective municipal budgets where, in his judgement, such action is necessary to promote proper budgetary policy and more effective and adequate control by the respective municipal councils.

Section 3. Any executive order promulgated by the Governor under the authority of this Act shall become effective, and have the force of law immediately upon approval or if, within 15 days after its submission to the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and to the Municipal Council of St. Croix, in the cases of funds created by the Legislative Assembly; or to the respective Municipal Council in the cases of funds created by such Council, it shall not have been disapproved by either Municipal Council or by the separate Municipal Council as herein indicated.

Section 4. All laws or ordinances and parts of laws or ordinances in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

Mr. Abramson absent	Mr. Atty yea
Mr. Benjamin yea	Mr. Gales yea
Mr. Carroll yea	Mr. Reese yea
Mr. Cregue absent	Mr. Rhymes absent
Mr. Flick yea	Mr. Richards yea
Mr. Gomey yea	Mr. Rohlsen absent
Mr. Hayward yea	Mr. Schade absent
Mr. Rodge yea	Mr. Lawrence yea

Having completed the business, the
Chairman declared the Legislative Assembly
of the Virgin Islands adjourned.

Adjourned at 3:35 p. m.

Walter J. M. Hodge
Chairman

Raymond A. Pedro
Secretary

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of
the Virgin Islands of the United States
5th Session 1953

Held

October 12, 1953 to December 3, 1953

St. Thomas, V.I.

The 5th Session of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for 1953, called by the Governor by Proclamation was convened on Monday, October 12, 1953, at 11:00 A. M.

Honorable Walter J. M. Hodge, Presiding.

The following members were certified as eligibles to sit and vote in the Legislative Assembly.

Ann E. Abramson, 2nd Member for Frederiksted Town
John W. Benjamin, 2nd Member for Christiansted County
Eric H. Carroll, 2nd Member for Christiansted Town
Henry O. Creque, 2nd Member at Large for St. Thomas
John W. Flick, 1st Member for Christiansted County
Joseph A. Gomez, 2nd Member for St. Thomas County
Herbert H. Heywood, 1st Member for Christiansted Town
Walter J. M. Hodge, 1st Member for Frederiksted County
Earle B. Otley, 1st Member for St. Thomas Town
Raymond A. Pado, 2nd Member for Frederiksted County
Gervail H. Reese, 2nd Member for St. Thomas Town
Weymouth Rhymes, 1st Member for St. Thomas County
Henry V. Richards, 1st Member at Large for St. Thomas
Henry E. Rohlsen, Member at Large for St. John
Agel W. Schade, 1st Member for Frederiksted Town
Julius E. Sprau, Member for St. John.

The following Proclamation and correspondence were read.

The Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

St. John's, St. Thomas.

The Governor of the Virgin Islands

Proclamation, 1953, for the Virgin Islands.

I, Morris F. de Castro, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by Section 7 of the Organic Act by the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, do hereby convene a Special Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to be held at the Municipal Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at 11:00 A.M., Monday, October 12, 1953, for consideration of the following subject matter:

1. Law Concerning Public Contracts in the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Weymouth Rhysmer, Hon. Henry E. Rohlson, and Hon. John F. Lick.)
2. Revised Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Earle B. Otley, Hon. Herbert H. Heywood, Hon. Julius Sprauve, and Hon. Eric Carroll.)
3. A revised Act creating the Virgin Islands Planning Board, Establishing and Defining its Duties and Powers, and for other Purposes. (Sponsored by Hon. Axel Schade, Hon. Joseph Gomez, and Hon. John W. Benjamin.)
4. Law to Provide for Officials and Employees of the Insular Government of the Virgin Islands and all Political Subdivisions thereof to Participate in and Receive Benefits of the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Provisions of the Federal Social Security Act. (53 Stat. 1973). (Sponsored by Hon. Joseph Gomez and Hon. Axel Schade.)
5. An Act to Amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved December 16, 1946. (Sponsored by Hon. Earle B. Otley, and Hon. Herbert H. Heywood.)
6. An Act to Amend an Act of June 16, 1949, Regulating Banks and Banking in the Virgin Islands, creating a Banking Board and Defining its Duties. (Sponsored by Hon. Henry E. Rohlson and Hon. Joseph Gomez.)
7. An Act to Create and Establish an Insular Agency for Surplus Property, and for other Purposes. (Sponsored by Hon. John W. Benjamin and Hon. Weymouth Rhysmer.)

8. An Act to Regulate the Practice of Engineering in the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes. (Sponsored by Hon. Weymouth Rhymes, Hon. Joseph Gomez, and Hon. Henry E. Rohlen.)
9. An Act concerning the Appointment and Private Practice of the Police Judges in the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Eric Carroll and Julius Sprauve.)
10. An Act to Create and Establish an Insular Department of Public Safety. (Sponsored by Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge and Hon. Percival Reese.)
11. An Act to Amend an Act of September 13, 1952, to Regulate Sewage Disposal, connection with the Public Sewerage System, and for other purposes. (Sponsored by Hon. Ann E. Abramson, Hon. Percival Reese, and Hon. Joseph Gomez.)
12. An Act to Levy an Insular Real Property Tax and for other purposes. (Sponsored by Hon. Weymouth Rhymes.)
13. An Act to Levy uniform Excise Taxes, and for other purposes. (Sponsored by Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge, Hon. Weymouth Rhymes, Hon. John M. Benjamin, Hon. Joseph Gomez, and Hon. Percival Reese.)
14. An Act to Establish a Minimum Wage and Maximum Hours Standards Law for the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Carl B. Otley and Hon. Herbert H. Heywood.)
15. An Act to Establish a Work Day in the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Carl B. Otley and Hon. Herbert H. Heywood.)
16. An Act to Establish a Virgin Islands Flag Commission. (Sponsored by Hon. Carl B. Otley, Hon. Eric H. Carroll and Hon. John M. Benjamin.)
17. An Act to Amend an Act creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, Establishing and Defining its Powers and Duties, Establishing the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Fund, and for other purposes, approved September 13, 1950. (Sponsored by Hon. Carl B. Otley, Hon. Henry E. Rohlen and Hon. John M. Glick.)

- 18 An Act to Regulate the Sale of Land and the Land Development in the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Weymouth Rhymes, Hon. Walter I. M. Hodge, Hon. Joseph Gomez, and Hon. Axel Schode.)
- 19 An Act to Establish a Rent Control Law for the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Herbert H. Heywood, Hon. John M. Benjamin, Hon. Ann E. Abramson, Eric H. Carroll, Hon. Earle B. Otley, and Hon. Joseph Gomez.)
- 20 An Act to Amend an Act to Provide Compensation for Members of the Legislative Assembly, approved September 19, 1950. (Sponsored by Hon. Henry E. Rophen, Hon. Joseph Gomez, and Hon. Weymouth Rhymes.)
- 21 A Uniform Legislative Compensation Act for the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Walter I. M. Hodge, Hon. Eric H. Carroll, Hon. Julius Sprague and Hon. John M. Benjamin.)
- 22 Resolution of Appreciation to the Ford Foundation. (Sponsored by Hon. Henry E. Rophen, Hon. Ann E. Abramson, and Hon. Joseph Gomez.)
- 23 An Act to Provide a Uniform Law for the Registration of Vital Statistics in the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Joseph A. Gomez.)
- 24 An Act to Amend Law to Establish a Building Code for the Virgin Islands. (Sponsored by Hon. Henry C. Breque.)
- 25 An Act to Amend "The School Law of the Virgin Islands," approved January 24, 1940, as amended. (Proposed by Earle B. Otley.)
- 26 An Act to Amend "A Law to Create a Public Body Corporate, and Politic to be known as the Virgin Islands Housing and Redevelopment Authority and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1950. (Proposed by Weymouth Rhymes.)
- 27 An Act to Amend "An Act of September 13, 1952, to Regulate the Practice of Medicine and Related Science in the Virgin Islands."
- 28 An Act to Establish the Department of Labor and Agriculture, (Proposed by Earle B. Otley, Hon. Herbert H. Heywood, Hon. Percival H. Reese and Hon. Weymouth Rhymes.)

29. Resolution to Provide for a joint committee to study and recommend Legislation Beneficial to the Virgin Islands Veterans.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, this 27th Day of August, A.D. 1953.

/s/ Morris H. de Castro
Morris H. de Castro
Governor of the Virgin Islands.

(As Amended on September 2, 15, 29 and October 5, 1953.)

Government of
the Virgin Islands of the United States

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

June 1, 1953

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to Section 2 of Bill No. 4 of the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands The 1949 Youth Service Act, I have today issued ad-interim appointments to the following persons to serve as members of the Insular Advisory Commission on Children and Youth:

Miss Clarice Bryan reappointed to serve for a term of three years.

Revd. Fredrick D. Jacobi reappointed to serve for a term of three (3) years.

I request the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to these appointments at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Morris H. de Castro
Morris H. de Castro

Government House
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas
Virgin Islands of the United States.

July 1, 1953

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Christiansted
St. Croix, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I return herewith, without approval, Bill No. 37, the Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States, Thirtieth Session, 1953. An Act to Establish the Pay Period for Officials and Employees of the Executive Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and of the Municipal Governments, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands on June 1 and presented to me on June 4, 1953 for executive action.

This bill purports to authorize the payment of salaries to officials and employees of the Executive Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands and of the Municipal Governments on a biweekly basis, and to allow a sufficient period of time between the end of each pay period, to permit pre-audit, payroll preparation, and preparation of checks.

The bill also purports to provide that employees shall be entitled to overtime compensation for work performed in excess of 40 hours a week if they are in the special salary ranges which the separate Municipalities may by law determine" with a proviso that any employee who is required to work overtime, but who is not in the salary ranges for which overtime pay is extended, shall be mandatorily entitled to compensatory time.

As presented to the Legislative Assembly by the Administration this bill was initially intended to provide a uniform pay period system, similar to that in force and effect in the United States Government as one phase of the reorganization of the accounting system of the Government of the Virgin Islands and of the Municipalities.

thereof. To this proposal the Legislative Assembly added the section requiring overtime compensation for work performed in excess of 40 hours a week in certain salary ranges to be specified by the separate Municipal Councils, and making it mandatory for all other employees to be entitled to compensatory time off for work performed in excess of 40 hours a week in certain salary ranges to be specified by the separate Municipal Councils, and making it mandatory for all other employees to be entitled to compensatory time off for work performed in excess of 40 hours per week.

At the present time the Wage and Hour Acts of the two municipalities require overtime compensation to be paid to all employees whose salaries do not exceed \$100 per month for work performed in excess of 44 hours per week.

My objection is based on the fact that no study was made by the Legislative branch of the Government to determine the financial effect of the provision for mandatory compensatory time off for all employees other than those who are in the lower salary ranges and who are entitled to overtime compensation.

A quick survey indicates that the employment of necessary substitutes to cover for employees who would be mandatorily entitled to compensatory time off, and the reduction of the work week from 44 hours to 40 hours, would cost approximately \$12,000 per annum for the Department of Health of St. Croix; approximately \$7,000 per annum for the Mandahl School in St. Thomas; and approximately \$4,500 for the Harbor Department in St. Thomas.

The Budget of the Municipality of St. Croix, already in a serious deficit situation, could not stand the strain of such a ruinous increase. While the additional funds would probably not be difficult to find in the Municipality of St. Thomas, and St. John it would seem to be extremely unwise further to increase the municipal deficit for personal services. It would be a great mistake to impose this additional financial burden on the present state of deficit financing without a thorough survey

of the entire fiscal structure of the municipalities and without an assurance of the necessary resources for the financing of other necessary and more important municipal obligations.

A recent survey of overtime compensation policies made by the Civil Service Assembly of Chicago, Illinois, a private organization, indicates that less than half of the jurisdictions in the United States reporting an overtime policy make cash payments to clerical, public safety and institutional workers. Only for the laboring group do more than half of the jurisdictions report cash payments. The laboring group in the Virgin Islands is fully covered by the present overtime law. The survey likewise indicates that of 63 jurisdictions reporting, no overtime recognition for executive, administrative and professional employees is given in 34 jurisdictions, compensatory time off is allowed in 25 jurisdictions, while 4 jurisdictions have some form of cash payments. The survey also indicates that in the few jurisdictions which provide compensatory time off for these groups of employees the privilege is exercised with extreme restraint.

The two municipalities of the Virgin Islands are desperately struggling to maintain their departments and institutions within the income collected in the islands and supplemented by generous contributions from the United States. Just one year ago liberal pay increases, and a new pay plan, were authorized for municipal employees throughout the departments and activities of the Government of the Virgin Islands in both municipalities. The Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John, because of its improved economic situation, has been able to raise sufficient revenues, together with the Federal contribution, to bear this additional heavy expense. The Municipality of St. John finds itself this fiscal year with a deficit in the neighborhood of \$10,000. Yet the Legislative Assembly seeks to impose this additional obligation without any advance determination as to when the money is to come from to liquidate it.

As much as the pay period is basic to the organization, the amount of the pay period is a compromise.

been inserted by the Legislative Assembly and which would, as I have pointed out above, greatly increase the expenses of the Municipal Government. There is the additional factor, too, that doctors, pilots, and professional and supervisory employees in the higher salary brackets would be legally entitled to compensatory time off for work in excess of 40 hours a week whereas it would be well nigh impossible, even if funds were available, to obtain the necessary additional staff in many categories.

Because there is no sound reason for the two municipalities of the Virgin Islands, which are not self-supporting, to increase their already heavy obligations by further liberalizing their overtime policies, because there is every reason and need for a more conservative policy, and because of the reasons set forth in detail above, I find it necessary to and do hereby disapprove Bill No. 57. In order that the necessary reorganizing reorganization may not be delayed, I urgently recommend that the separate Municipal Councils enact as promptly as possible legislation to provide for bi-weekly pay periods as recommended by the Administration.

Sincerely yours

18 Morris H. de Castro
Morris H. de Castro
Governor.

Government House
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, U. S.

July 1, 1953

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative,
St. John, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I return herewith without approval Bill No. 56 of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States, Fourth Session, 1953, which reads the Personnel Pay System of the Virgin Islands, passed

by the Legislative Assembly on June 1, and presented to me for action on June 4, 1953.

This bill, as originally proposed by the Administration, provided for an amendment to the Personnel Merit System Law to eliminate the certification of the Director of Personnel on each individual payroll as one segment of the proposed centralization of payroll accounting for the two municipalities of the Government of the Virgin Islands. As passed by the Legislative Assembly, the bill includes a number of amendments which are seriously objectionable from the standpoint of effective administration. I shall detail here the more important of the objectionable features.

Section 2 of Bill No. 56 provides that the Board of Personnel, an already existing board shall be composed of three members. "no two of whom shall be adherents to the same party". As there is no law in the Virgin Islands requiring the registration of political parties, this language is meaningless.

Section 4 introduces a novel feature in that it requires the Governor to seek the advice and consent of three separate legislative bodies for his appointments to the Board of Personnel. One member of the Board is to be confirmed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John; another member is to be confirmed by the Municipal Council of St. Croix; and a third member is to be confirmed by the Legislative Assembly or by both Municipal Councils. This provision is so complicated and its net effect would be so frustrating to the Executive branch of the Government as to warrant no further consideration.

Section 6 provides that "department heads", who are unclassified employees, shall hereafter include such other officials who perform independent functions, or who are responsible for the formulating of policy, "as the Board may from time to time determine". Since the Governor, under the Organic Act, is responsible for the formulation of executive policy, it seems inconceivable that he would or should refer it to a subordinate board. The primary administration as to what officials should be assigned to what service

they are allegedly performing independent functions or are allegedly responsible for the formulation of policy. Such a determination, for proper supervision, control and direction, should be vested only in the Governor.

Section 7 exempts the salaried employees of the Legislative branch of the Government from the Personnel Merit System Law. A previous attempt, some time ago, to accomplish this objective was vetoed by me because, under the Organic Act, the Governor is vested with the responsibility of appointing, with the advice and consent of the Municipal Council, the employees of the Legislative as well as of the Executive branch of the Government. In our small municipal organizations there is no reason to provide a separate and distinct pay plan for salaried employees of the Legislative branch of the Government.

Section 11 and 12 of this bill provide that in case of dismissal, demotion, or suspension the action of the Personnel Board, upon appeal, shall be final. Heretofore the law properly provided that the recommendation of the Personnel Board, upon appeal, would be submitted to the appointing authority, the Governor, who would make the final decision. As the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands vests in the Governor the duty and responsibility of control and direction of the affairs of the Executive branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, it follows logically that the Governor should have the final say as to the dismissal of employees appointed by him. While it is true that in the United States Government the Civil Service Commission may have certain independent functions in cases of this kind, it would be ridiculous to compare the operations of our small Government with the diversified operations of the United States Government in Washington and in the field. Certainly, efficiency of control and direction would require the concentration of the power of removal, which is incident to the power of appointment, in the same branch of the Government which is responsible for the creation of the position.

As much as we need that portion of this bill which would facilitate the centralizing of the functions of payroll preparation, as one segment of the reorganization of the accounting system of the Government of the Virgin Islands, I cannot compromise on the objectionable features which have been introduced by the Legislative Assembly. For these reasons I am constrained to, and do hereby, disapprove Bill No. 56.

Sincerely yours.

18/ Morris F. de Baster
Morris F. de Baster
Governor

Encl.

Virgin Islands
Tourist Development Board
St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John.

August 17, 1953

Honorable Cyril B. Ottley
Municipal Council
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Dear Mr. Ottley:

It is my understanding that the Virgin Islands Legislature will meet in a preliminary session on August 27, at which time they will draw up an agenda for the regular legislative session at a later date.

As you know, the Tourist Development Board is most desirous of having passed as promptly as possible, the Amendment to Bill No. 4. Attached is a rough draft of the changes that the Amendment should cover.

I am sending a similar letter to Mr. Rohlson, who has assured me that he will cooperate with you in bringing this matter to the attention of the Assembly and have it placed on the agenda for prompt action.

Thanking you for your cooperation, and appreciating your letter, I am,

Sincerely,

Perm: c/s

cc: Mr. Hall

Hone

Mr. R. Moore
Mr. E. Meas.

Virgin Islands Unity Party
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

August 18, 1953

Honorable Walter J. M. Hodge
Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I.

My dear Chairman Hodge:

At a meeting of Virgin Islands Unity Party held on Wednesday, August 12, 1953, a motion was unanimously adopted to the effect that the need for a new flag of the Virgin Islands, designed to depict the history, traditions, and growth of the Islands, be brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands and the Governor.

As far as we can find out, the design of the present flag was first designated in 1921 by Executive Order of Governor Sumner Kittle. In 1950, the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin passed a law making this same design the official flag of the Virgin Islands. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the design of our official flag which has any significance to the people of the Virgin Islands as inhabitants of a particular area under the United States Government. There is nothing in the design which depicts the culture, history, traditions and customs of our people. Because of this fact, the flag is not revered and given that attention and respect which it should justly warrant.

The flag of a country, state or territory should be a symbol of the ethnic unity of the people it represents. It should have deep emotional significance to the people. It should be a symbol around which people can rally and express their love and pride of the homeland.

The flag of the United States depicts the history and growth of our sovereign government. Each state of the Union has a flag of its own. The people of each state are proud of their flag and the people of Puerto Rico have a flag of their own.

We cannot say the same for the flag of the Virgin Islands.

Virgin Islands Unity Party urgently recommends that the Legislative Assembly create by law a committee to study this matter and to submit at an early date a design for a new flag of the Virgin Islands which will depict the history, growth and traditions of the people of these Islands. Possibly, the committee can stimulate interest by sponsoring a contest and offering an award for the design accepted.

"A new day is dawning in the Virgin Islands, economically, socially, and politically." We need a new symbol representing the people to herald this progress.

We sincerely hope that this matter will be given early consideration by the Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands. We are sending a copy of this letter to Honorable Morris H. de Castro, Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ivan A. Howard
Ivan A. Howard
President

/s/ Mary Bastian
Mary Bastian
Corresponding Secretary

The White House
Washington

July 7, 1953

Dear Mr. Hodge:

The President asks me to thank you for your letter of June nineteenth in behalf of Honorable Fred L. Crawford, whom you recommend for appointment as Governor of the Virgin Islands.

We are very glad to know of your high regard for Mr. Crawford and you, and those for whom you speak, may be sure he will be given utmost consideration.

Sincerely yours

/s/ Charles G. Willis, Jr.
Charles G. Willis, Jr.
Special Assistant

The Honorable Walter F. M. Hodge, Chairman
Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands.
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

July 16, 1953

The President
The White House
Washington D.C.

Letter to President of June nineteenth by
Chairman Walter Hodge of Virgin Islands
Legislative Assembly an expression of his
personal views only and not views of
Legislature. Fred Crawford not
Assembly's candidate. Chairman Hodge
not authorized to speak for Assembly in
endorsement of any candidate for
Governor. Assembly stands behind Resolution
of March third urging appointment of Native.

Earl B. Otley
Vice-Chairman Legislative Assembly

United States
Department of the Interior
Washington

July 16, 1953

My dear Mr. Otley:

This will acknowledge your telegram of
July 16 to the President and Secretary
McKay regarding the appointment of a
Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Your expressions in this regard have been
noted and will be carefully considered.

Sincerely yours.

/s/ One Lewis
One Lewis
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Earl B. Otley
Vice-Chairman
Legislative Assembly
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

The Honorable
 The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
 Charlotte Amalie
 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands:

my dear Mr. Chairman:

On the 29 items included in the Agenda for the session of the Legislative Assembly called by me to convene today, 16 are proposed by the Administration. Fifteen of these Administration bills have been prepared. Some of them have already been forwarded to members of the Assembly. The others are now being processed and will be forwarded shortly.

Item 13, "An Act to Levy Uniform Excise Taxes and for other purposes," has not been prepared. Before having this bill prepared, I would appreciate having an early opportunity to discuss the proposal with members of the Assembly so as to save time in the actual preparation of the bill. I would like to have the views of the Assembly as to whether (1) the insular excise taxes should substitute existing excise and trade taxes in both Municipalities; (2) whether they should be superimposed on existing municipal taxes; (3) whether revenues from such taxes should be earmarked for specific public purposes such as, for example, support of the Municipal Hospital, etc.

Please let me hear from you soon after the Assembly has convened so that the Administration may be guided accordingly.

Sincerely yours

(S) Morris H. de Castro
 Morris H. de Castro
 Governor

Beck Shoe Corporation
 210 South Street, Boston 15, Massachusetts
 Telephone Hubbard 2-0550

Manufacturing Division

April 25, 1953

Mr. Henry O. [unclear]
 Community [unclear]
 St. Thomas

Dear Henry:

I was very distressed to learn that St. Thomas had experienced the greatest flood in its history. Your people must have suffered considerably, especially those in the flimsy dwellings which I have seen on the slopes of your hills.

I herewith enclose a check for \$10.00 for the Virgin Islands Flood Relief Fund. It is quite possible you have no such private fund-raising organization at the present time, but if not, I strongly urge Henry, that you initiate this activity and raise money from those on the island who are able to give, as well as send appeals to those in the States who would be interested in lending a hand. Should this charity be established, many newspaper up here would give you considerable publicity. You would thereby not only be able to patch up existing debris, but quite possibly replace it with considerably improved structures.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Hcl: B.L.B.
Enc.

/s/ Herbert C. Lee
Herbert C. Lee

October 19, 1953

Honorable Walter I. M. Hodge, Chairman
Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Hodge:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 15, in which you requested that arrangements be made to conduct a conference with the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of discussing in details the Master Plan of the Island of St. Thomas.

Dr. Eduardo Branson is at present in the United States and it is my understanding that he will not return to St. Thomas until sometime around the 1st of October. I would be most happy to meet him and make

arrangements for the suggested conference at the earliest possible date and will advise you as soon as I receive confirmation from him.

my very best personal regards

121 Walter J. Reed
Chairman of the Virgin Islands
Planning Board.

October 17, 1953

Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge, Chairman
The Legislative Assembly for the V.I.,
Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Dear Chairman Hodge:

This Chamber of Commerce of St. Thomas wishes to register oppositions to Bill No. 59, "An Act to create a minimum wage board; to establish the procedure for determining the minimum wage to be paid in the different occupations; to establish maximum hour standards; and for other purposes" and Bill No. 73, "An Act to establish the working day in the Virgin Islands; to provide for the payment of overtime for hours worked in excess of the legal working day to fix periods of rest; to regulate certain aspects of labor contracts and for other purposes."

These bills are inimical both to the segment of society they purport to benefit, the employees, and unfair to the employers. They lack the basic democratic principle of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges.

Business has assumed responsibilities for helping establish a fair basis for labor-management relations with a minimum of government intervention. These two proposed acts ignore both the rights and privileges of management and attempt by legislation to create a condition wherein only labor is considered.

This labor policy and wage supports sound the public and which are fair to the employer and which are responsible for

good relations on the employees and the employers without the use of government interference.

There is no conceivable way in which these two proposed laws can harmonize with sound labor-management relations, therefore they should not become law in the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

W. C. Busch
President.

St. Thomas Labor Union
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

October 20, 1953

Hon. Walter G. M. Hodge
Chairman
Legislative Assembly
St. Thomas, V.I.

Dear Sir:

The St. Thomas Labor Union No. 1812 C.F.D. which represents workers in the construction, hotel, restaurant, dock, bakery and other fields stands squarely behind Bill No. 59, to provide for the establishment of a minimum wage board, and Bill No. 73, to establish the working day in the Virgin Islands. There may be some amendments to be made to both proposals, but both measures are essentially sound, and in the interest of the overwhelming majority of the people of these islands who are required to work for a living.

Every public official, from the Governor down, and every business representative have during the last several years, criticized the existing wage-hour legislation, and urged the enactment of legislation that would take wage-fixing out of politics and place that responsibility in the hands of an objective board which would make surveys to determine the ability of business to pay any prescribed wage. This is the same procedure in effect in many states and territory.

Members of the St. Thomas-St. John Council will recall that a similar measure, almost identical in wording, was considered and that a public hearing was held recently in which both employer and employee groups were given the opportunity to present their views. They will also recall that last year when Governor de Castro vetoed a wage increase bill, the Governor and also business groups called for the enactment of legislation similar to that now before us. Why then are they opposed to it.

We are strongly in favor of the provisions which call for the granting of vacation with pay and sick leave. Such provisions have been long over-due. There is nothing radical or detrimental in either measure. Naturally, some employers who are opposed to giving employees what they deserve, and who in recent years were opposed even to workmen compensation laws, are expected to oppose these proposals. As the duly elected representatives of the people it is your duty to give favorable consideration to measure that will further progress and improve living conditions here.

Sincerely,

18/ Albert Sewer
Albert Sewer, President

Government House
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas.

Virgin Islands of the United States

October 20, 1953.

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I am extending to you, and through you to the members and assistants of the Legislative Assembly, and their wives, a cordial invitation to the luncheon at Government House on Tuesday, October 21, 1953 at 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,
J. de la Rocha
J. de la Rocha

Government House
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas
Virgin Islands of the United States

October 20, 1953

General Walter J. Reed, Chairman
Virgin Islands Planning Board
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear General Reed:

Reference is made to your letter of October 19, 1953, in the matter of the proposed trip of Planning Consultant Baranano to meet with the Legislative Assembly. At the proper time, I shall be happy to request his travel as a charge against General Contingent. Please let me know when he is needed and the necessary travel order will be prepared at once.

Sincerely yours

12/ Morris H. de Castro
Morris H. de Castro
Governor.

cc: Chairman, Legislative Assembly.

Virgin Islands
Tourist Development Board
St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John

October 22, 1953

Honorable Walter J. M. Hodge
Chairman, Virgin Islands
Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Dear Mr. Hodge:

I have just noticed in the St. Thomas Daily News that a committee of members of the Legislative Assembly has been appointed to investigate the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board.

I note that you are a member of the committee, together with Mr. members Heywood and Ahrens and St. John, and Member

Leque and Richards of St. Thomas. I sincerely trust that you and the members of the committee will not hesitate to call upon me in connection with any information you may desire relating to the operation of the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board.

As Chairman of the Board I stand ready to assist your committee in every manner possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you, and assuring you of my desire to be of assistance, I am

Very truly yours

18 David E. Maas
David E. Maas
Chairman.

D E M: cjs.

cc: Mr. Harry W. Seeggel
Executive Director
V.I. Tourist Development Board.

Government of the
Virgin Islands of the United States

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

November 30, 1953

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

In a discussion at Government House on Friday afternoon it was disclosed that the Assembly might not be able to consider the draft of a bill previously submitted. An Act to Amend the Act to Regulate the Practice of Medicine and Related Sciences in the Virgin Islands. I believe it was stated that some objection had been expressed regarding the constitution of the board set up from administration of the Medical Practice Act.

I attach herewith a copy of Bill No. 38 and a copy of the proposed amendment. Please note that the amendment in Section 1 would only cover the specified categories

in Bill No. 38 the words "physical therapy and massage" and slightly changing the wording following "or any other system of treatment of injuries, diseases, pain, or deformity, etc." In Section 2 of the amendment the first board created of three M.D.'s add only the words "and Related Sciences". With the exception of the three words no change is proposed in the entire Section 4. In Section 3 of the proposed amendment Section 13 of Bill No. 38 is amended only to cover the new classes included in the related sciences of the Medical Practice Act, and similarly Section 4 of the proposed amendment amends Section 16 of Bill No. 38 insofar as the annual registration is concerned.

The Legislative Assembly passed Bill No. 37 regarding the profession of nursing in the Virgin Islands on August 8, 1952, in which provisions was made for the effective date of this bill on January 1, 1954. Under Bill No. 5 of the Eight Legislative Assembly, the Nurses Examining Board has supervision of massage, while physical therapy as such is not included. These terms do not appear in the Nurses Practicing Act taking effect January 1st, and since they are not presently in Bill No. 38, there would be no way of regulating or supervising activities in this area.

For this reason it is important that favorable consideration be given the proposed amendment. I hope it will be your pleasure to act upon this matter before the adjournment of the session, keeping in mind the effective date of Bill No. 37.

Sincerely yours

Samuel W. Ambrose, Gov't Secretary

The West Indies Bank & Trust Company
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

November 27, 1953.

Hon. Walter S. M. P. ...
Chairman of the ...
St. Thomas, ...

Dear Mr. Hodge:

You are cordially invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the West Indies Bank & Trust Co. on Tuesday, December 1, 1953 at 9 a.m. at the Bank & Investment Building, located at No. 1 Queen's Quarter, Charlotte Amalie.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Fred L. Crawford
President.

"Crawford and Silverman,
208 St. S. E., Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

We have been authorized by the Organic Act Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to engage the services of competent legal and legislative counsel to assist us in connection with the passage of a revised organic act for the Virgin Islands.

We should appreciate it very much if you would agree to serve us in that capacity and act as our representatives before the appropriate committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in helping us to get our Organic Act Legislation engaged by the Congress this year.

For such services we agree to pay you the sum of \$10,000, plus such travelling expenses that may be necessary and such expenses as may be incurred by you in long distance telephone and in the sending of cablegrams in our behalf.

Sincerely yours,
Legislative Assembly Organic Act Committee
Sgt. Walter J. M. Hodge
Chairman

Joseph A. Gomez
Secretary.

Banking Board of The Virgin Islands
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, U.S.A.

Dec 1, 1953

Hon. Walter J. M. Hodge, Chairman
Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands.
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Dear Sir:

Because of certain unfavorable reactions that have been created in the community by certain remarks in connection with Bill No. 64 of the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly, Fifth Session, an Act to Amend an Act of June 16, 1949 Regulating Banks and Banking the Virgin Island, creating a Banking Board and Defining its Duties, and for other purposes, which is now pending before the Legislative Assembly, the members of the Banking Board of the Virgin Islands consider it their duty to make the following statements of facts:

1. Section 4(a) of the Sheoch-Gordon Banking Law of the Virgin Islands reads: "Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall receive reimbursement for all travel or other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties."

The only expenses that have been paid the Board by the government in carrying out the duties of the Banking Board to members are expenses for stationery and air transportation. All other expenses have been paid by the members themselves, even though the law allows them to collect expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such expenses that members are entitled to by law as mileage, meals, board, office and clerical, postage, cablegram and other incidentals, have been borne entirely by the members of the Board from their personal funds. The Banking Board has never been appropriated any funds.

Section 4 (c) of the above law, reads as follows: "Every bank, or foreign bank, and every branch of a bank, or foreign bank, doing business in the Virgin Islands, shall be subject to inspection and supervision of the Banking Board of the Virgin Islands, which shall either personally or through some person or persons appointed by it, to be known as examiners, visit and examine said bank, foreign bank, or branches at least once a year. (underscoring supplied.)"

Although two of the present members of the Banking Board are certified Public Accountants and are therefore qualified and authorized to make examination of Banks, the Banking Board decided that all such examination, should be made by qualified persons outside the membership of the Banking Board.

In order to reduce the cost of examination of banks, the Banking Board tried to secure the services of government auditors for this purpose. This was impossible due to the volume of work they now have, which prevented them from taking on this added responsibility.

The Banking Board, in keeping with its policy that such examinations should be made by qualified persons not connected with the Banking Board, made preliminary arrangements during the month of June, 1953 to secure the services of a practicing certified Public Accountant to make the examination of the New St. Croix Savings Bank.

Under the present law the banks would be charged \$3.00 for every \$10,000.00 or fraction thereof of the resources - or assets of such banks. In order to prevent the taxpayer from having to share in the cost of any bank examination, if this fee did not cover the actual cost, the Banking Board asked the Governor to have this section amended in such a way that would require the banks to pay the actual cost, which would be limited to \$1,000.00. The proposed amendment was submitted by the Governor to the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands.

The Chairman of the Banking Board's letter of May 18, 1953 to the Governor requested the following information: "Kindly advise what funds will be available to pay the examiners appointed by the Banking Board". In his reply dated May 21, 1953 the Governor wrote: "I am referring this matter to the Municipal Council of St. John's with the request that the sum of \$700.00 be made available for the purpose including however, the final arrangements to be made with the service."

funds are actually made available."

It is an accepted practice that examinations of banks are to be made annually, and at the same time as examinations are being made by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Banking Board intends to adhere strictly to this practice so as to cause the least inconvenience and expenses to the banks examined.

Very Truly yours,

W/ Norman P. Kissel
Norman P. Kissel
Chairman

Government House

Charlotte Amalie

St. Thomas

Virgin Islands of the United States

December 3, 1953

Urgent

The Honorable

The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly

Charlotte Amalie

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman

I am sending you this urgent message in regard to Bill No. 81. I am attaching herewith copy of a letter from the Sanitary Engineer Director which is self-explanatory. I do not know whether it is too late to make the amendment which he has suggested.

Sincerely yours

W/ Morris H. de Castro
Morris H. de Castro
Governor.

The Government of
The Virgin Islands of the United States

Department of Health

December 30, 1953

His Excellency
 Morris H. de Castro
 Governor of the Virgin Islands
 Charlotte Amalie
 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Through: Roy A. Anduze, M.D., F. F. L. S., Com. of Health.

Dear Governor de Castro:

I have reviewed Bill No. 81, An Act to Amend
 "Law to Establish a Building Code for the
 Virgin Islands."

I find a duplication of authority in the
 issuance of permits still existing in this
 law as in the Sewerage Act. It is
 unnecessary for the Public Works
 Department to issue plumbing permits when
 the Health Department will be exclusively
 responsible for plumbing. Plumbers in
 the Virgin Islands would like to see
 plumbing controlled by one agency. If
 the words "including plumbing" are
 omitted from the first line in Bill No. 81,
 plumbers would then deal with the Health
 Department directly and would need only
 one permit. If "plumbing" is included in
 Bill No. 81, it would be necessary for both
 the Health Department and the Public
 Works Department to issue permits, thereby
 creating a duplication of authority,
 overlapping of responsibilities, and the
 inconvenience of processing plumbing plans.

I would like to see "plumbing" as the
 sole responsibility of the Health Department
 and I am requesting you to do everything
 possible to bring about this change.

Respectfully yours.

Rudolph B. Galiber
 Sanitary Engineer Director

Enclosure

Forwarded

Roy A. Anduze, M.D., F. F. L. S.
 Commissioner of Health.

The following message was delivered by
 the Governor of the Virgin Islands
 to the Assembly:

Address of
 Governor Morris L. de Castro of the Virgin
 Islands to the Seventeenth Legislative
 Assembly of the Virgin Islands at Charlotte
 Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Monday,
 October 12, 1953

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Legislative
 Assembly of the Virgin Islands:

My message at the opening of the
 Fifth Session of the Seventeenth Legislative
 Assembly of the Virgin Islands will be in
 the nature of a report to you, as the
 elected representatives of the people of
 the Virgin Islands, on the affairs of
 the Government of the Virgin Islands.
 I hope that you will bear with me,
 therefore, as I review today the
 highlights of the accomplishments
 of the Government of the Virgin Islands
 during the past year.

Visits of High Officials

The Virgin Islands have been quite
 fortunate to receive considerable attention
 from top-ranking officials of the new
 national administration. In March 1953,
 Honorable Douglas M. Ray, Secretary of the
 Interior, accompanied by Mrs. McRay, Honorable
 Ezra F. Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, and
 Mr. Harry McDonald, Administrator of the
 Reconstruction Finance Corporation, visited
 the Virgin Islands. These high officials
 of the national government came to
 the Islands to attend a meeting of the
 Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands
 Corporation. However, their visit had
 much greater significance, especially
 because two new cabinet officers visited
 the Islands with two months of the
 inauguration of the new national
 administration.

The Virgin Islands were the first
 territory to be under the direct
 supervision of all territories and possessions
 of the United States. It also enabled
 the Secretary to take a realistic view

at first hand of the conditions and the problems of the Islands. In a radio broadcast from Government House in Charlotte Amalie, the Secretary of the Interior pledged to do his utmost to assist in developing the prosperity and well-being of the Islands. He also stressed the fact that the progress of the Islands must be based more and more upon the islander's own resources and ingenuity.

A few months later, in May, the Virgin Islands were host to Honorable Orme Lewis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Mrs. Lewis. They visited the islands to attend the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas and the Christiansted High School in St. Croix, and to witness the official opening of the Frederiksted Clinic and Public Health Facility. In June, 1953, the new Director of Territories, Honorable William C. Strand, and the new Chief Counsel, Mr. A. M. Edwards, also visited the Virgin Islands. Therefore, in the short span of the first six months of the new administration a number of influential officials of the Department of the Interior had visited the Virgin Islands and had become familiar with their problems at first hand. This significant concentration of official attention on the Virgin Islands will surely result in the sympathetic interest and assistance of the Department of the Interior in the future development of the Islands.

Gift from Danish Government

An activity of international significance was the presentation on August 4, 1952, by His Excellency Henrik Rauffmann, the Danish Ambassador to the United States, of a gift from the Danish Government of exact replicas of the original furniture of the ballroom of the Government House at St. Croix. This gift, which is highly appreciated by the people of the Virgin Islands, is a symbol of the reservoir of goodwill which exists between the people of the two nations. The gift is valued at \$15,000 and is being furnished by the Danish Government. The gift is a symbol of the goodwill which exists between the people of the two nations. The gift is valued at \$15,000 and is being furnished by the Danish Government. The gift is a symbol of the goodwill which exists between the people of the two nations.

the old Danish ballroom.

Ford Foundation Grant for Educational Advancement.

Another outstanding achievement of the year was the initial grant of \$77,200 made available by the Ford Foundation to the Virgin Islands, through Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, to initiate a teacher training program to improve the quality of teaching in the Virgin Islands. This program, which will consist of year-round in-service training to be conducted in the Virgin Islands and special scholarships to Hampton Institute, has already started and will possibly continue for five years.

Other Highlights.

Other highlights of the year were the substantial completion of new and modern hospital structures in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Christiansted and Frederiksted; St. Croix; and Cruz Bay, St. John; the letting of contracts for a new high school in St. Thomas and one in St. Croix; the transfer of the electric light and power facilities of the municipality of St. Thomas and St. John to the Virgin Islands Corporation, which had obtained ample funds from Congress for rehabilitation and expansion of the system; the commencement of construction of a low rent housing project in St. Croix, the second such project in the Virgin Islands; and the establishment of an agricultural research and extension program under the United States Department of Agriculture.

Organic Act Revision

During the last fiscal year a Revised Organic Act for the Virgin Islands was passed by the House of Representatives but it was not taken up by the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs.

Upon the recommendation of the Department of the Interior, H. R. 5181, to revise the Organic Act for the Virgin Islands, was introduced in the House of Representatives. It was introduced by a

Sub-committee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs headed by Honorable John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania. At the hearings delegates from the Legislative Assembly testified together with the Governor.

A bill sponsored by the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce and one sponsored by the Legislative Assembly were also introduced and numbered H. R. 5608 and H. R. 5835 respectively. These three bills are similar in the basic provisions for a unicameral legislature, a Resident Commissioner, and the return to the Islands of internal revenue taxes on products of the Islands shipped to the United States. The sub-committee did not report on any of these bills before the end of the fiscal year.

Review of Local Economy.

During the past few years there has been a gradual and clearly noticeable development in the economy of the Virgin Islands. The tourist trade has been expanding, which has resulted in the establishment of new hotels, guest houses, and many new restaurants and retail businesses. A few small industries have also made a contribution to the progressing economy. Through the hotels, guest houses, retail businesses, restaurants, etc., together with private and federal construction projects, employment has been provided for practically all employables.

Savings deposits comprise a definite index of the economy of an area. According to published statements of the Virgin Islands National Bank, savings deposits in these Islands have increased nearly \$1,100,000 in the past two and one-half years. On December 31, 1950, savings deposits of the Bank amounted to \$2,007,443.95. By June 30, 1953, savings deposits had spiraled to \$3,096,954.66. Demand deposits or checking accounts in the Virgin Islands National Bank likewise increased by \$1,100,000 during the same period. On December 31, 1950, total deposits in the Virgin Islands National Bank were \$4,219,606.25. On June 30, 1953, two and one-half years later, total deposits were \$6,475,954.66, or an increase of \$2,256,348.41, or over 50%. It is noted that during the same period the bank's assets had increased from \$4,219,606.25 to \$6,475,954.66, or an increase of \$2,256,348.41, or over 50%.

June 30, 1953, savings deposits increased half a million dollars and demand deposits increased by \$600,000.

An examination of postal savings accounts has indicated a similar picture of increased savings. On June 30, 1950, postal savings in the Virgin Islands amounted to \$340,951. By June 30, 1952, postal savings in the Virgin Islands amounted to \$340,951. By June 30, 1952, postal savings had increased to \$389,351 an increase of \$48,000. The published documents show that in 1952 there were 89 depositories per 1000 population, which is higher statistically than in all the states of the Union and in all other territories and possessions of the United States. At the close of June 30, 1952 postal savings in Charlotte Amalie alone had increased another \$33,000 since June 30, 1951.

In 1952 the value of total imports of the Virgin Islands from the United States increased by \$2,000,000 over the value of imports in 1951. In 1951 total imports were \$9,132,054. This was increased to \$11,160,000 in 1952. A recent expert study of workmen's compensation insurance coverage on the island of St. Thomas indicated that, using an employment index of 100% in 1942 as a base, employment had increased to 254.7% in 1952, or an advance in the employment index of 150% in ten years. Of still greater significance is the information obtained as a result of this study that employment in private business and industry in St. Thomas increased from 1,000 persons in 1942 to 3,000 in 1952. Similarly, the payroll index of 100% in 1942, used as the base year, had advanced to 431.2% in ten years.

Income taxes collected in St. Thomas in 1941 were \$138,000. Income taxes collected in St. Thomas in the fiscal year 1953 amounted to over \$552,000. On the island of St. John income tax collections jumped from \$11,000 in 1941 to \$165,000 in the fiscal year 1953.

Housing and Town Planning

Construction work began during the past year on the new post-housing project. This project,

the D. Hamilton Jackson Terrace, consists of 111 dwelling units at Christiansted, with a total development cost of \$1,282,000. In St. Thomas work, continued on the Paul M. Pearson Gardens, a 240-unit housing project. However, progress has been slow, and it is anticipated that the project will not be completed according to the time scheduled in the contract.

In the meantime, the Virgin Islands Housing and Redevelopment Authority has prepared and submitted a Development Program covering 70 units of low-cost housing under the rural-non-farm program of the Public Housing Administration. If approved, this project will develop a site adjacent to the town of Christiansted, St. John, and it is estimated to cost approximately \$892,000.

Initial work in connection with the planning of the first slum clearance and urban redevelopment project was begun early in 1952. This project envisioned a development in the Layan area of Charlotte Amalie, including 150 units of low rent housing at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000. This project is held in abeyance pending Congressional action.

The principal activity of the Virgin Islands Planning Board was in connection with the development of Master Plans for the city of Charlotte Amalie and for the Island of St. Thomas. This project was made possible by an appropriation passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John. It is hoped that funds would be made available in the near future by the Municipal Council of St. John for planning purposes during the fiscal year.

Despite repeated efforts on the part of the administration, legislation has not been secured to designate an historic zone in Charlotte Amalie in order to preserve the architectural monuments of the most important portions of the old city. The National Park Service, a department of the Interior, has been asked to take over the site at Christiansted, St. John, and St. Thomas.

broix on July 1, this year due to lack of an appropriation from the Congress for this purpose.

Real Property

Real property assessments in the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John became fairly stable during the past year. Following a general reassessment program for the year 1951, there was further efforts to realize complete uniformity and equalization of property values. There was a slight increase in total assessments for 1952, the valuation being \$8,701,695.20 with corresponding assessed taxes of \$114,396.17, including sanitation service charges, compared with assessed valuation of \$8,751,872.00 for 1951 and assessed taxes in the amount of \$109,398.49.

In the Municipality of St. Croix real property assessments for the calendar year 1952 totaled \$6,796,779.69, an increase of \$144,037.99 over that of the preceding year yielding assessed taxes in the amount of \$84,958.52. Contemplated for this year is a general reassessment of all property values in the Municipality of St. Croix.

Personnel Administration

The new pay plan which went into effect on July 1, 1952, has contributed greatly to the improvement of the efficiency and morale of the municipal government employees. Under the new pay plan many positions which were vacant for some time have been filled. In addition, there has been an increase in the availability of trained nurses, and a lower rate of turnover in the teaching personnel. However, there are certain areas that still need further study and adjustment in order to achieve better morale between improve recruitment.

Of the 1123 classified employees in the service of the local government 670 were assigned to departments and agencies in the mu. (St. Thomas and St. John) and 453 in St. Croix. Only 123 square miles of land with a population of 26,000,

the government services to be rendered on behalf of the people are just as numerous and complex as the public services of a much larger community. In order to administer these services, a minimum government structure is required, with a certain minimum personnel. Naturally in a small community the percentage of that minimum core in regard to total employment would be much higher than in a larger community with numerous industries and business activities as outlets for employment. The problem of maintaining and administering the public services needed by the people of the Virgin Islands and at the same time keeping personnel at a minimum compatible with efficiency and economy, is a continuing dilemma of the administration.

Public Finance And Taxation.

At the end of the last fiscal year, the total revenues collected from local sources in the Virgin Islands continued to reflect the upward trend of the economic progress of the area. Possibly the most important factor contributing to the upsurge of the economic condition is the tourist business. Another very important factor which aided in the financial picture of these islands, was the selection of this area for liberty of large numbers of Navy men during Caribbean maneuvers which lasted for several months.

The greater part of the expenditures of the government is reflected in the operation of the educational, health, and public works services of the Islands. The government still continues to explore every possible area to reduce, or limit, expenditures for the essential public services. Even with the help of the Federal Grant, the total obligations of the government exceeded the total receipts by approximately \$18,000.00, which deficit occurred in the Municipality of St. John.

A total of \$1,555,600.00 was received from local sources and St. John's Municipality. The total of \$1,575,802.00

available to meet the total estimated expenditures of the same amount. The total revenues collected for the fiscal year 1953 represent an increase over the \$5,081,143 raised for the fiscal year 1952. This increase was due chiefly to the larger collection from Income Tax, Real Property Tax, Trade Tax, and a general increase in most of the other smaller revenue tax sources. The increase in revenue from the three major sources indicated above resulted from the improved economic conditions, and the continued rigorous enforcement of collection procedures. For example, this year \$117,488 of Real Property Tax was collected, as against \$90,225 in 1952; an amount of \$552,315 was collected, as from Income Tax, against \$493,019; an amount of \$359,715 of Trade Tax was collected this year as against \$213,236 in 1952.

In the Municipality of St. Croix, a total \$591,676 was collected from local sources as compared with \$487,400 collected in the fiscal year 1952; an amount of \$504,800 of the contribution of the United States Government has been made available to the Municipality of St. Croix, making a total of \$1,096,476 available to meet the total estimated expenditures of \$1,117,832. There is approximately a reduction of \$10,000 due to savings within the budgeted expenditures of \$1,127,832. St. Croix, therefore, faces a further deficit of approximately \$18,000 which is to be met through a loan from local Trust Funds.

During the last fiscal year the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John increased the gross receipts taxes from $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% to 1%; lowered the taxes on cigarettes from 2¢ per package to 5¢, which was calculated to yield more revenue because of the position taken by the trade that they would absorb this lower tax on exports; and increased the trade tax on all goods other than foodstuffs and those taxed at a higher rate from 2¢ to 5¢. The Council likewise increased the parking tax from 5¢ to 6¢ per hour; and instituted a fee of \$1.00 for drivers' licenses imposed on all paying drivers. The Council also imposed a fee of \$1.00 on all paying drivers. The Council also imposed a fee of \$1.00 on all paying drivers.

The Municipal Council of St. Thomas, and St. John also doubled the very low inheritance tax rates to 2% on inheritances from husbands and wives, parent and child; 8% on inheritances from brothers and sisters; and 14% on inheritances from all other persons. The former tax had been in effect for the past 76 years.

The Municipal Council of St. Croix last year increased the internal revenue tax on passenger-carrying vehicles from 5% to 10%; increased the internal revenue taxes on all commodities, excluding sugar, foodstuffs, and charcoal, from 2% to 5%; and increased the gasoline tax from 3¢ to 6¢ per gallon; and instituted a tax on silverware, perfume and jewelry of 10% of the selling price. This Council likewise doubled the inheritance tax rates as in St. Thomas.

Although the economic picture is encouraging, it is evident that the Island have not attained an economic level necessary to produce sufficient revenues to support the minimum cost of operating essential public services of these islands on a standard necessary for maintaining the proper development of the educational, health, and welfare requirements of American citizens. As has been stated in the past, in order to avoid making annual requests for a Federal contribution to balance the budget of the Virgin Islands, it is necessary to return to the Virgin Islands the Internal Revenues on articles exported from the Islands to Continental United States. It is hoped that the keen interest evinced by Congress this year will result in the passage of a revised Organic Act including this vital provision in the very near future.

Upon the recommendation of the Governor the United States General Accounting Office commenced on the site audits of the accounts of the Government of the Virgin Islands as well as operating surveys of the various departments leading to management reports for improvement of operating techniques. These audits and surveys will be continued on an annual basis with the cooperation of the General Accounting Office and the Department of the Interior. Preliminary studies are being made with a view to the installation of a modern accounting system of accounting the installation of which will be commenced

during the present fiscal year. It is expected that the installation of the new system will take at least a year as it will cover not only federal funds, but all municipal and local public and trust funds including the modernization of the functions of payrolling, procurement, accounting, disbursement and related functions.

Agriculture.

On July 1, 1952, the United States Department of Agriculture began the administration of the agricultural program of the Virgin Islands in accordance with an Act of Congress. From 1932 to 1952 the agricultural program, which consisted chiefly of extension work, was administered in the Islands by the United States Department of Interior. The program is set up under the Division of Tropical Agriculture of the Office of Experiment Stations, and is limited by law to agricultural research and extension.

Actual work on the ground could not be begun until September 1952, when a portion of Estate Bethlehem New Works St. Croix, was leased from the Virgin Islands Corporation, and the staff began to assemble. At the close of the fiscal year the technical staff consisted of 6 persons: an agriculturist-in-charge, a horticulturist, an agronomist, an extension agent, an assistant to the horticulturist, and an assistant to the agronomist. The time of beginning operations, and the severe drought that followed immediately, slowed down work in the field, but experiments were begun in the following, though final results were, of course, not obtained in any before the close of the last fiscal year: Pasture improvement; chemical control of bushy weeds in pastures; chemical control of weeds in sugar cane; improved varieties of papaya and mangoes; and possible new banana crops.

Cooperation with the Virgin Islands Corporation, public agencies, and the New Works Corporation has been established with the rural population on various

phases of local agriculture have been submitted to newspapers in St. Croix and St. Thomas.

With the closing down of the St. Thomas Agricultural sub-station farmers on the island of St. Thomas suffered a loss of the numerous extension services which were previously rendered. In order to compensate for this loss, the municipal government has continued certain limited operations under the Agricultural Development Fund. A competent horticulturist has been placed in charge of this program with activities still centered at Estate Darrothea. In a very limited way the farmers of the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John have been assisted under this program through the sale of seeds, seedlings, ornamentals, insecticides, fertilizers, eggs and chickens; also through the distribution of water. Since the federal government, through the Department of Agriculture, is concentrating on research work in the fields of agriculture in St. Croix, a further step is believed to be necessary in order to determine on such basis in regard to farming in the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John.

Commerce and Shipping

There was a slight decrease in the number of merchant ships calling at the port of St. Thomas during the last fiscal year as compared with 1952. A total of 322 merchant ships with a gross tonnage of 1,864,592 called at St. Thomas as compared with 338 ships with a gross tonnage of 1,920,73 in 1952. However, 193 United States vessels called at St. Thomas as compared with 75 during the previous year.

Considerable difficulties were experienced for extended periods in the transportation of freight to the islands from continental United States. After a lapse of many years, the Bull Lines placed a ship, the S. S. Puerto Rico, on a bi-weekly schedule between New York, San Juan, and St. Thomas. This ship transported both passengers and freight, and relieved the situation to a large extent. However, this service did not prove profitable to the shipping company, and was discontinued for a period. A new ship company is now in the process of being organized to take over the shipping business.

gap. The Delta Line vessels and the French Line, Panama ships continued their regular bunkering calls during the year. A total of 20 visits were made by cruise ships as compared with 12 visits the previous year.

Transportation of freight by air has become an important factor in the local commerce activities. About 800,000 pounds of cargo and over 80,000 passengers were transported by air in and out of the Virgin Islands. However, the commercial possibilities of the St. Thomas airport are limited due to the size of the runway which is only 4,200 feet long, and the topography of the surrounding area. The possibility of extending the runway, or of relocating the airport in St. Thomas must be studied in the near future, in order to plan for the continued improvement of the local economy, especially through the expansion of the tourist trade.

St. Croix was served by only one direct steamship line, the Alcoa Line, calling once a month. However, the great bulk of freight service was performed by schooner and barge. The need for better docking facilities in St. Croix is becoming more and more evident. Over 30,000 passengers were transported by air in and out of St. Croix during the last fiscal year. The possibilities are excellent in St. Croix for the economical expansion and development of the airport. Indeed, the potentials there are excellent for the development of St. Croix of an important air terminal in the Caribbean.

Health and Sanitation

The Knud Hansen Memorial Hospital in St. Thomas, a modern 110-bed institution, was completed and is now occupied. The Charles Barwood Memorial Hospital, a 65-bed modern hospital, at Christiansted, St. Croix, was also completed and is now in operation. The United States Air Health Facility, a 12-bed unit, and the Queen Isabella Clinic at Cruz Bay, St. John, a 10-bed unit, were completed and are now open.

With the addition of these new hospitals, through the Government, now modern health

and medical care facilities. Recognizing the need for additional revenue properly to operate these facilities, both municipal councils have passed legislation providing for the establishment of new schedules of fees for medical and dental services, and also for a medical care plan to assist patients who are medically indigent. It is expected that these schedules of fees will have to be revised from time to time to accord with cost of the services which are rendered.

During the past year 423 surgical operations were performed in St. Thomas and 350 surgical operations performed in St. Croix. There were 13,277 dispensary treatments in St. Thomas and St. John, and 17,495 in St. Croix. Sick days in hospital were 32,106 in St. Thomas and 32,009 in St. Croix. The cost per patient per day was \$6.24 in St. Thomas, \$6.32 in Christiansted, and \$9.19 in Frederiksted, while the average daily ration cost at the same places were \$1.37, \$0.55 and \$0.72. These costs are all far below actual need and at the same time they are ridiculously low when compared with similar costs in the United States.

A total of \$944,512 was expended for medical care and public health services in the Virgin Islands during the past fiscal year. Of this amount \$681,849 was appropriated from local revenues, \$246,333 allocated from Federal Grant-in-Aid funds were expended for the following much-needed services: crippled children, maternal and child health, tuberculosis control, venereal disease control, general health and mental health, heart disease control and water pollution control.

Certain limited achievements were attained in the field of sanitation. An inadequate Sewerage Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, requiring mandatory connection of private homes to the sewer systems in Charlotte Amalie, Christiansted, and Frederiksted. Rules and regulations under this Act have been approved for the municipalities of St. Thomas and St. John. The Sanitary Code was further approved for the Municipality of St. John after many years of effort. A vigorous program of enforcement of the provisions of the Sanitary Code was carried

out in Charlotte Amalie with the cooperation of the police court. A program of outdoor DDT fogging has helped to reduce the mosquito population. Through the process of chlorination the percentage of contamination of water in cisterns has been greatly reduced. A frontal attack is now in progress on the disgraceful nightsoil removal system with a view to its reduction or elimination, wherever possible, in the shortest possible time.

With the establishment of modern health facilities in the Virgin Islands, it is timely to carefully re-examine the entire concept and structure for the delivery of medical care and community health services. The pattern of medical care now in operation was developed over thirty years ago. During that period time it has served its purpose well. New forces have emerged in the total social fabric. Marked changes have occurred in the physical environment. A general standard of living has improved. New scientific bases are available for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness. There is a wider public understanding of personal and community health problems. Fully aware of these factors, it is the determination of the government to study these problems, and gradually to adapt the traditional pattern of the past quarter of a century to meet current and future demands for improved health services.

Education.

Significant progress was made in the school building program under provisions of Public Law 519. Specifications were completed and advertisement made for bids in construction of a high school in St. Thomas, for repairs and improvements to three rural schools, construction of a high school and an elementary school in Christiansted, and one rural school in St. John. It developed, however, that the lowest bid submitted exceeded funds available for this phase of the program. Upon determination of the situation, it was decided to award the construction of the two rural schools to a local contractor.

and Fluor Western, Inc. and construction begun on both schools in May. The extraordinary significance of this event in the history of education in the Virgin Islands can be sensed only by those aware of the sad fact that at present with the exception of a very few smaller school units, schools are housed entirely in makeshift buildings never intended for school use.

Certain developments in connection with vocational education contributed to improvement of the program in this field. Outstanding in significance was the determination to employ a consulting director who was granted leave of absence from his duties in Puerto Rico to allow him to enter our service in the Virgin Islands.

Although it has not been possible to add many new courses, despite apparent need in certain fields, major efforts have been directed to improving effectiveness of instruction in courses already established and in perceiving training needs in local industries. Much has been accomplished also in improvement of administrative procedures. Especially noteworthy events and activities of the year include evening courses in home economics for adults, an evening course in concrete block laying, two teacher training courses attended by all teachers in August, observation and training missions to Puerto Rico, and establishment of the Virgin Islands chapter of the American Vocational Association, with 100% membership of instructional staff.

In the field of teacher training, chronically the most deficient aspect of our school system, events during the year have been most gratifying in the promise of financial support of a long range, comprehensive program, especially adopted to our needs, as a result of our appeal to the Fund for Advancement of Education, Ford Foundation. An immediate result of this approach was the initiation of two all-expense fellowships for training of teachers in the fund for the advancement of education and new vocational training institute for the project.

Advancement of Education to provide for an improvement in the quality of teaching in the Virgin Islands

Total enrollment in public schools was 5,384, slightly below that of the preceding year. Of this number 950 were enrolled in junior and senior high school grades in St. Thomas, and 520 in St. Croix. Enrollment in parochial and private schools amounted to 2,270 of which 976 were in St. Thomas and 1,294 in St. Croix. Total enrollment in all schools was 7,650, a decrease of 37 below enrollment in the preceding year.

The total cost of public education and services administered by the educational system was \$682,504.86, including the school lunch service, and in St. Thomas, operation of the public library, Teachers Institute, and public recreation facilities. Of this amount \$81,995.98 was made available by the Federal Government, chiefly in support of vocational education and the school lunch service.

An average of 2,565 children participated daily in the school lunch program in St. Thomas and St. John. In St. Croix, average daily participation was 1,780. Average expenditures for education, not including the school lunch service, was \$95.92 in St. Thomas and St. John, and \$90.98 in St. Croix, as compared with \$80.00 and \$90.06 last year. These costs are admittedly very low.

Public Safety.

The in-service training program for members of the Police Force in the Virgin Islands was continued. An increase in the number of motor vehicles contributed to the already grave problems of traffic control and congestion in St. Thomas. At the end of the year, there were 1,137 motor vehicles, 107 permanent drivers, and 107 temporary drivers. A total of 438 topical narrow streets of Charlotte Harbor area seriously aggravated the traffic problem. Under these conditions it is estimated that only

378 motor vehicle accidents occurred during the year, in which only 75 persons were injured. The Traffic Bureau of the Police Department has been active, with the cooperation of the Police Court, in attempting to safeguard property and life under these trying conditions.

In St. Thomas 1050 criminal complaints were handled as compared with 1175 during the previous fiscal year. Disorderly conduct continued to be the major offense. Over 200 cases were handled by the Bureau of Identification and Investigation, of which 85.11% resulted in arrests and convictions. At the end of the last fiscal year there were 32 complaints pending. The Juvenile Aid Bureau and the Police Athletic League continued the task of coping with the problems of juvenile delinquency. School safety patrols were organized during the year.

In St. Croix, under an intensified program of law enforcement, 1091 complaints were received as compared with 680 for the previous year. The follow-up on all complaints resulted in a high percentage of arrests and convictions. A total of 1352 automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles were registered, compared with 1322 for the previous year. There were 102 accidents for the year with 20 injuries, but no fatalities. The most serious problem encountered during the year was a series of cane field fires with a clear indication of incendiary origin in several instances. These fires occurred during the prolonged drought.

The small police departments do a commendable job when it is considered that, as a tourist center, more than 10,000 people visit the island, with several thousands of armed service personnel stationed here for many months of the year.

The relationship between local departments and the Bureau of Identification and Investigation is of a constant nature. The Bureau of Identification and Investigation is of a constant nature.

complaints involving violations of
Federal Laws.

Public Works.

After repeated attempts of the administration, legislation was enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, making it mandatory to connect properties to the new sewerage systems installed in Charlotte Amalie, Christianssted and Frederiksted by the United States Government. While the legislation is not sufficiently strong to expedite the program of connections to the sewerage system, it is a step in the right direction. Administrative enforcement of the law has begun, and will be accelerated during the year.

Over 100 connections have been made to the portable water supply system in St. Thomas. The system has been of real service to the community; but it could not withstand the extended drought which affected the islands during the first half of this year. Through the splendid cooperation of the United States Navy operation "Waterlift" was instituted, and over 3,000,000 gallons of water transported from Puerto Rico by barge. Sixty-eight sanitary installation permits were issued as compared with 42 in 1952, along with 136 electric permits. A total of 168 building permits were issued for private construction work estimated at \$601,819.00.

Upon the recommendation of the administration, an ordinance was passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas, and St. John establishing a municipal fire service with a full-time paid fire chief in charge. Three volunteer fire-fighting units have been organized composed of public-spirited citizens from all walks of life. These volunteers assist the small core of paid firemen. Since the organization of the municipal fire service in St. Thomas there has been a marked improvement in fire protection. The administration has created a similar Municipal Council of St. John.

A total of 70 connections have been made to the portable water supply system in St. Croix. 43 were made during the past fiscal year. Forty-one building permits were issued covering private construction work valued at \$295,360. Due to limited funds no new roads were constructed. Only general maintenance work was carried on.

Labor and Labor Relations

The acute shortage of farm labor in the Virgin Islands continued to constitute a major employment problem. In the case of sugar cane harvesting in St. Croix, it became necessary to bring in 500 workers from the British island of Antigua. These workers were returned to Antigua at the close of the harvesting period. The United States Department of Labor and the Immigration and Naturalization Service authorized the temporary admission of 50 farm workers and 19 fishermen to relieve serious shortages in these work fields.

The Virgin Islands Employment Service, operated under the guidance of and with funds furnished by the United States Labor Department, carried a full program of employment services, including placement, counseling, special services for veterans, and labor market information. Placement service increased approximately 29%, chiefly in the service trades due to expansion of the tourist industry. There were 1400 new applicants with a placement record of 1308. Over 2500 selection interviews were held, and 264 employer visits were made. Many employers contemplating the establishment of business in the islands obtained labor market information from the employment service.

Social Welfare

There has been continued progress in the integration of welfare programs on an insular basis, although the differing resources of the municipalities present a serious difficulty in maintaining the matching programs on common standards for both municipalities, which is a Federal requirement and is also manifestly desirable from a local viewpoint.

In Public Assistance the gains made at the outset of the Federal program -- in the rates of assistance, in the equalization of aid in the two municipalities, and in the modernization of the administration of the program -- were fully maintained. At the close of the last fiscal year, it seemed impossible that this could be done. The initial Municipal appropriations were only a little more than the preceding year. In this comparatively new program, rising out of the old inadequate municipal programs, it was to be expected that considerable expansion would be necessary for some time to bring under coverage all people in need. In St. Thomas - St. John, there was no reason to fear a serious caseload growth. But in St. Croix the number of applications from persons clearly in need indicated that the caseload was due for a considerable rise. This posed an acute problem since, in St. Croix, as a result of poorer economic conditions, there were more people in need, but less governmental revenue available.

The dilemma was solved by a combination of efforts. Late in the last fiscal year, St. Croix added \$11,000 to its appropriation, making the grand total of Municipal contributions to the Public Assistance Fund for the year \$150,483 (\$84,883 in St. Croix, \$66,400 in St. Thomas) as compared with \$133,529 for 1951-52. The rest of the problem was met by caseload adjustments of a nature which caused the least possible hardship to clients. The Department worked out with the Federal Bureau of Public Assistance a program which resulted in the transfer of 38 cases from the General Assistance category (cost borne entirely from local funds) to the Federal category of aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (cost shared by Federal funds). The Health Department gave valuable cooperation in this undertaking. Increased efforts were made to locate indigent clients and channel them into gainful occupation (full time, home employment), to search for community resources, and to determine

and uniform application of policies and procedures.

The public assistance program is now soundly organized and its administration is improving steadily. A staff development program, including an orientation plan for new workers, regular staff meetings, monthly training institutes, and university scholarships for social work study (the first scholarship awarded for school year 53-54), is under way. The challenging problems facing our government and people is to provide additional funds for the program in order to change the present distressing inadequacy of the assistance grants. We must not be complacent about grants averaging, in June 1953, \$10.98 per month for an aged client and \$5.46 per month for a child to provide food, clothing, rent, and all other living costs. There is need for more adequate municipal appropriations, for an Equalization Fund established by joint municipal contributions on a formula based on their respective financial abilities, and for a more favorable matching formula for Federal contributions.

The work of the Division of Child Welfare showed desirable growth in several areas. In the foster home program, the caseload practically doubled - at the end of the last fiscal year 48 children (29 in St. Thomas, 19 in St. Croix) were receiving care in family foster homes supervised by the Division, as compared with 25 when the year began. This increased activity is the result principally of the intensive home-finding campaign conducted by the Division during the two years past, including weekly radio programs for much of this period.

On the call of the Governor, citizens groups and representatives of health, welfare, education and law enforcement agencies of the Department, assembled in the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Delinquency, which lasted several days in the St. Croix Hotel. The child welfare division was represented by the U. S. ...

developed many far-reaching recommendations which form a valuable basis for future efforts in many fields, including needed legislation, to furnish protection and services for children in these Islands. The Proceedings of this conference were compiled and published in March 1953.

The over-all record of help furnished by the Mandahl School for Boys is good despite grave operating difficulties and despite a few boys who have failed to benefit from placement at the school and whose cases stick out like sore thumbs. A careful study of discharged cases, covering the entire life of the school has revealed some encouraging facts. Of 103 boys discharged, no report was available 19 who are off the Island. Of the remaining 84 boys, 67 have made a good adjustment and only 7 have failed. One boy died, and the other 9 made poor adjustments, in about equal numbers. Of the 67 who made good adjustments, 63 were employed or attending regular schools and only 4 were unemployed. This result is even more encouraging when it is remembered that 53 of the 103 boys discharged were admitted because of delinquent behavior or mental illness.

In general, social welfare activities in the islands have expanded and improved in a healthy, constructive manner, largely as a result of Federal aid through the Federal Social Security Program. But the program is still operating on standards so low that less than half the true minimum needs of destitute people are being met. This is due chiefly to the fact that the old dollar per dollar formula with which public assistance began on the continent many years ago is still being applied to the Virgin Islands, instead of the formula providing four dollars to one State on the continent. It is hoped that Congress may soon act to increase the Federal aid thus enable the Islands to meet their

At the end of calendar year 1952, there were 65 persons in the Virgin Islands receiving monthly payments under the Federal Old Age and survivors insurance. Payments totalled \$13,000, an increase of 18.1% over 1951. The average amount of old-age insurance payment to retired workers was \$38.36, as compared with an average of \$49.35 for the nation as a whole.

Virgin Islands Auditor

As at the close of the last fiscal year audit of accounts and settlement of claims were made of all transactions in both municipalities up to December 1952. A desk post audit depends on the current filing and reporting of the officer which work is audited. Naturally, any deviation from the filing and reporting schedules of such officers must result in a delay in the auditing procedure. The new accounting system which is now being installed will adequately permit a change to a local site audit procedure with necessary internal auditing.

More than 90% of the departments and agencies have filed inventories based on the modern property control and accounting system instituted by the Virgin Islands Auditor. With the completion of the filing of inventories of non-expendable property which should be completed during this fiscal year, it is planned to take up the recording and filing of all real property owned by the municipalities as the final phase in bringing the property control and accounting records up to date.

Public Utilities

The modern telephone facilities in St. Thomas and St. John, installed under the Virgin Islands Public Works Program, were placed in operation during the past fiscal year. The system in St. Thomas has facilities to serve 200 subscribers. However, due to the small size of the community, only 100 are now on the system. The full volume of the system is not yet being utilized.

hours. Arrangements are now being made to add facilities to the switchboard to serve another 200 subscribers.

In St. Croix the switchboard at Christian can serve 420 subscribers, and the one at Fredriksted has a capacity for 414. At the close of the last fiscal year there were 412 subscribers, and 458 telephones, including extensions, in use. The telephone service throughout the Virgin Islands has been greatly improved, but more funds are badly needed for adequate maintenance.

The installation of the V.I.F. radiotelephon communication with Puerto Rico and continental United States by All America Cables and Radio, Inc., has been completed in St. Thomas. This service, which will include St. Croix in the next few months, operates on a 24-hour basis, thus facilitating business and personal activities through better communication with areas outside the Virgin Islands.

The St. Thomas Power Authority and St. Croix Power Authority were abolished by law, and the power facilities in St. Thomas and St. Croix were sold to the Virgin Islands Corporation. A new Diesel generating unit has been installed in the St. Croix power plant. Substantial additional generating and distribution capacity has been, and is being installed in St. Thomas where the production and sale of electric energy have been greatly increased.

Tourism

Tourism is of prime importance to the economy of the Virgin Islands. Tourist promotion and development is handled through the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board and this agency is active in publicizing the Virgin Islands, particularly for the purpose of encouraging year-round vacation travel. Through the work of this Board sufficient funds have been made available for its work. The Board has a budget of \$100,000. Dollars available for its work and

the local government provided \$12,273 for the operation of the program. These funds are not considered adequate and to avoid a loss of the gains already made there must be increased funds made available to this agency.

Statistics compiled by the Tourist Development Board reflect that tourism resulted in close to \$6,000,000 of tourist expenditures in the islands as compared with \$4,500,000 expenditures during the fiscal year 1951-52 and \$3,000,000 in the fiscal year 1950-51. Tourist expenditures are divided into three major categories: Purchases in shops and restaurants, hotel fees, and sightseeing and taxicab fees. The bed capacity in the hotels and guest houses in St. Thomas has increased to 1095 and in St. John the bed capacity has increased to 241. The figures for the preceding year were 750 for St. John and 235 for St. John. Twenty large cruise ships visited St. Thomas in 1953 as against twelve in 1952 and seven in 1951. In addition, the Delta Line ships made 11 visits to St. Thomas and the S.S. Puerto Rico made 12 visits. The arrival of all of these ships resulted in over 15,000 passengers coming ashore at St. Thomas. Airline passenger travel reached a new level during the fiscal year and the number of flights in the peak season was increased to the point where additional flights were not necessary because there was not additional bed capacity.

Competing areas in the Caribbean have been increasing their promotional expenditures, which, in almost every instance, exceed \$100,000 or more for the particular island or group of islands, and competition for the Virgin Islands is growing exceedingly strong. In order to strengthen and develop the economy of the Virgin Islands, promotional efforts in the field of tourism must be increased to the point where the Virgin Islands not only can maintain its competitive position with other areas in the Caribbean, but can also develop its own facilities for tourists.

Credit Facilities

Six credit unions were organized during the year as a result of the amendment of the Federal Credit Union Act to include the Virgin Islands. In St. Thomas a credit union has been organized among the government employees, both federal and municipal, and one by the taxicab association. In St. Croix there is a credit union established for government employees, federal and municipal, one for the employees of the Virgin Islands Corporation, and one for the residents of Frederiksted. The establishment of a credit union in Frederiksted is especially important since there are no banking facilities in this town. A credit union has also been established for the residents of the island of St. John. These credit unions were all established with the assistance of officials of the Federal Bureau of Credit Unions.

The Virgin Islands Banking Board considered an application made to establish a new bank to be known as the West Indies Bank and Trust Company. Satisfied that all the requirements of the Virgin Islands Banking Law were met, the Board recommended that a certificate be issued authorizing the establishment of the bank. This new bank will shortly be opened with headquarters in Charlotte Amalie and branch offices in Christiansted and Frederiksted.

St. John Development

For many years the need for a center-line road connecting Cruz Bay and Coral Bay in St. John was recognized. With the gradual development of that island the need for such a road, able to take vehicular traffic, became more and more urgent. Work on this road was begun during the year with funds made available through the Public Works Program of the Federal Government. Although the road is only now under construction, it is a matter of fact that the island, which was temporarily without a center-line road, is now (an

increase of 8 within the past six months, 2 trucks and 4 tractors on the island. With the completion of the road a greater increase is anticipated. Care must be taken to make sure that the increase vehicular traffic in St. John does not adversely effect the tourist trade of this island, since the area is now increasing in visitors and permanent residents who prefer its peace, quiet and natural beauty. At the proper time the administration will sponsor legislation to limit the number and kind of motor vehicles to be used in St. John.

A new health center, constructed under the Virgin Islands Public Works Program, is now in use. This is an outstanding improvement over the old inadequate facilities. Under the same program a catchment area and sewerage were constructed in Cruz Bay making it possible for the residents of that district to be supplied with water during the last severe drought. It is hoped that funds could be made available at some later date for the contemplated water supply facility at Bordeaux. A similar facility is also needed in Coral Bay District.

With the increase in tourist accommodations on the island there is a greater demand for electrical energy. A limited extension was made in the power distribution system at Cruz Bay. However, because of the present as well as prospective demands upon which the island's economy depends, it is necessary to give serious attention to the further expansion and improvement of the electrical power system. In this connection the Virgin Islands Corporation has authorized a survey to be made to determine what plants should be developed.

More attention need to be given to the development of the agricultural possibilities of St. John, with emphasis on the raising and improving of livestock as a major activity.

Conclusion

The past year has been considerable progress in many areas of public and private endeavor in the Virgin Islands. Particularly encouraging has been marked and easily discernible public interest in the affairs of government. To stimulate and to maintain such interest and watchfulness the Governor has, during the entire year, spoken directly to the people of the Islands in personal, weekly broadcasts bringing to them a resume of governmental operations and stating the opinions of the administration on all public issues.

Cooperation between the executive branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands and the U. S. Department of the Interior has been at an all-time high. It is the position of the present Governor that such coordination is not only implicit in the Organic Act, which provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall exercise general supervision over the executive branch of the government of the Islands, but is also necessary to ensure the continued progress of the Islands. It is pleasing, indeed, to note that such coordination and cooperation have continued without interruption under the new administration in Washington.

Unfortunately, the executive and legislative branches of the government of the Virgin Islands have not seen vis-a-vis on many public issues of transcendent importance. This is clearly demonstrated by the number of bills of the two municipal councils which the Governor has had to veto, or permit to become law without executive approval, because of basic disagreement in policies. This situation can be improved only after strong political parties are organized in the Islands, assuring the executive of a voice in the Legislature, which does not now exist. Yet, if all is said and done, there has been a certain rapprochement between the two branches, and the Legislature has been more active in the Islands, with its members more interested in public issues. The Governor, on the other hand, has been more entrenched in the Islands.

No real progress in the political affairs of the Virgin Islands can be achieved until a new Organic Act is enacted by Congress. Once again, I recommend that the new Organic Act should be adopted at the earliest possible date, providing essentially for (1) a unicameral legislature; (2) a single treasury; (3) annual legislative sessions of 60 days and special sessions of not to exceed 30 days; (4) return of all internal revenues taxes; (5) a resident commissioner; (6) requiring legislative confirmation of policy-making officers only; and (7) an appointive governor until 1956, an elective governor thereafter.

This session of the Legislative Assembly has been called, in accordance with the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, for considering a very heavy, I may say an unusually heavy, agenda of important legislative items. Many of these items will require careful consideration and thoughtful deliberation as well as consultation with the administration as well as consultation with various affected community interests. I sincerely hope that these items will receive such careful consideration as will result, in the final analysis, in the enactment of laws which will be of benefit to the people of the Virgin Islands and advance the larger public interests of the entire Islands. To this end, I offer the whole-hearted cooperation of the administration. I assure you that the Governor and the members of the executive staff, will stand ready and willing to be of any possible assistance to you in your responsible undertakings.

And now, Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly, I believe we can face the future with hope. To do so, we need faith; faith in our country, faith in our islands, faith in ourselves and in the things we are doing. Above all, we need faith in God, the Supreme Architect of the World, in order that we may go about the right way. We need great faith, for honor, for justice, in order. We need understanding. We need questions, we need criticism of the Virgin Islands. I feel in

ourselves, and demonstrate to the world full confidence in our ability to preserve and build these islands for the future.

A motion was made and seconded that the following committee on Investigation be established and to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly before the session ends.

The members elected to serve on the Committee to Investigate the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board were: Hons. Ann Abramson, Herbert H. Heywood, Walter F. M. Hodge, Henry O. Creque, and Henry V. Richards.

Committee to Investigate the Virgin Islands Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Members were: Hons. Henry C. Bokley, Eric H. Carroll, Raymond A. Peelo, Weymouth Rhymes, and Percival H. Reese.

The following appointments were confirmed:

Office of the Virgin Islands Auditor:

Swendalen M. Adams as Account Clerk II with pay at the rate of \$2400 per annum, effective on and after November 10, 1953

Banking Board:

Mr. Hein Christensen as a member for a term of two years, vice Mr. Darwin Creque, resigned.

Board of Pharmacy:

Dr. Lee M. Cole as a member of the Board of Pharmacy, replacing Dr. Tamyn whose membership on the above board has expired.

The Legislative Assembly next discussed and accepted the written report of the Organic Act Committee. A motion was made that a committee of three members be designated to draft a written constitution. Messrs. Silverman and [unclear] were appointed. The votes were 0-10.

yea

yea

Mr. Carroll	yea
Mr. Fugate	absent
Mr. Gillick	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Heywood	not voting
Mr. Hodge	yea
Mr. Ottley	yea
Mr. Pedro	may
Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Rhymes	yea
Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Rohlen	yea
Mr. Schade	absent
Mr. Sprauve	absent

The members elected to serve on the above mentioned committee were.

Hons: Heywood, Ottley and Richards

The Assembly then adopted the following Resolutions and Bills.

Resolution

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States
5th Session 1953

Expressing the Appreciation of the People of the Virgin Islands to the Fund for the Advancement of Education, Ford Foundation, for instituting a Teacher Training Program for the Virgin Islands through Hampton Institute.

Whereas, The Fund for the Advancement of Education, Ford Foundation, has graciously agreed to finance a Teacher Training Program for the Virgin Islands to be instituted through Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia; and,

Whereas, This program which is designated to improve the quality of teaching in the Virgin Islands will provide training for persons currently employed in the public school system and for persons to be employed in the public school system to plan to teach in the public school system.

Whereas, Under the initial grant of \$77,200, Hampton Institute will administer during the school year an in-service training program for teachers in the Virgin Islands School System and a program of scholarship for high school graduates and for the more promising teachers now employed in the Islands who have not had undergraduate training; and,

Whereas, This program will be of inestimable benefit to the People of the Virgin Islands by improving the quality of teaching and thus increasing the value of our public education;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled that through this medium the sincere appreciation of the People of the Virgin Islands be, and is hereby, conveyed to the Officials of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, Board of Trustees and,

Be It Further Resolved, and it is further Resolved, That this Resolution be properly engrossed, framed, and transmitted to the Fund for the Advancement of Education, Board of Trustees, as a memento of the gratitude of the people of the Virgin Islands for its generous contribution in support of a Teacher Training Program in the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Abramson	yea	Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Benjamin	yea	Mr. Pido	"
Mr. Carroll	"	Mr. Rose	absent
Mr. Crique	"	Mr. Spicer	yea
Mr. Flick	"	Mr. Richards	Not Voting
Mr. Gomez	"	Mr. Rohrer	absent
Mr. Hayward	absent	Mr. Schade	"
Mr. Hodge	yea	Mr. Sprague	"

Resolutions

The Seventy-seventh Congress of the United States

To the President
and
Vice President

To Study
Official To

Whereas, A number of War Veterans, natives of the Virgin Islands, has already returned home; and,

Whereas, It is expected that many more veterans would be returning home in the future; and,

Whereas, most of the States of the Union and other Territories of the United States have provided certain benefits for returning war veterans; and,

Whereas, There is a need to provide certain benefits for veterans returning to the Virgin Islands:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, That:

1. There is hereby created a Joint Committee to be comprised of six members as follows: Two members from the Administration appointed by the Governor, two members from the Legislative Assembly and a representative from each recognized veterans organization in the Virgin Islands, selected by said organization.
2. It shall be the duty of this Joint Committee to study and recommend within ninety days after its creation to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly legislation of benefit to servicemen and veterans.

Mr. Alramson	...	yea	Mr. Otley	...	yea
Mr. Benjamin	...	"	Mr. Pedro	...	yea
Mr. Bartol	...	"	Mr. Price	...	absent
Mr. Bregue	...	"	Mr. Rhymen	...	yea
Mr. Filich	...	"	Mr. Richards	...	yea
Mr. Gomez	...	"	Mr. Rolfen	...	absent
Mr. Heywood	...	absent	Mr. Schade	...	absent
Mr. Hodge	...	yea	Mr. Spaul	...	absent

Bill No. 51

The Seventeenth Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands

Law Concerning Public Contracts in the Virgin Islands

" "

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1(a). The Commissioner of Finance for the Virgin Islands shall have the power, and it shall be his duty, to purchase or contract for all supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services needed by any and all departments, institutions, boards, commissions and agencies of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and which are hereinafter referred to as the using agencies. The terms, "supplies," "materials," and "equipment" as used throughout this law shall be construed to mean any and all things which shall be furnished to or used by any agency, including any and all printing, binding, or publication or stationery, forms, journals, and reports. The term "contractual services" shall be construed to mean any and all telephone, water, electrical light and power service; insurance; leases for all grounds, buildings, offices or other space required by the using agencies; and the rental, government-owned personal property.

(b). The Legislative Branch may at any time request the Commissioner of Finance to purchase or contract for its supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services.

Section 2. (a) All purchases of, and contracts for, supplies, equipment, materials, and contractual services, and all sales of personal property which have become obsolete and unusable, shall be based, whenever possible, on competitive bids. If the amount of the expenditure is expected to exceed \$200, written bids shall be invited, provided that a total of not more than \$600 per annum shall be expended on any item of personal property by contract. Invitations inviting sealed competitive bids shall be circulated. Such invitations to

bid shall include a general description of the articles to be purchased, shall state where bid blanks and specifications shall be secured, and the time and place for opening the bids. All bids shall be submitted sealed to the Commissioner of Finance, and if deemed necessary by him, should be accompanied by surety in the form of check, cash or bond, in the amount as shall be prescribed in the Invitation to Bid. Bids shall be opened in public, at the time and place stated in the Invitation to Bid. A tabulation of all bids received shall be passed for public inspection. The Commissioner of Finance may reject any or all bids, or the bid for any one or more commodities or contractual services included in the proposed contract, when the public interest will be served thereby.

(b). If all bids received are for the same total amount, or unit price, and if the public interest would not permit the delay of reinviting bids, the Commissioner of Finance shall have authority to award the contract to one of the bidders by drawing lots in public, or to purchase the commodity or the contractual service in the open market, provided the price paid in the open market shall not exceed the lowest contract bid price submitted for the same commodity or the contractual service, otherwise, the contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, quality offered, delivery terms, and the service reputation of the vendor may be taken into consideration in determining the successful bidder.

c. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Finance to discourage informal bidding, and to endeavor to have as full and open competition as possible on all purchases.

(d) If the amount of the sale contract is estimated to be \$500 or more, written notices inviting bids shall be published in a local newspaper and at least five calendar days intervene between the date of the last publication and the

final date for submitting bids. Such notice shall include a general description of the articles to be sold, should state where bid blanks and specifications may be secured, and the time and place for the opening of bids. All bids shall be submitted sealed to the Commissioner of Finance, and if deemed necessary by him, should be accompanied by surety in the form of check, cash, or bond, in the amount as shall be prescribed in the public notice inviting bids. The bids shall be opened in public at the time and place stated in the newspaper notice. A tabulation of all bids received shall be posted for public inspection. The Commissioner of Finance may reject any or all bids when the public interest will be served thereby. If all bids received are for the same total amount or unit price, the Commissioner of Finance shall have the authority to select one of the bidders by drawing lots in public, otherwise the sale shall be made to the highest responsible bidder.

Section 3. All purchases of supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services, and all sales of personal property which has become obsolete and unusable, of less than two hundred dollars (\$200) in amount may be made in the open market, without advertisement, and without observing the procedure prescribed by Section 2 for the award of contracts. In case of an emergency which requires immediate purchase of supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services, the Governor of the Virgin Islands may authorize the Commissioner of Finance to secure in the open market at the lowest obtainable price any supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services regardless of the amount of the expenditure. It is provided, however, that a full explanation of the circumstances of such emergency shall be recorded.

Section 4. In case of actual emergency, and with the consent of the Commissioner of Finance, any agency may purchase directly any supplies, materials or equipment for immediate

procurement is essential to prevent delays in the work of the using agency which may vitally affect the life, health, or convenience of citizens. The head of such using agency shall send to the Commissioner of Finance a requisition and a copy of the delivery record together with a full written explanation of the circumstances of the emergency, which shall be filed by the Commissioner of Finance as a permanent and public record of the purchase. The Commissioner of Finance shall by rules and regulations prescribe the procedure under which such emergency purchases may be made.

Section 5. No contract or purchase on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands shall be made unless the same is authorized by law or is under an appropriation adequate to its fulfillment.

Section 6. The Commissioner of Finance shall establish, from time to time, amend all rules and regulations authorized by this law. He shall also prescribe forms to be used in the making of contracts. Such rules, regulations, amendments, and forms thereto shall be subject to the approval of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Section 7. Purchase of foreign goods, materials or services are prohibited unless evidence can be shown that such goods, materials or services cannot be obtained within a reasonable time on the American market.

Section 8. All laws, ordinances or parts of laws or ordinances in conflict herewith or inconsistent with the provisions of this law are hereby repealed.

Mrs. Abrams	.....	yes
Mr. Benson	.....	absent
Mr. Carr	.....	yes
Mr. Lipp	.....	absent
Mr. Smith	.....	yes
Mr. Taylor	.....	yes
Mr. White	.....	yes
Mr. Brown	.....	yes

Bill No. 60

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States.

5th Session 1953

Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands of the
United States.

— " —

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly
of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Chapter I

Title

Section 1. This Act shall be known
as the Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands
of the United States.

Elections

Section 2. General Elections: A general
election shall be held in the Mun-
icipalities of the Virgin Islands on the first
Tuesday after the first Monday in
November in the year 1954, and
biennially thereafter upon such day.

Section 3. (a) Special Elections: In the case
of vacancy in the membership of either
Municipal Council occurring by reason
of death, resignation, or otherwise, said
vacancy for the unexpired term shall
be filled by a special election called
by the Governor.

(b) In case of vacancy in the membership
in either Municipal Council occurring
within 120 days prior to the date of the
next general election, there shall be no
special election to fill such vacancy.

(c) In all other cases of vacancy, the
Governor shall call a special election
within 15 days after such vacancy
occurs, provided that the
date of such election shall be at
least 30 days prior to the
next general election.

(d) Special elections shall be conducted the same as the regular elections provided for herein with the one exception that registration list shall be opened for two consecutive days for new registration. Provided, however, that such registration must be held at least 15 days prior to the said election.

Section 4. (a). Notices of Elections: Not less than three weeks before the election provided for in this law the Registration Board must post notices in three public places in each district which notices must specify the time and place, the location of the polls, and the hours during which the polls will be kept open. This notice must also contain the names of the duly nominated candidates to be voted upon in that district.

(b) at least once a week for three weeks preceding the election the Registration Board shall cause to be published in the newspapers a general notice of elections.

Section 5. Legal Holiday: Regular Election Day as herein provided shall be a legal holiday in the Virgin Islands of the United States. All employees who are required to work on election day shall be entitled to two hours off their job to vote in all elections provided they notify their employers before such election of their intention to be absent.

Chapter II

Officials To Be Elected.

Section 6. There shall be elected at each general elections seven members for the Municipal Council of Saint Thomas and Saint John who shall be qualified electors of that municipality as follows: two (2) members for the Town District, two (2) members for the County District, one (1) member for the District of Saint John, and two (2) members for the District of Saint John, and three shall be elected for the general election for the Council of Saint John, who shall be qualified electors of that

Municipality as follows: two (2) members for the Town District of Christiansted, two (2) members for the Country District of Christiansted; two (2) members for the Town District of Frederiksted, two (2) members for the Country District of Frederiksted; and one (1) member at St. John and all such elective officers as may be provided by law hereafter where term expires before the succeeding elections.

Chapter III

Qualification For Electors

Section 1. (a) That the right of franchise shall be vested in residents of Virgin Islands, except as hereinafter provided, who are:

- A. Citizens of the United States
- B. Twenty-one years of age
- C. Able to read and write the English language.

For the purpose of this law "able to read and write the English language" shall be interpreted to mean, ability to read and write any part of any newspaper published locally.

(b) Legal Resident: For the purpose of this Law "residents of the Virgin Islands" shall be persons who have maintained a legal residence in the Virgin Islands for a period of one year next preceding the date of the election and in the Municipality in which they desire to vote for a period of six months next preceding the election and in the district or precincts in which they desire to vote for a period of sixty days next preceding the election.

(c) For the purpose of this law, no person in the service of the Navy or Coast Guard, or any person deemed to be in the service of the Federal Government, shall be deemed to have been a resident of any district or precinct.

Section 2a). Disfranchisement: Every person who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude shall be debarred from voting for a period of three years following the date of his discharge. Provided, however, that every person who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude for two or more such offenses shall be debarred from voting for a period of 25 years.

(b) No inmate of any public or private institution for the insane or persons who are under the care of a guardian by reason of any mental incapacity shall be entitled to vote.

(c) For the purpose stated in this section, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Health to supply the chairman of the Registration Board of each municipality, quarterly, and also when so requested, written lists duly certified by the Commissioner of Health showing the names of all male or female persons, twenty-one years of age or over, who are shown by the record of his office to have died in the respective municipality subsequent to the date on which such data was sent to the chairman of the Registration Board; and such lists shall show the fullest possible description as the names of parents, or of the parent appearing in the birth certificate, race and place of residence.

(d) Likewise, the Clerk of the United States District Court shall furnish to the chairman of the Election Board a list showing the names of all male or female persons, twenty-one years of age or over, who are shown by the record of his office to have died in the District of Columbia subsequent to the date on which such data was sent to the chairman of the Election Board; and such lists shall show the fullest possible description as the names of parents, or of the parent appearing in the birth certificate, race and place of residence.

Chapter IV

Designation of Polling Places

Section 1. The areas of residence allocated for voting purposes to each polling place shall be known as a "precincts"

Section 2. Within 90 days after the approval of this Act, the election board of each district herein created shall meet and shall designate a maximum of six precincts in each district, and a building in each precinct to be used as the polling place in such precinct

Section 3. The residents and voters of the town district, residing on a given number of streets, shall, by this designation be required to vote at such polling place as is named by the board. The residents and voters of the country district, residing on a given number of estates determined by the board, shall, by designation, be required to vote at polling place as is named by the board; provided, That not more than 800 voters shall at any time or in any election be allocated to any one precinct in the town district, and not more than 400 voters shall at any time or in any election be allocated to any one precinct in the country district, and provided further that such designations shall be made with a view to securing as nearly as possible equality in the number of voters allocated to vote at each polling place.

(b) Polling places shall be selected with the object of affording the voters the maximum facility in arriving at the polling place and casting their ballots and, generally, of contributing as greatly as possible to the smooth and proper dispatch of the election.

Section 4. The Election Board for each district shall have authority to make changes in the designation of precincts and polling places originally named, as hereinbefore provided, when such change or changes will contribute to the smooth and proper dispatch of the election.

Chapter V

Registration and Enrollment of Voters

Section 1. Registration Board: There shall be and is hereby created a Registration Board for each municipality composed of the Election Board herein created. The Judge of the Police Court shall be Chairman and shall have one vote on the Registration Board, provided, however, that as long as there is more than one Judge of the Police Court the members of the Registration Board shall select which Judge shall be its Chairman. In case of a tie vote the side on which the Chairman votes shall be considered the majority.

Section 2. (a) Provision for registration of qualified electors shall be made beginning in the year 1954 and biennially thereafter as herein provided; provided, however, that the registration lists in existence on the date of the enactment of this law shall be validated as the existing official registration lists for the respective districts, and new lists established, one for each precinct, as designated by the election boards.

(b) During the month of July, 1954, the registration board shall meet at least once a week at each of the polling places established by the election board hereinafter created at such time as the board may fix, and as often as necessary, to establish an up-to-date active registration list for each of the precincts, the creation of which is hereinbefore provided for. Sufficient extra copies of the separate registration lists, prepared in alphabetical order, will be available for use at the polling places designated by the board. Registration for the establishment of new registration lists of electors, on the precinct level, shall be completed not later than thirty days prior to the date of the general election of 1954.

(c) The members of the Registration Board of each municipality shall be the members of the election board and shall meet at least twice a year, the first meeting shall be held in September.

each month at each of the places designated as polling places for the purpose of examination and registration of applicants for registration; provided all registration shall cease at least thirty days before the date of election. Not less than two members of the election board for the district shall be present at all times during the course of registration.

(d) An applicant once registered need not re-register except in case of continuous absence from the Virgin Islands in excess of one year or failure to vote at the last two general elections. The Registration Board is hereby authorized to enter on the correct registration lists of the several precincts of each district the names of registered electors who have removed from a precinct such district or from one district another for a period in excess of sixty days, and the Registration Board shall notify such persons of such transfer.

Section 3. The Chairman of the Registration Board for each Municipality shall cause to be published in the local newspaper in his respective municipality once a week for three consecutive weeks preceding the annual registration days a general notice of registration.

Section 4. Not less than thirty days before the days of registration provided for in this law the Chairman of the Registration Board must post notices in three public places in each district which notices must specify the time, the place, and the hours during which registration may be made in that district.

Section 5. The Registration Board may make regulations for the registration of voters in each precinct of each district. Such regulations shall be made at least thirty days before the registration days and at such times and places as may be deemed advisable. Registration must cease at least thirty days before the election.

(b) Registration shall be made at such place or places in each district in addition to the polling places herein created as the Registration Board may designate.

(c) The Registration Board members of the district or a part thereof of not less than two members shall be present in the place designated by the Registration Board continuously for not less than two hours each day and such hours must be specified in the public places.

(d) All applicants entitled to register who are in the place where the registration is held at or before the time of closing shall be allowed to register if qualified.

Section 6(a). The Official Register for each precinct shall contain the full name of each elector, the sex, age, occupation, address and birthplace, if naturalized, the place, date and date of naturalization, and whether citizenship has been acquired by treaty or by Act of Congress.

(e) A supplementary list containing the same information may be made for those applicants who are not qualified but will become qualified before the day of election.

(c) Each applicant for registration may be challenged by any qualified elector in the district, and any one or more of the Registration Board must thereupon read to and afterwards administer to the person challenged an oath, in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States, that you are twenty-one years of age or over, that you have resided in the Virgin Islands one year next preceding this election, and that you are qualified to register as otherwise provided in the election law and that you have not registered in another district for this election." If he takes the oath prescribed in this section his name must be registered.

(d) An applicant who is not qualified to register

after he has been challenged is guilty of perjury and upon conviction thereof is punishable as provided by law.

(e) Each applicant for registration is responsible for producing the facts in his own case.

(f) One week after the close of registration the official registration list shall be posted in the Police Stations and in at least one public place in each electoral district; one week later the Registration Board members of the district shall meet for the purpose of hearing challenges and make decisions on the same.

Section 7. Besides the Registration List the Registration Board shall keep a Journal of all its proceedings, this Journal may be kept by one of its members or by some one designated by the Registration Board.

Section 8. The Board shall have authority to pass on all problems of registration of voters, and its decision shall be final unless as the instant is concerned; but this shall not be construed to deny the voter an appeal to the District Court of the Virgin Islands from the decision of the Registration Board.

Section 9. Members of the Registration Boards and assistants shall receive a stipend of two dollars and fifty (\$2.50) cents per meeting for attendance at all meetings and travel allowance at the rate of ten cent per mile for actual travel both ways, provided, however, that for services rendered on election days members of the Registration Boards and Assistants shall receive a stipend of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars which stipend and travel allowance shall be provided for in the annual budget for the respective municipalities.

Section 10. The Registrar shall be subject to the supervision of the District Court.

Municipal Council shall be nominated by not less than six registered voters in the District in which the candidate desires to seek office and for the member at large, by at least six such registered voters in each Electoral District. The candidate's acceptance of such nomination shall be indicated by his signature to the petition. No permanent employed person in the Federal or Municipal Government shall be eligible to sit in the Municipal Council.

The petition shall be certified by the signatories under oath that they are qualified electors and that the signatures are bona fide and made by the signator's own hand. Notarization shall be free.

Such petition shall be substantially in the following form: "We, the undersigned qualified electors of (name the district) do hereby nominate ----- a qualified elector of the Municipality of ----- for (position sought)."

Section 2. Nominating petitions shall be filed with the Chairman of the Registration Board not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days prior to the date of election.

Section 3. Within three days after the close of a nominating period the Registration Board shall meet. At this meeting the Chairman and the Board shall examine the nominating petitions. To this meeting the Chairman with one day's notice may cause to be summoned in the presence of witnesses the signatories whose identity is unknown to him, also signatories whose identity seems to him to be doubtful. The Registration Board has then to see to the signatories' identity and capacity and to determine that the candidates have been correctly nominated. If the petitions are not faulty the candidates' names must be placed upon the ballot.

Section 4. If a petition is established as faulty the signatories shall be notified with the reasons therefor and, if found faulty, the name of the candidate shall be removed from the ballot.

shall be disqualified for nomination.

Section 5. Nomination of candidates may be withdrawn down to the close of this meeting by the candidates themselves but after they cannot be recalled.

Chapter IV

Voting

Section 1(a). There shall be and is hereby created an Election Board for each district in each Municipality composed of six citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the appropriate Municipal Council and the Police Judge of the Municipality who shall be Chairman; provided, however, that the purpose of this section, St. John shall be considered to be two districts the Long Bay and the Great Bay Section; and provided further, that no member of an election board shall be a candidate for election in any district.

(b) The Election Boards shall choose among the members a Vice-Chairman to act in the absence of the Chairman.

(c) Members of the Election Boards shall hold office for a period of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(d) Each member shall take the oath of office prescribed in Section 3 of the Organic Act and the Chairman or his deputy or deputies shall be authorized to administer to oaths to any person in connection with the elections.

(e) To administer the voting of each polling place in each precinct the Election Board for the district in which such precinct is located shall nominate to serve for that day only two assistants, provided that at least one member of each election board shall be present at all times during the voting at each polling place and provided further that the District Police is hereby authorized and directed to station at least one policeman at each polling

place during the period of actual voting thereat, and provided further that the Election Board shall at all times maintain a close supervision over the proper functioning of the entire election and shall be held fully accountable therefor.

The said assistants shall take an oath administered by the chairman of the Election Board or his deputy, that they shall well, faithfully and honestly perform the duties imposed on them as election officials for the day.

(f) In case of a member's inability to act on any Election Board shall temporarily fill the vacancy.

(g) The Election Board shall keep a journal of all its proceedings. This journal may be kept by one of the members or by some one designated by the Election Board.

(h) The chairman of the Boards are hereby generally authorized to hire the service of one clerk for the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John and one clerk for the Christiansted Town and County District combined and the Frederiksted Town and County Districts combined at a salary which shall be provided for in the annual budget for the respective municipalities.

Section 2(a) The chairman of the Election Board shall prepare and have printed an official ballot which contain on the face in alphabetical order the names of the candidates for the district separated by horizontal lines. At the top of the ballot shall be designated the number of candidates to be voted for, such as "vote for more than two," or "vote for not more than one," as the case may be. While one candidate is being nominated the word "nominate" shall be printed with a printed line for writing the name of the candidate. After the nomination is complete the word "ballot" shall be printed at the top of the back of the ballot.

of the ballot shall be printed only the name of the Municipality, the name of the electoral district and the year and date of the election.

(b). Each ballot shall be placed in an envelope of opaque material and of such form as entirely to cover the enclosed ballot. Provided, however, that the names of candidates at large shall be on a separate ballot from the names of the candidates for the district, and provided further that should either ballot be invalidated, it, in itself, shall not invalidate the other ballot.

(c). No party, other name, word, sign, party emblem, nor designation shall be placed upon the ballot or the envelope either by printing or writing or in any other way.

Section 3. The Chairman of the Board in each District shall on or before the day of election prepare and have ready a supply of ballots for that district which shall be at least equal to the number of qualified electors in each district as appears from the registration list thereof.

Not later than one hour before the opening of the polls on election day, he shall forward to the members of the Board or Clerk in charge of the voting at each polling place on election day a package containing sufficient printed ballots, envelopes, lists, tally sheets, etc., necessary for the proper conduct of the voting at each polling place.

Section 4. The right of voting can only be exercised by personal attendance and no unregistered person shall be allowed to vote in any election. All persons whose names are on the registration list shall be entitled to vote and shall be given ballots for each purpose.

Section 5. No person shall enter the place where an election is being held unless he has first signed himself to the election in the book of his name is registered or is one of

such officials, and is marked off upon it in the manner decided upon by the Election Board, the mark being uniform for all electors. His name with his running number, shall also be entered on a list to be kept by one of the election officials.

(b) Thereafter the ballot and envelope are delivered to the elector and it must moreover be told him:

1. That he must put a cross opposite the names of those persons for whom he wishes to give his vote; if there is one candidate, opposite the word "yes" or "no."
2. That a cross must not be made on the ballot opposite more names than there are candidates to be elected.
3. That neither on the ballot nor on the envelope must any mark be written, drawn, or otherwise made by which the elector may be supposed intentionally to wish to give the ballot a particular stamp.
4. That nothing may be put in the envelope besides the ballot.
5. That the envelope must be sealed.
6. This information must be given to several electors, at one time, and may be omitted when an elector declares himself to be acquainted with it.

(c) At least one booth or private room shall be provided at each polling place and voters shall be required to enter such booth or private room for the purpose of marking their ballots. The voting room must be so apart that the voter cannot be seen by any person outside the room; must be sufficiently lighted for writing to be plainly read in it, and must be furnished with an inkstand, and pencils and fixed desk for writing.

(d) The room where the voting takes place shall be open to the public.

opposite the names of the candidates whom he wishes to vote for or when only the words "yes" and "no" are found on the ballot, then opposite one of these words, and places the ballot in the envelope.

(e) From the voting room, where the elector must remain long enough for making the ballot and enclosing it in the envelope, the elector goes to the ballot-box and delivers the closed envelope with the ballot placed therein to the collector appointed by the Election Board to receive the votes (the receiver of votes). This collector sees that the envelope is then closed. The ballot in the sealed envelope is then placed in the ballot-box by the receiver of votes who at the same time enters the voter's name on a list of voters voted.

(f) In case a ballot or envelope, after delivery to the elector, but before deposited in the ballot-box, is found unserviceable or is inadvertently spoiled, the elector concerned can go back to the keeper of the voting list and after explaining satisfactorily what has happened and giving back the spoiled part, it is exchanged for another with proper record kept in all journals.

Section 6. Ballot boxes shall be provided by the Chairman of the Election Board one to contain ballot voted and the other for the rejected and defective ballots. The ballot boxes shall be of sufficient size to contain all the votes and shall be so constructed that no ballots can be taken out of it without the box being opened. These boxes shall be inspected by the Election Officers before the voting begins to assure that they are empty and thereafter shall be locked in the presence of the Election Officers, which lock shall not be opened until the time set for the counting of the votes.

Section 7. No electioneering or canvassing shall be permitted in the polling place.

Section 8. No person shall be present at the election except the election officials.

Section 9. All voters entitled to vote who are in the polling places where the election is held at or before the time of closing the polls shall be allowed to vote.

Section 10. Any voter may be challenged by any qualified elector of the district and a member of the Election Board must, and is hereby authorized to, thereupon read to and afterwards administer to the persons challenged an oath, in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm), that you are a citizen of the United States, that you are twenty-one years of age, that you have resided in the Virgin Islands one year next preceding this election, in this Municipality six months next preceding this election and this district sixty days next preceding this election and that you are a qualified elector registered under this name and that you have not voted before on this day." If he takes the oath prescribed herein his vote must be received otherwise his vote must be rejected.

(b) The Election Board or any member thereof shall challenge every person applying for a ballot when it shall be known or suspected that such person is not a qualified voter in the district or precinct.

(c) Any person who wilfully swears or affirms falsely as to his right to vote after he has been challenged, is guilty of perjury and after conviction may be punished in the manner provided by law for the punishment of such crime.

(d) A person who is not qualified to vote at such election, who shall vote, threaten, or who shall vote more than once, threaten, when challenged, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both, and the court may, in its discretion, order that the person shall be disqualified from voting.

Section 11. No election officer or other person shall attempt to discover, or having discovered, shall disclose how any person has voted.

Section 12. It shall be the duty of the Police Department to aid the Election Board in carrying out the provisions of this law at the polls on Election Day.

Chapter VIII

Canvass

Section 1. The ballots shall be counted or canvassed by the Election Officials in the manner provided herein. The votes for each candidate shall be tallied and counted by the officials of each precinct at a polling place commencing with hours after the polls close, and a statement shall be made as to the names of each candidate, votes and the number of votes for each candidate. Such statement also give the number and description of the ballots which are declared valid and specify the number of wholly illegal votes cast. Such statement shall be signed by the Election Official and be kept as a voucher of the election journals.

Section 2. (a). Immediately upon the close of the polls the election officials of each precinct at each polling place shall recount the ballots found in the box without opening them except so far as it is necessary to ascertain that each ballot is single. The counting is done by one of the members of the election board. The other officials note the how many votes each candidate has received. If there is only one candidate, the votes are counted by the board. If there are two or more candidates, the votes are counted by the board and the other officials note the how many votes each candidate has received. The results of the counting shall be entered in the poll list and the election journal. The results of the counting shall be entered in the poll list and the election journal.

names by sufficient votes to cause a tie vote or other material change of the results of the election, the election shall be declared void.

(b) Should any envelope contain anything else or more than the required number of ballots its contents are invalid. A ballot is furthermore invalid when ---

1. It does not appear with certainty to which of the candidates the voter has intended to give his vote, (or if there is one candidate only) whether the voter means to give his vote for or against him.

2. The quality of the ballot or envelope in which it is, gives ground for supposing that the ballot is not one of those given out by the keeper of the voting box and marked in a voting room.

3. On the ballot or the envelope anything is found written, drawn, or marked in any other way, whereby it is found to be purposely made known who the voter is, or generally when by any treatment which can only be supposed to have been the work of the elector, the ballot is found to have been intentionally given a peculiar stamp or character.

(c) After the ballots are counted and the statements have been made as required herein the ballots shall be sealed in a package. Each package shall be securely sealed and deposited by the election officials with the chairman. The unused ballots shall be placed in a package and returned at the same time and at the same place that such ballots boxes are delivered. All books, lists, papers, and other vouchers in connection with the election are to be signed by the Election Officials, promptly deposited with the chairman as vouchers.

(d) After the counting of those for whom votes have been counted, the Chairman shall be promptly made to the Chairman and the persons

receiving the greatest number of votes in their district shall be declared elected by the chairman, and they shall hold office after qualifying as herein provided until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

(e) Where the voting has been for one candidate only, he must have more than half of the votes cast in his favor in order to be regarded elected. If he has not reached such a number of votes a new election shall be fixed for the 8th day thereafter. If then no other candidate has in the meantime appeared, the first, without further voting, is to be regarded as elected; provided, however, in instances of this type only the nominating petition may be filed four days prior to the election.

(f) In case two or more persons receive an equal and the highest number of votes such persons shall proceed to a further election to office, with drawing shall take place before the Election Board shall immediately. The chairman of the Election Board shall draw up a statement of the drawing with the result thereof which shall be signed in the presence of witnesses by each candidate entering the drawing.

(g) It shall be the duty of the chairman of the Election Board, within five days after the determination or canvass by the election official, to notify in writing each person elected of this election.

Section 24. Any qualified elector of the district voting in the election who believes there has been fraud or error committed by the election officials or Board in their canvass or return of the votes from said election may petition the Election Board not later than three days after the election at which the petition was made for account of the same.

(h) If the petition is found to be sworn

(c) Upon the filing of such petition, the combined Election Boards of the Municipality in which the recount takes place shall cause notice of such recount to be given in a manner decided upon themselves. Such recount must be held within ten days after the filing of the petition and must be public. The Election Board shall make triplicate certificates of such determination under oath showing the result of the election and what persons were declared elected to fill offices, one of which shall be filed with the Recorder or Clerk, one with the chairman of the Registration Board, and one with the person filing the petition for recount. The recount shall be public. The persons receiving the greatest number of votes in his district as shown by said statements shall be deemed to have been elected, but if there shall be no choice by reason of two or more candidates having received an equal number of votes for the office, said candidates shall, under supervision of the Election Board, as previously provided choose by lot the person who shall be declared elected to said office. In case of a tie if the recount justifies the original figures the original choice by lot shall stand.

Section 4(a). Each candidate shall be entitled to have two duly authorized watchers (one beside himself) present at the polling place throughout the entire election and canvass or part thereof to secure a fair conducting of the election and canvass or part thereof, but at no time may watchers interfere with the actions of the Election Officials or the Election Board.

(b) Candidates who desire watchers must give written request of their watchers' names to the Election Officials upon the filing of their petition. Provided however, that candidates for member at large may have two watchers at each polling place.

Section 1. Every record made in pursuance of this law by the Registration Board and the Election Boards and the Election Officials shall be prima facie evidence of the facts herein set forth and shall be received as such in any court or tribunal in which the same offered as evidence.

Section 2. Should any section or part thereof of this law be declared invalid by a court of competent authority it shall not invalidate the remaining sections.

Section 3. The Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands of the United States of June 5, 1946, as amended, and all laws or parts thereof in conflict with this law, are repealed.

Section 4. This law shall take effect immediately upon the approval of Governor.

Mr. Abramson . . . not voting
Mr. Benjamin . . . " "
Mr. Barrell . . . yes
Mr. Bueuf . . . absent
Mr. Dick . . . not voting
Mr. Gomez . . . yes
Mr. Hayward . . . yes
Mr. Hodge . . . nay

Mr. Otley . . . "
Mr. Pedro . . . "
Mr. Reese . . . "
Mr. Rhynes . . . "
Mr. Richards . . . "
Mr. R. L. . . . "
Mr. Schade . . . yes
Mr. Sprague . . . "

Bill No. 63

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

5th Session 1953.

An Act to Amend the Personnel Management Law of the Virgin Islands Approved December 19, 1946, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States assembled:

The Personnel Management Law of the Virgin Islands of the United States of June 16, 1946, as amended, is amended as follows:

Section 1. . . . is amended

as follows: Three members, not more than two of whom shall be from the same municipality, shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands or by both Municipal Councils when the Assembly is not in session.

Section 2. The first paragraph of Section 8 of said law is hereby amended as follows: The Director shall prepare such rules as he may consider necessary, appropriate or desirable to carry out the provisions of this act and may from time to time recommend amendments thereto. When such rules or amendments are recommended by the Director he shall hold a public hearing and shall consider such suggestions for modifications or other changes as may be presented at such hearing. The rules or amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Board, and shall be submitted to the Governor who shall have the power to approve or reject the recommendations.

Section 3. Paragraph numbered (1) of section 8(b) of said law is hereby amended as follows: All department heads and other officials who perform independent functions or who are responsible for the formulation of policy, as the Governor may from time to time determine.

Section 4. Paragraph 4 of section 9(b) of said law is amended as follows: 4. Casual labor, and other persons employed for less than one year on projects of a temporary nature or persons employed on a fee, contract or piece work basis.

Section 5. Section 9(b) of said law is amended by addition of the following paragraph: 7. Position for which rates of basic compensation are specifically or expressly authorized to be fixed by any municipal or Island law.

Section 6. Section 17 of said law is hereby amended as follows: Admissions to tests shall be made to all persons who are desirous of applying for positions in accordance with the regulations issued by the Board, with the approval of the Board. However,

reject the application of any person for admission to a test or may remove the name of any person from a list or refuse to certify the name of any person from a list for a position if he finds that such person lacks any of the required qualifications. Provided, that any person refused admission to any test because of prejudice shall have the right of appeal before the board hereinafter created, and upon certification of the board that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications, the board shall order that the applicant be permitted to take a test and if found eligible his name shall be placed on the list. The Director may also reject any applicant who is found physically unfit to perform effectively the duties of the position in which he seeks employment, or is addicted to the habitual excessive use of drugs intoxicating liquor, or has been convicted of a crime or guilty of notoriously disgraceful conduct, or has been dismissed from the public service or has made a false statement of material fact or practiced or attempted to practice any fraud or deception in his application or test or in attempting to secure appointment. Any rejected applicant shall have the right to appeal the Director's decision to the board whose decision shall be final.

Section 7. Sub-section 4(a) of said law is hereby amended to read as follows: No government disbursing or auditing officer shall make or approve, or take any part in making or approving any payment for personal services to any person holding a position in the government service unless the disbursing or auditing officer has in his possession a personal receipt certified to by the Director or his authorized agent that the payment has been made in accordance with the provisions of the law and the rules and regulations hereunder.

Section 8. Section 8 of said law is hereby

Section 9. Section 9 of said law is hereby

amended as follows. A department head may recommend the dismissal of any regular employee in his department when he considers that the good of the service will be served thereby. The department head shall give to the employee a written statement of the reasons for the dismissal and a file copy of such statement with the Director. The employee shall have an opportunity to file with the department head a written statement regarding the dismissal a copy of which shall be filed with the Director. The Director shall recommend to the appointing authority the action he deems desirable, and such dismissal shall become effective if approved by the appointing authority. Any employee who is dismissed shall have the right of appeal to the board provided under section 26 of this Act. If the board determines that an employee was dismissed for political, racial, religious or personal reasons, or without just cause, the employee shall with the Governor's concurrence be reinstated to his former position.

Section 10. The first and original paragraph of section 26 of said law is hereby amended as follows: Any regular employee who is dismissed, demoted or suspended may appeal to the board within thirty days after such action is taken. Upon such appeal, the department head whose action is being reviewed, the appealing employee, and the Governor or his authorized representative shall have the right to be heard, publicly and to present evidence. At the hearings of such appeals, technical rules of evidence shall not apply. The decision of the Board if approved by the Governor shall be final. Such decisions shall not be reviewable by any court. If such final action is in favor of the employee he shall be reinstated to his former position with full payment of any salary or wages lost by him. Any employee dismissed without prejudice may be re-employed. Any employee who is dismissed shall not be entitled to any

position in the government service for a period to be determined by the Board, not exceeding one year.

Mr. Abramson	yea	Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Benjamin	absent	Mr. Pedro	absent
Mr. Carrall	yea	Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Cereque	absent	Mr. Rhymes	absent
Mr. Flick	yea	Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea	Mr. Rohlen	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea	Mr. Schade	absent
Mr. Hodge	yea	Mr. Sprauve	absent

Bill No. 64

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

5th. Session 1953

An Act to amend An Act of June 16, 1949, Regulating Banks and Banking in the Virgin Islands, creating a Banking Board, and Defining its Duties, and for other Purposes.

"

Be It Enacted, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

That An Act of June 16, 1949, Regulating Banks and Banking in the Virgin Islands, creating a Banking Board and Defining its Duties, and for other Purposes, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: This Act shall be known as the 'Skeoch-Gordon Banking Law of the Virgin Islands', and shall be applicable to all businesses heretofore or hereafter organized for the purpose of engaging in the banking business in the Virgin Islands; Provided, That the term "Bank" in the definition of a business shall be used only by corporations, except as provided in Section 3, doing a banking business exclusively.

Section 2. Section 2 of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: For a bank to engage in the banking business in the Virgin Islands, compliance with the requirements of the Act, as amended, shall first be obtained, and the engaging in such business shall be after having complied

therewith shall be punished as hereinafter provided.

Section 3. Section 3 of said Act is hereby amended as follows. 1. "Bank" means a domestic corporation, except as provided in Section 31, with sufficient capital, authorized by law to receive deposits of money or securities, to open credits and accounts current and savings accounts, to make loans, to discount drafts, notes or other negotiable paper, to purchase and sell drafts, to trade in gold and silver, and in general, to engage in all kinds of banking transactions.

3. "Reserved Fund" mean a fund formed or increased either by assessment of the stockholders or trustees or by transfer of net profit or of the undivided profits of the bank, and such fund shall not be used for payments of dividends or any other distribution, or for the purpose of paying the expenses of the bank while there is any available balance in the undivided profits account.

Section 4. Section 4 (d) of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: On such examinations, inquiry shall be made as to the conditions and resources of the bank, the mode of conducting and managing its affairs, the actions of its directors, or trustees, the investment of its funds, the safety and prudence of its management, and the security offered for compliance with its contracted obligations; and whether the requirements of its character and of the laws have been complied with the administration of its affairs, and also as to such other matters as the Banking Board may prescribe. Reports rendered by an examiner to the Banking Board, in connection with an examination made of any bank, shall be confidential in nature, except for the purpose of carrying out a law or a court order.

(f) The Banking Board has power to require any bank to furnish information at any time.

such examination by subpoena and
also to require the production of
documents.

(g) The Banking Board shall issue every bank, foreign, or branch thereof, examined by it personally or through its employee or examiner, a certificate setting forth the result of such examination which certificate shall be presented to the Board of Directors or Trustees at the first regular or special meeting of the said board held subsequent to the date of its receipt of the bank.

(c) Each bank, foreign bank, or branch thereof, so examined, shall pay the cost of the examination, which shall not exceed the sum of one thousand (\$1000), except in cases where there appear to be irregularities that require a extensive examination. The cost of such examination shall not exceed \$2500.

Section 5. Sub-section 15-(b) of said Act is hereby amended by adding the following: "Provided, That Section 15 of this Act, as amended, shall be applicable to any bank, in the event of change of control, over its name."

Section 6. Section 10 of said Act is hereby amended as follows: (a) The management of banks shall be under the control of a board of directors or trustees elected at a general meeting of the stockholders or members. The board of directors or trustees shall consist of at least five residents of the Virgin Islands who shall hold office for a term of not less than one year and until their successors shall have been elected and have taken office. Any member of the board of directors or trustees may be removed from office by either a majority vote of the stockholders or members of the bank or by a majority vote of the board of directors or trustees. The stockholder or member removing a director or trustee shall be qualified.

One or more vice presidents shall be elected in the same manner, and subject to the same conditions as to term of office.

(b) All meetings of the board of directors or trustees shall be held at the main office of the bank, and no meeting shall be lawfully organized unless there are present the president or person legally performing his duties in accordance with the articles of incorporation or constitution and a majority of the total number of directors or trustees. Provided, that at the regular meeting of the stockholders at which the board of directors or trustees is elected, substitute directors or trustees may also be elected in a number equal to one-half the number of regular directors or trustees. Such substitute directors or trustees shall serve in and during the absence of the regular directors or trustees and in all cases shall have the same qualifications and be subject to the same liabilities as the regular directors or trustees.

(c) At least five of the directors or trustees shall reside in the Virgin Islands and all shall be at least 21 years of age, and shall hold shares or be depositors of the bank, subscribed or deposited in their name, of a par value or deposit of not less than \$1,000. which shares or deposits shall be deposited in the bank while said directors or trustees discharge their offices. Each director or trustee and each substitute director or trustee, prior to assuming the duties of his office, shall take an oath that he will faithfully discharge the duties thereof, and comply and enforce compliance with the provisions of this act and other laws applicable in the case, that he is the owner in good faith and in full payment of the amount of the shares or deposits required by the act, which shall remain in the custody of the bank until all his acts as such director or trustee have been approved by the stockholders at a general meeting.

such oath shall be immediately transmitted to, and be filed in, the office of the Banking Board.

(d) The board of directors or trustees shall pass upon all matters relative to the management of the bank; upon such matters as may be referred to them by a general meeting of the stockholders or depositors, and upon such business propositions as may be made to them and they may entrust executive officers of the bank with the decision of its current affairs.

(e) The directors or trustees of a bank, as long as they observe the rules of the mandate vested in them by law, shall be exempt from personal liability, either separately or jointly for their acts as directors of the corporation, or trustee of the bank. Provided, that if losses are incurred through wilful violation of the statutes of the bank, or wilful infraction of any lawful resolution adopted at its general meetings, the directors or trustees responsible for such violation or infraction shall be jointly liable such losses to the amount of their shares in the deposit plus a sum in cash equal to said amount. Provided, however, that this section shall not apply to directors of banks not organized under the laws of the Virgin Islands.

(f) Every bank shall hold at least one regular general meeting of stockholders or depositors each year, and such other special meeting as may be necessary or as may be requested by petition of stockholders or depositors representing twenty per cent of the capital paid in or of the total deposits. The time of the meeting shall be in the form and manner as the board of directors or trustees shall determine. The form of the petition shall be provided by the board of directors or trustees. The petition shall consist of the names of the stockholders or depositors representing at least half of the total capital or deposits of the bank.

Section 7. Sub-section 19(a) of said Act is hereby amended as follows: Every bank or foreign bank, doing business in the Virgin Islands shall upon filing its articles of incorporation or constitution in the Office of the Government Secretary pay a filing fee of fifty (\$50) dollars.

Section 8 Sub-divisions (a) and (b) of Section 20 of said Act are hereby amended as follows: (a) Banks with a paid-in capital and reserve fund or surplus aggregating from \$100,000 to \$500,000 shall pay the sum of two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars.

(b) Banks with a paid-in capital and reserve fund or surplus aggregating over five hundred thousands (\$500,000) shall pay a sum of five hundred (\$500) dollars.

Section 9. Sub-section (c) and (d) of Section 22 are hereby amended to read as follows: (c) No bank or foreign bank, or any director, trustee or officer, agent or employee thereof shall purchase, or be in any way directly or indirectly interested in the purchase of any promissory note or other negotiable paper issued by said bank (shares and bonds issued by said bank excepted) for a lesser sum than that for which it is drawn, or for less than the market value. Any bank or foreign bank, or person violating this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine in a sum amounting at least to three times the face value of the document so purchased.

(d) No director, trustee or officer of a bank or foreign bank shall obtain a loan in such bank or foreign bank. Any person wilfully violating the provisions of this sub-section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine equal at least to twice such amount as shall have been obtained by him, or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed one year, and by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars for each foreign bank.

granting such loan, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine equal to twice such amounts as may have been loaned, and by imprisonment for a term not to exceed one year.

Section 10. Section 23 of said Act is hereby amended, to read as follows: It shall be unlawful for any director, trustee, officer, agent or employee of any bank or foreign bank to certify any check drawn upon said banks unless the person or company drawing the check has on deposit with the bank, at the time such check is certified, an amount not less than the amount specified in such check. Any check so certified by duly authorized officer shall be a valid obligation against such bank or foreign bank in the hands of any person holding such check in good faith; but any director, trustee, officer, agent or employee of any bank or foreign bank who knowingly acts in violation of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 11. Section 24 of said Act is hereby amended, as follows: Every president, director, trustee, officer, cashier, employee or agent of any bank or foreign bank who embezzles, abstracts or wilfully misapplies any of the money, funds or securities of the bank, or being duly authorized, issues or draws any certificate of deposit, draws any order or bill of exchange, mortgage, judgment or decree or who makes any false entry in any book, report or statement of the bank or foreign bank, with intent, in any of such cases, to injure or defraud the bank or any other company, partnership or corporate body, or to deceive or defraud any person, or any agent or officer of the bank, or to interfere with the affairs of the bank, or to do any act or acts

any officer, agent, or employee, in any violation of this section, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and shall be imprisoned for not more than ten years; Provided, that each bank or foreign bank shall cause its directors, trustees, officers, employees and agents to be bonded, and shall pay the premium for such bonding.

Section 12, Section 25 of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: Any trustee, officer, agent, collector, teller or clerk, of any bank or foreign bank doing business in the Virgin Islands, who shall receive any deposit knowing that such bank or foreign bank is insolvent, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, if the amount or value of such deposit is twenty-five (\$25) dollars, or if the amount or value of such deposit is twenty-five (\$25) dollars or over, such person shall be guilty of a felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than three thousand (\$3,000) dollars, or by both penalties. Any bank or foreign bank shall be deemed insolvent, for the purposes of this Act, when upon an examination made by the Banking Board of the Virgin Islands, it is found that such bank or foreign bank has lost its entire reserve and one-third part or more of its capital stock.

Section 23. Section 26 of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: All transfers of notes, bonds, bills of exchange or credits of any bank or foreign bank or deposits to the credit thereof, and all assignments, mortgages, security on real property, judgments, or decrees in favor of any bank, and all deposits of money and other in bank, or for the use of any depositor, and all credits to such bank, or for the use of any depositor, or for the use of any creditor, or for the use of any other person, shall be deemed to be made in violation of this Act, if the same are made with knowledge of the fact that the bank is insolvent, or if the same are made with knowledge of the fact that the bank is unable to pay its debts as they come due.

prescribed, as with the intent of giving preference to one creditor over another, shall be null and ineffective, and no attachment, foreclosure or writ of injunction shall issue against such bank or foreign bank, or against its properties, before final judgement is rendered in any suit, action or proceedings in the district or superior court. If any director or trustee of a bank or foreign bank knowingly violates or knowingly allows any officer, agent or employee thereof to violate this section, he shall be deemed guilty of a felony and punishable by a fine of not more than \$3,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

Section 14. Section 27 of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: If the directors or trustees of any bank or foreign bank shall knowingly violate or knowingly permit any of the officers, agents or employees of the bank or foreign bank doing business in the Virgin Islands to violate any of the provisions of sections 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 of this Act, the license of the bank may be cancelled by the Banking Board which may declare such bank in liquidation. Such violation, however, shall be determined and adjudged by the District Court in a suit brought for that purpose by a United States Attorney at the instance and in the name of the Banking Board of the Virgin Islands before the association, shall be declared dissolved. And in the event of such violation, every director or trustee who participated in or assented to the same, shall be held liable in his personal and individual capacity for all damages which the bank, its shareholders, depositors or any other person shall have sustained in consequence of such violation.

Section 15. Section 28 of said Act is hereby amended to read as follows: (a) Banks shall be dissolved by the Banking Board of the Virgin Islands for expiration of the term of their duration, or because of one third or more of the capital of the corporation has been lost, or by the holders of two thirds of the stock, or by

resolution of depositors having two-thirds or more of the total deposits, adopted at a meeting specially called for that purpose as herein provided.

(b) Whenever it is decided to place a bank in liquidation, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors or Trustees to cause the fact to be certified by its president, manager, agent, or cashier to the Banking Board, and to cause the daily publication of a notice, for a period of two months, in a newspaper published in the municipality in which the bank is located, if there is any such newspaper, said notice to be to the effect that the bank is in liquidation and notifying its creditors to present to the bank their claim for payment.

Said liquidators shall be answerable to the stockholders or depositors for any loss that the bank may suffer through fraud or negligence in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. Abramson	...	yea
Mr. Benjamin	...	yea
Mr. Carroll	...	yea
Mr. Cereque	...	absent
Mr. Glick	...	absent
Mr. Gomez	...	yea
Mr. Heywood	...	yea
Mr. Hodge	...	yea

Mr. Otley	...	yea
Mr. Pedro	...	absent
Mr. Reese	...	yea
Mr. Rhymen	...	absent
Mr. Richards	...	yea
Mr. Rothen	...	yea
Mr. Schade	...	absent
Mr. Spruill	...	absent

Bill No. 65-

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States.

5th Session 1953

Act to Create and Establish a Virgin Islands Agency for Surplus Property, to Prescribe its Powers, Duties, and Functions, and for other purposes.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, in session assembled:

Section 1. There is hereby created and established an Agency for Surplus Property, to be known as the Agency for Surplus Property, and the Secretary of the Government shall be the Secretary of the Agency.

Property, which shall be administered by the Governor-Secretary, and which shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the Governor of the Virgin Islands. The Governor is hereby authorized to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly or both Municipal Councils, such personnel as are deemed necessary or suitable for the administration of this Act. Such personnel shall be selected in accordance with the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands and the rules and regulations approved under said law.

Section 2(a). The Virgin Island Agency for Surplus Property is hereby authorized and empowered: (1) to acquire from the United States of America such property, including equipment, materials, books, or supplies under the control of any department or agency of the United States of America as may be usable and necessary for public works, education and public health purposes, including research; (2) to warehouse such property; and (3) to distribute such property to public hospitals, clinics, health centers, schools and public works agencies in the Virgin Islands, and to other non-profit medical institutions, hospitals, clinics, health centers and schools which have been held exempt from taxation under Section 101(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, within the Virgin Islands.

(b) For the purpose of executing its authority under this Act, the Virgin Island Agency for Surplus Property is authorized and empowered to adopt, amend, or rescind such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary with the approval of the Governor; and take such other action as may be deemed necessary and suitable in the administration of this Act.

(c) The Virgin Island Agency for Surplus Property is authorized to incur expenditures and enter into agreements in the name of the Agency for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

make such investigations as may be required by law or regulation of the United States of America in connection with the receipt, warehousing, and distribution of property received by the Agency from the United States of America.

(d) The Agency is authorized and empowered to act as a clearing house of information for the public and private non-profit institutions and agencies referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of section 2 of this Act, to locate property available for acquisition from the United States of America, to ascertain the terms and conditions under which such property may be obtained, to receive requests from the above-mentioned institutions and agencies and to transmit to them all available information in reference to such property, and to aid, and assist such institutions and agencies in every way possible, in the conveyance, acquisition or transactions thereunder.

(e) The Agency, in the Administration of this Act, shall cooperate to the fullest extent consistent with the provisions of the Act, with the department or agencies of the United States of America, and shall make such reports in such form and containing such information as the United States of America, or any of its departments or agencies may from time to time require, and it shall comply with the laws of the United States of America, and the rules and regulations of any of the departments or agencies of the United States of America governing the allocation, transfer, use, or accounting for, property donable or donated to the Virgin Islands.

Section 3. The Government Secretary may delegate to any employee of the Virgin Islands Agency for Surplus Property such power and authority as he deems reasonable, and proper, for the effective administration of this Act. The Government Secretary may, in his discretion, bond any person in the employ of the Virgin Islands Agency for Surplus Property handling, or receiving checks, or receiving property from the United States of America under this Act.

Section 4. Any charges made or fees assessed by the Virgin Islands Agency for surplus property for the acquisition, warehousing, distribution, or transfer of any property acquired by donation from the United States of America for public works, educational and public health purposes, including research, shall be limited to those reasonably related to the cost of care and handling in respect to its acquisition, receipt, warehousing, distribution or transfer by the Virgin Islands Agency for Surplus Property.

Section 5. The Agency for Surplus Property shall from time to time conduct surveys of all property owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands and the separate Municipalities to determine such property as may become surplus to the needs of the Government and shall dispose of such property by public sale in the manner provided by law.

Section 6. The respective Municipalities are hereby authorized to appropriate funds as are deemed necessary and proper for the purposes of this Act.

Section 7. All laws or ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

Mrs. Abramson	yea	Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Benjamin	yea	Mr. Redd	absent
Mr. Canall	yea	Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Gleege	absent	Mr. Rhynes	absent
Mr. Glick	absent	Mr. Richard	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea	Mr. Chelton	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea	Mr. Schade	absent
Mr. Hodge	yea	Mr. Sprague	absent

The Senate and House of Representatives of the Virgin Islands of the United States

An Act to provide for the disposal of surplus property and for other purposes

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Short Title

Section 1. This Act may be cited as "The Public Sewerage Act of the Virgin Islands."

Definitions

Section 2. As used herein and unless the context clearly requires otherwise - - -

- (a) "Public sewer system" shall mean the system of drainage through the sewer lines owned and/or operated by the respective municipalities;
- (b) "Commissioner" shall mean the Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands or any of his duly authorized representatives;
- (c) "Sanitary Engineer" shall mean the Sanitary Engineer Director for the Virgin Islands or any of his duly authorized representatives;
- (d) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, association, or corporation;
- (e) "Plumbing system" shall mean the water supply and distribution pipes; plumbing fixtures and traps; soil, waste, and vent pipes; building drains and building sewers, including their respective connections, devices and appurtenances within the property lines of the premises, and water treating or water using equipment.

Connection To Public Sewer - Exemptions

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any owner of a dwelling building to maintain any pit, vault, cesspool or other structure for the purpose of collecting or storing waste, whenever connection shall be made to the public sewer system in accordance with the provisions of the Act or "Rules and Regulations".

The owner of any building occupied for habitation, commercial purposes or as a place of privacy or public assembly, shall within 12 months after notification by the Commissioner and at such owner's expense, install such water closets, lavatories, sinks and bath tubs as may be required by the "Rules and Regulations" and a connecting line between any such fixtures located in the said building and the public sewer system.

Section 4. The installations provided for herein shall not be required unless a public sewer runs parallel to and in the same street within 60 feet of the owner's property line, and unless connection to the salt water system be obtained within 200 feet of the site. The Sanitary Engineer shall determine the practicability of making any connections.

Owners of superficial houses are exempt from the provisions of this law. Properties assessed at not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars for general property tax purposes shall not be required to install sanitary facilities and connect their premises to the public sewer line.

Administration

Section 5. The Health Department, through the Commissioner, shall administer and enforce the provisions of this act and shall have the following responsibilities and authorities hereunder:

To issue, from time to time, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act necessary to carry out its provisions, which rules and regulations shall have the force and effect of law upon the approval of the Board of Health.

Section 6. The Health Department, through the Commissioner, shall have the following responsibilities and authorities hereunder:

(a) To inspect and approve of installations and connections to the public sewer system.

installations hereunder in accordance with approved sanitary engineering standards.

(b) To determine, from time to time, the types of wastes that may be discharged into the public sewer system, bearing in mind the type of sewer lines and pipes available, and to establish methods of testing or sampling the quality and quantity of wastes flowing into the public sewer system.

Section 7. The Commissioner, or any duly authorized agent of his, shall have authority at all reasonable times to enter upon all properties to make any inspections or tests necessary to secure enforcement of this Act and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Loans

Section 8. Loans may be approved by the Governor from available public or trust funds upon the recommendation of the Municipal Committee of the respective municipalities, to any person for the installation of sanitary facilities as required herein, to be repaid in monthly or quarterly installments within ten years, with simple interest at the rate of four per cent, provided, that the applicants for such loan shall produce satisfactory proof that he is unable, in good faith, and because of lack of means, to comply with the provisions of this Act; and provided that the applicant's application for a bank loan for this purpose has been denied.

Connection By Public Works

Section 9. Connections from property lines to the sewer lines which are required in this Act may be made by the Public Works Department in cases where the owner so requests, for a fee which shall be prescribed in rules and regulations to be approved by the Municipal Council, providing that private service is not available. The Public Works Department shall be responsible for the cost of such connections.

Section 10. Rules and Regulations of 1923

Section 10. Rules and Regulations for the Sewerage Act" issued by the Superintents of Public Works of both Municipalities and adopted by the separate municipal councils, and approved by the Governor, are hereby adopted by the Health Department.

The word "Commissioner" shall be used in Regulations (h) and (g) of said "Rules and Regulations" for the words "Superintendent of Public Works." The Commissioner of Health is hereby designated the administrative authority for the "Sewerage Act" and "Rules and Regulations" of said Act.

Violations

Section 11. Violations of the provisions of this Act, or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, shall constitute misdemeanors and shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty (\$50.00).

Separability

Section 12. Should any section, subsection or part of any section, or any sentence, phrase, or provision of this act be declared unconstitutional, illegal, or void by any competent court, it shall not affect remaining provisions or sections or part of section or sections, as the case may be, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Acts Repealed

Section 13. All laws or ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Effective Date

Section 14. This Act shall be in force from the time of its passage.

Mr. [illegible]	absent
Mr. [illegible]	yes
Mr. [illegible]	yes
Mr. [illegible]	absent
Mr. [illegible]	yes
Mr. [illegible]	absent

Mr. Richards yea
 Mr. Rokken Not Voting

Mr. Schade absent
 Mr. Sprauve absent

Bill No. 72

The Seventeenth Legislating Assembly of the
 Virgin Islands of the United States.

5th. Session 1953

An Act to Provide for a Wage Commissioner
 for each of the Municipalities of the Virgin
 Islands; to Establish the Procedure for
 Determining the Minimum Wage to be Paid
 in the Different Occupations, the Maximum
 Working Hours and the Labor Conditions neces-
 sary for the maintenance of the Health,
 Efficiency, and General Well-being of Workers;
 to Establish a Weekly Rest Period and for
 other Purposes.

Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of
 the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Statement of Motives

Section 1(a). It is hereby declared to be the
 policy of this Act: (1) to establish, so far as
 practicable, and as rapidly as possible,
 minimum wage and maximum hour
 standards, and labor conditions, at levels
 consistent with health, efficiency, and
 general well-being of workers in the
 different occupations, without substantially
 curtailing employment or earning power;
 and (2) to increase employment opportunities.

(b) It is further declared to be the policy
 of this Act to promote the progressive
 development of industries and businesses
 which operate in the Virgin Islands by
 endeavoring to establish conditions favorable to
 their economic stability and natural
 expansion.

Appointment of Wage Commissioner

Section 2(a). The Governor of the Virgin
 Islands shall, with the advice and consent
 of the Legislative Assembly, appoint
 a Wage Commissioner for each of the
 municipalities of the Virgin Islands who
 shall administer the provisions of this Act.

(b) A Wage Commissioner shall serve for a term of four (4) years and until his successor has been duly appointed and qualified. He shall draw the salary established annually in the corresponding municipal budget.

(c) A Wage Commissioner shall devote all time to the discharge of his duties as such commissioner, and during the period of his incumbency, he shall not engage in any activity connected with any private business or profession.

(d) The Governing body may at any time, after the proper notice and hearing, remove a Wage Commissioner for negligence or conduct in the discharge of his duties for no other reason.

Minimum Wage

Section 3. Except as may be otherwise provided in this act, every employer shall pay to his employees wages at a rate not less than thirty (\$0.30) cents an hour, and every employer shall pay to each of his employees in any occupation for which a wage order has been issued pursuant to this act wages at a rate not less than the minimum wage as defined and established by such wage order.

Power & Duties of Wage Commissioner

Section 4(a) The Commissioner or his authorized representative shall have the authority to:

(1) Investigate and ascertain the wages, hours of work and labor conditions of persons employed in any occupation in the municipality;

(2) Enter and inspect the places of business or employment of any employer of persons in any occupation in the municipality, for the purpose of ascertaining and inspecting any violation of the provisions of this act, and to take such action as may be necessary to enforce the provisions of this act, and to hear and determine any complaint of any person claiming to be an employee that wages, hours, or conditions of any person are in violation of the provisions of this act and the

orders and regulations issued thereunder have been and are being complied with; and,

(c) Require from such employer full and correct statements in writing with respect to wages, hours, labor conditions, names, addresses and such other information pertaining to his employees and their employment as the Commissioner or his authorized representative may deem necessary or appropriate.

(b) The Commissioner shall have the power, on his own motion, and it shall be his duty, upon the petition of twenty (20) or more residents of the municipality, to cause an investigation to be made of the hours of work, labor conditions and or wages being paid to persons in any occupation to ascertain whether a substantial number of persons in such occupation is working under conditions detrimental to their health, efficiency or general well-being, or is receiving wages less than the reasonable value of the services rendered and less than sufficient to maintain the health, efficiency and general well-being of workers. If the Commissioner is of the opinion that any substantial number of persons in such occupation is receiving such wages or working under conditions detrimental to their health, efficiency or general well-being he shall appoint a wage board as provided in section 5 of this Act to report upon the establishment of favorable working conditions and or minimum wage rates as herein described.

Section 3(a) A wage board shall be composed of not more than three representatives of the employers in any occupation, an equal number of representatives of the employees in such occupation, and not more than three disinterested persons representing the public, one of whom shall be designated by the Commissioner as chairman. The Commissioner shall appoint the representatives of the employers and employees to the board, so far as practicable in proportion to the number of persons respectively employed by them. Two-thirds of the members of such board shall constitute a majority for the report or recommendation of the board shall require a majority.

of all its members. The Commissioner shall make and establish, from time to time, rules and regulations governing the selection of wage boards and their mode of procedure not inconsistent with this act.

(b) A wage board shall have the power to administer oaths and to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all books, records, and other evidence relative to any matters under investigation. Such subpoenas shall be signed and issued by the chairman of the Wage Board and shall be served and have the same effect as if issued out of the United States District Court. A Wage Board shall have the power to cause depositions to be taken in the manner prescribed for like depositions in actions in the District Court.

(c) The Commissioner shall present to the Wage Board promptly upon its organization all evidence and information in his possession relating to the wages, hours of work and labor conditions of workers in the occupation for which the wage board is appointed and all other information which he may deem relevant to the establishment of minimum wage rates, maximum hours of work and other labor conditions for the persons in such occupation.

(d) Within sixty days of its organization, a wage board shall submit its report to the Commissioner. If its report is not submitted within such time, the Commissioner may reappoint the same wage board or may appoint a new wage board for such occupation.

(e) The report of the wage board shall recommend minimum wage rates not less than thirty (30.00) cents an hour for the persons in the occupation for which the wage board was appointed. The wage board may also recommend maximum rates, special rates for overtime work, or limitations on deduction from wages for facilities or services furnished by the employer. The wage board

may also recommend a suitable scale of wages for learners and apprentices at rates less than the minimum wage otherwise applicable to the occupation. The wage rates recommended by the wage board may differ according to the nature of the services rendered in the occupation and the wage board may recommend appropriate minimum wage rates for different classes of employment. The wage board may also recommend maximum hours of work and other labor conditions required for the maintenance of health and safety and general well-being of employees in those occupations in question. Such labor conditions shall include but shall not be limited to vacation leave and sick leave.

In making its recommendations with respect to minimum wage rates for the occupation for which it was appointed, the wage board, without being bound by any technical rules of evidence or procedure, shall consider, among other relevant factors: (1) the amount of compensation necessary to provide adequate maintenance and to protect the health, safety and general well-being of the workers; (2) such factors as would guide a court in a suit for the reasonable value of services rendered where services are rendered at the request of the employer without contract as to the amount of the wage to be paid; (3) the wages, including overtime or premium rates, paid in the municipality for work of like or comparable character by employers who maintain reasonable minimum wage standards.

(4) Members of the Wage Board shall receive a per diem of five (\$5) dollars for each day they need or devote to official business of the Board, but the total amount of per diem received by each member shall never exceed \$150 a year, in addition to reimbursement of traveling expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

Section 31. Within 15 days of its submission, the Commissioner, taking into account the same factors as are required to be considered by the wage board, shall accept or reject the report of the wage board. If the report is rejected, the Commissioner shall resubmit the

matter to the same wage board or to a new wage board with a statement of the reasons for his rejection. If the report is accepted, it shall be published together with such administrative regulations as the Commissioner, without departing from the recommendations made by the wage board pursuant to Section 5 of this Act, shall deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act. Such regulations may include, but are not limited to, regulations defining and delimiting outside salesmen; learners and apprentices, their number proportion and length of service; bonuses and special pay for special or extra work; deductions from the wage rates applicable under this Act for lodging, apparel, or other facilities or services customarily furnished by employers; and other special circumstances which may be a particular employer-employee ship. Notice shall be given of public hearing to be held by the Commissioner not less than 15 days more than 30 days after such publication of notice at which all persons in favor of or opposed to such proposed rates, hours of work, labor conditions or regulations may be heard.

(b) Within 15 days after such hearing, the Commissioner, taking into account the same factors as are required to be considered by the wage board, shall approve or disapprove the report of the wage board. If the report of the wage board is disapproved, the Commissioner may resubmit the matter to the same wage board or a new wage board. If the report is approved, the Commissioner shall promulgate and publish an order which shall establish minimum wage rates, maximum hours of work or other labor conditions in the occupation as recommended in the report of the wage board and shall include such administrative regulations as the Commissioner shall deem appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this act.

Section 7. If any occupation for which no wage order is made pursuant to Section 6 of this act is found to exist, the Commissioner after consultation with an advisory board appointed by him and composed of not

more than three representatives each of the employers and employees in the occupation affected and of not more than three disinterested persons representing the public, shall make such administrative regulations as may be to carry out the purposes of this act. Such regulations may include but are not limited to, regulations defining and delimiting outside salesmen; learners and apprentices, their number, proportion and length of service; bonuses and special pay for special or extra work; deductions from the wage rates applicable under this act for board, lodging, apparel, or other facilities or services customarily furnished by employers to employees; and other special conditions or circumstances which may be usual in a particular employer-employee relationship. Regulations issued by the Commissioner pursuant to this section shall be effective only after publication and public hearing by the Commissioner at which hearing any person may be heard.

Section 8. At any time after a wage order has been in effect for six months, the Commissioner may, on his own motion, and shall on the petition of fifty (50) or more residents of the municipality, reconsider the wage rates set forth therein and reconvene the wage board which participated in the formulation of the wage order or appoint a new wage board to recommend such changes in the rate or rates, hours of work or other labor conditions contained in such order as the board may deem appropriate to effectuate the purpose of this act. The procedure with respect to the report of such wage board shall be the same as that prescribed in Section 5 and 6 of this act.

Reconsideration of Regulations

Section 9. The Commissioner may, from time to time, make such modifications of regulations issued pursuant to Sections 5 and 6 of this act, as may be appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this act, provided that such modifications shall be published and public hearing by the Commissioner at which hearing any person may be heard.

or additions could legally have been included in the original regulations. Notice shall be given of a public hearing to be held by the Commissioner not less than fifteen days after such publication at which all persons in favor of or opposed to such modifications or additions may be heard. After such hearing, the Commissioner may issue an order putting into effect such modification of or additions to the administrative regulations as he may deem appropriate.

Judicial Review

Section 10(a). Any interested person in any occupation for which any order or any administrative regulation has been issued under the provisions of this act, who may be aggrieved by any such order or regulation, may obtain a review thereof in the court by filing in such court within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of such order or regulation a written petition, praying that the order or regulation be modified or set aside. A copy of such petition shall be served upon the Commissioner.

The finding of facts, if supported by evidence, shall be conclusive upon the court. The court shall determine whether the order or regulation is in accordance with law. If the court determines that such order or regulation is not in accordance with law it shall remand the case to the Commissioner with directions to modify or revoke such order or regulation and, if necessary, to resubmit the order or regulation to a wage board with directions to take further proceedings in accordance with law. If application is made to the court for leave to adduce additional evidence by any aggrieved party, such party shall show to the satisfaction of the court that such additional evidence is material, and that there are reasonable grounds for the failure to adduce such evidence before the Commissioner. If the court finds that such evidence is material and that the failure to adduce such evidence was due to the negligence of the party, it may allow the party to adduce such evidence.

in prior proceedings, the court may remand the case to the Commissioner with directions that such additional evidence be taken before such wage board or the Commissioner. The wage board or the Commissioner, as the case may be, may modify its findings and conclusions, in whole or in part, by reason of such additional evidence.

(b) Hearings in the District Court on all appeals taken under the provisions of this Act shall be privileged and take precedence over all matters, except matters of the same character. The jurisdiction of the court shall be exclusive and its judgment and decree shall be final except that the same shall be subject to review by the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

The commencement of proceedings under subsection (a) shall not, unless specifically ordered by the court, operate as a stay of a wage order or of an administrative regulation issued under the provisions of this Act. The court shall not grant any stay of a wage order or of an administrative regulation pertaining to wage rates unless the person complaining of such order or regulation shall file in the court an undertaking with a surety or sureties satisfactory to the court for the payment to the employees affected by the order or regulation, in the event such order or regulation is affirmed, of the amount by which the compensation such employees are entitled to receive under the wage order or regulation exceeds the compensation they actually receive while such stay is in effect.

Handicapped Worker

Section 11. The Commissioner may provide by regulation, after public hearing, at which any person may be heard, for the employment of individuals at such wage rates as may be determined by the Commissioner for individuals who are physically or mentally handicapped, as determined by the Commissioner, as provided in the Act for the employment of handicapped

and to safeguard the applicable wage rates under this act. No individual shall be employed at wages fixed pursuant to this section except under a special license issued under applicable regulations of the commission.

Learners + Apprentices

Section 12 (a). That any occupation for which no wage order issued pursuant to section 6 of this act is in effect, the Commissioner may provide by regulation, after a public hearing at which any person may be heard, that the employment in such occupation at such wages lower than the rates applicable under this act for learners and apprentices as the Commissioner may find appropriate to prevent curtailment of opportunity for employment, and to safeguard wage rates applicable under this act. No individual shall be employed at wages fixed pursuant to this section except under special license issued under applicable regulations of the Commissioner.

(b) The provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall not apply to the employment of any person as such apprentice under the sponsorship, administration, or supervision of the Apprenticeship Board of the Virgin Islands, in which case the said Board shall determine the proper minimum standards.

Maintenance of Records

Section 13. Every employer subject to any provision of this act or of any regulation or order issued under this act shall make, and keep for a period of not less than one year, a record of the premises where any employee is employed, and of the name, address, and age of each employee, the rate of pay paid to each employee, and each other information which shall be required by the Commission.

provisions of this act or of the regulations or orders thereunder. Such records shall be open for inspection or transcription by the commissioner or his authorized representatives at any reasonable time. Every such employer shall furnish to the commissioner or to his authorized representatives on demand a sworn statement of such records and information upon forms prescribed or approved by the commissioner.

Posting Law & Wage Orders

Section 14. Every employer subject to any provision of this act or of any regulations or orders issued under this act shall keep a summary of this act, approved by the commissioner, and copies of any applicable wage order and regulations issued under this act, posted in a conspicuous and accessible place in or about the premises wherein any person subject thereto is employed. Employers shall be furnished copies of such summaries, orders, and regulations by the Municipality on request without charge.

Penalties

Section 15(a). Any employee who wilfully hinders or delays the commissioner or his authorized representatives in the performance of his duties in the enforcement of this act, or wilfully refuses to admit the commissioner or his authorized representatives to any place of employment, or wilfully fails to make keep, and preserve any records as required under the provisions of this act, or falsifies any such record, or wilfully refuses to make any such record accessible to the commissioner or his authorized representatives upon demand, or wilfully refuses to furnish a sworn statement of such record or any other information required for the proper enforcement of this act to the commissioner or his authorized representative upon demand, or wilfully refuses to post a summary of this act or a copy of any applicable wage order as required by this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be fined not

less than twenty-five dollars nor more than Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars.

(b) Any employer who discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because such employee has made any complaint on his employer to the Commissioner, or his authorized representative, that he has not been paid wages in accordance with the provisions of this act, or because such employee has caused to be instituted or is about to cause to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this act, or because such employee has testified or is about to testify in any such proceedings, or because such employee has served or is about to serve on a wage board, shall be deemed in violation of this act and shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than five (\$25) dollars nor more than Five Hundred (\$500) dollars.

(c) Any employer who wilfully pays wages to any employee at a rate less than the rate applicable under this act shall be deemed in violation of this act and shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five (\$25) Dollars nor more than Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars or by imprisonment for not less than 5 days nor more than 30 days, or both, and each week or any portion of which such employer wilfully failed to pay any employee not less than the rate applicable under this act shall constitute a separate offense as to each such employee.

(d) Any employer who otherwise wilfully violates any provision of this act or of any regulation or order issued under this act shall be deemed in violation of this act and shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than twenty-five (\$25) Dollars nor more than Five Hundred (\$500) Dollars.

Section 10a,
Employer who
to

any employer who pays any
wage rate
under

or by virtue of this act, shall be liable to such employee affected for the full amount of such wage rate, less any amount actually paid to such employee by the employer, and for costs and such reasonable attorney's fees as may be allowed by the court. Any agreement between such employee and the employer to work for less than such wage rates shall be no defense to such action.

(b) At the written request of any employee paid less than the wage to which he is entitled under or by virtue of this act, the Commissioner may take an assignment of such wage claim in trust for the assigning employee and may bring any legal action necessary to collect such claim, and the employer shall be required to pay the cost and such reasonable attorney's fees as may be allowed by the court.

Operation Of Local Laws

Section 17. All laws or ordinances or parts of laws or ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. Provided, however, that ordinance to Prescribe Minimum Wage + Maximum Hour Standards and for other Purposes, approved October 17, 1941, as amended, for the Municipality of St. Thomas + St. John and Ordinance to Prescribe Minimum Wage and Maximum Hour Standards and for other Purposes, approved January 12, 1951, as amended, for the Municipality of St. Croix, shall subsist in all their terms as to industries, businesses and occupations in the municipalities until mandatory decree fixing minimum wage rates, maximum hours of work and labor conditions in each of the industries, businesses, or occupations are issued and put into force and effect; it being further understood, that no provisions of this act or of any decree issued hereunder shall excuse noncompliance with any law of the United States establishing a minimum wage higher than that fixed by the Board, or a maximum of working hours lower than the maximum established by the board.

Section 18. The Board shall be

deemed to interfere with, impede or in any way diminish the right of employees to bargain collectively with their employers through representatives of their own choosing in order to establish wages or other conditions of work in excess of the applicable minimum under the provisions of this Act.

Weekly Rest Period

Section 19(a). No employer shall employ any of his employees for a work week longer than 44 hours, or for a work day longer than eight hours, unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the daily or weekly hours, whichever excess is calculated to give the employee the greater compensation at a rate not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the regular rate at which he is employed.

(b) No employer shall employ any of his employees for more than six consecutive days unless such employee receives compensation for all hours of work actually performed on the 7th day of work at a rate not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the regular rate at which he is employed.

Budget -- Personnel

Section 20. In the annual budgets of each municipality there shall be included each year the appropriation necessary for the operation of the office of the Wage Commissioner and the administration of this Act.

Section 21. The Governor of the Virgin Islands, subject to the advice and consent of the Municipal Council, may appoint such personnel as may be necessary to conduct the office of the Wage Commissioner and the administration of this Act.

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such organization are on a voluntary basis;

(g) "Occupation" means any occupation, service, trade, business, industry, or branch or group of industries or employment or class of employment in which individuals are gainfully employed.

Separability

Section 24. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the act and the application thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Effective Date

Section 25. This Act shall take effect thirty days after its approval.

Mrs. Abramson	...	May
Mr. Benjamin	...	yes
Mr. Carroll	...	yes
Mr. Breque	...	yes
Mr. Felich	...	absent
Mr. Gomez	...	may
Mr. Heywood	...	yes
Mr. Hodge	...	yes

Mr. Otley	...	
Mr. Pedro	...	
Mr. Reese	...	yes
Mr. Rhymer	...	yes
Mr. Richards	...	May
Mr. Rohlen	...	yes
Mr. Schade	...	absent
Mr. Sprauel	...	absent

Bill No 74

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

5th Session 1953

An Act to Establish a Virgin Islands Flag Commission.

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands:

Section 1. There is hereby established a Virgin Islands Flag Commission to be composed of not more than three members, not more than one from one municipality, to be appointed by the

Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly or by both Municipal Councils when the Assembly is not in session. It shall be the duty of the Virgin Islands Flag Commission to study and recommend a design for a flag of the Virgin Islands which will adequately represent the history, growth and traditions of the Virgin Islands and their people.

Section 2. The Commission shall have power to do any and everything which will properly assist it in its work, and the various departments and agencies of the Government of the Virgin Islands are hereby directed to cooperate and assist the Commission in any manner which will facilitate the work of the Commission.

Section 3. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but necessary expenses for travel, subsistence, clerical and stenographic service shall be provided in equal shares by the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John and the Municipality of St. Croix.

Section 4. The Commission shall submit its report to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands within ninety days after its organization.

Mr. Ahlstrom yea
Mr. Benjamin yea
Mr. Garsell yea
Mr. Gifford yea
Mr. Hicks yea
Mr. Jones yea
Mr. Leonard yea
Mr. Parker yea

Mr. Otley yea
Mr. Rice yea
Mr. Rogers yea
Mr. Richards yea
Mr. Robles yea
Mr. Sandoz yea
Mr. Schade absent
Mr. Sprague absent

Bill No. 75

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands

An Act to provide for the establishment of the Virgin Islands Flag Commission and to provide for the appointment of its members.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. Section 7 of an Act "Creating the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, Establishing and Defining its Duties and Powers, Establishing the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Fund, and for other Purposes," approved September 18, 1950, is amended to read as follows:

There is hereby created and established the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Fund which shall consist of two separate accounts:

- (a) The St. Croix Committee Account
- (b) The St. Thomas Committee Account

and into these respective accounts deposited any monies appropriated to said Fund, in the following manner:

- (a. Funds appropriated by the Municipal Council of St. Croix shall be deposited in the St. Croix Committee Account.
- (b. Funds appropriated by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John shall be deposited in the St. Thomas Account.
- (c. Funds received from the Federal Government and from other outside sources, shall be divided equally for deposit in the two accounts unless they are specifically identified as a contribution for one account only.
- (d. Funds appropriated by the Municipal Councils pursuant to this Act shall be expended in accordance with budgets to be approved by the Governor and the respective Municipal Council.

The Board may accept for such funds gifts, devises, bequest of property and personnel from the Government, etc., all of which shall be for the benefit of the fund. Gifts, etc., shall be accepted as a contribution to the fund.

The Board shall have two

Accounts to be under the control of a committee composed of the members of the Board from the particular Municipality for which the account is designated. The Treasurer of the Board, who shall be bonded in an amount to be determined by the Board, shall be responsible for the conduct of the financial affairs of the Board, disbursing against each of the two accounts upon the duly authorized certification therefor by the Chairman of the particular Committee controlling the said Account.

The Account of the Fund shall be audited at least annually by the Public Auditor.

Section 2. Add new Section 8(a) as follows: That the St. Croix Committee and the St. Thomas Committee be and hereby are established as integral parts of the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board, and they shall have full authority to carry out the duties, powers, and purposes of this law in the particular Municipality which they may represent and may, when they so determine, agree to the expenditure of funds from the separate Accounts in joint ventures of the Virgin Islands Tourist Development Board.

Section 3. Section 8 of said law is hereby amended to read Section 8(b).

Mrs. Abramson, yes
 Mr. Benjamin, yes
 Mr. Carroll, yes
 Mr. Cregue, nay
 Mr. Flick, yes
 Mr. Gomey, yes
 Mr. Heywood, yes
 Mr. Hodge, yes

Mr. Otley, yes
 Mr. Pedro, yes
 Mr. Reese, yes
 Mr. Rhymmer, yes
 Mr. Richards, nay
 Mr. Rofler, yes
 Mr. Rhode, absent
 Mr. Sprague, absent

Bill No. 76

The Senate of the Virgin Islands

An Act to amend the law in the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, There exists an acute building shortage in the Virgin Islands resulting in undue hardship on tenants and lawful occupants of premises; and,

Whereas, It has been found that abnormal conditions have aggravated the situation with regard to housing accommodations and have led or will lead to profiteering and other speculative practices by some owners of housing and business accommodations and have rendered or will render ineffective the normal operations of a free market in said accommodations and are making it increasingly difficult for residents to obtain such accommodations; and,

Whereas, It is the purpose of this Act to give effect to the policy of the Legislative Assembly during the existing conditions to prevent undue rent increases, unreasonable evictions, and any other practices relating to housing and business accommodations in the Virgin Islands which may tend to increase the cost of living.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. That the maximum rent ceiling in the Virgin Islands shall be the following:

- (a) For housing accommodations, rent in force and effect on November 30, 1953.
- (b) Real property used for business purposes, or on which superficial houses are constructed, rents in force and effect on November 30, 1953.
- (c) For newly constructed housing or business accommodations first rented on or after the aforesaid maximum rent date or accommodations changed from one use, date, so as to be used for dwelling or business purposes, the rent for such accommodations shall be no more than the maximum rent in force and effect for such

accommodations by an order of the Rent Control Commission or its representatives upon application properly made.

- (d) For the housing accommodations or real property used for business purposes or on which superficial houses are constructed not rented on November 30, 1953, and not covered by paragraph (c) above, the last rent in force and effect prior to November 30, 1953.

Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1, the Commission shall be empowered to adjust all rental that shall be deemed to be unjust and unreasonable in accordance with this Act, which proviso shall apply to all existing and subsequent tenancies.

Section 3. In any action for the recovery of possession of rented premises, written notice must have been served upon the tenant or person in possession for a period of thirty days before the commencement of such action.

Section 4. No proceeding shall be maintained to recover the possession of rented premises in the Virgin Islands except upon the ground that -

- (a) The owner seeks, in good faith, to recover possession of the premises for his own personal use;
- (b) The owner desires, in good faith, to recover possession of the premises for the purpose of demolishing them with the intention of constructing a new building, plans for which have been completed and the owner is actually ready to construct same.
- (c) The tenant maintains a nuisance on the premises, permits or permits to be used for any purpose on the premises, or repeatedly engages in or permits serious misconduct on the premises;
- (d) The tenant refuses or fails to pay the rent due on the premises. No proceeding shall be maintainable for non-payment of rent unless the tenant has been given notice that the amount

for which the tenant is liable for the month preceding the default. Nothing in this subdivision shall preclude the tenant from interposing the defense that the rent claimed or contracted is unjust and unreasonable and that the agreement under which the same is brought is oppressive and violative of the provisions of this Act.

- (c) Premises recovered by an owner in accordance with subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall not thereafter be leased to or occupied by any tenant, lessee, or person other than the owner recovering possession of the same for his own personal use, unless notice in writing, by registered mail, is served upon the evicted tenant or tenants if his or their whereabouts be known, or if said whereabouts are unknown then by posting the notice on the premises involved, granting an optional resumption of tenancy, at the same rental as theretofore or with respect to subsection (b), at a new rental by an order of the Rent Control Commission, which option shall expire unless accepted by the tenant or tenants in writing, by registered mail within thirty (30) days after service of said notice upon the evicted tenant or tenants. Any owner violating the provisions of this section shall be liable to each evicted tenant for double the amount of rent received from any new tenant or occupant or seventy-five dollars (\$75) which ever is greater; and shall in addition be liable to each evicted tenant upon the resumption of tenancy in an amount equal to the damages suffered by such tenant as a result of the eviction and resumption of tenancy.

Section 5. When a landlord shall be granted recovery of the premises under Section 4(a) or (b) of this Act, the court, on application of the occupant, shall stay the issuance of an order of eviction for a reasonable period of not more than six months at a time.

(c) Upon application it appears

that the application is made in good faith, that the applicant cannot secure suitable premises and that he has made due and reasonable efforts to secure such other premises, or that by reason of other facts, it would occasion extreme hardship to him or his family if the stay were not granted.

- (b) Such stay, if granted, shall be on condition that the tenant or occupant shall make a deposit in court for the period of the stay or pay to the landlord on deposit in court installments equivalent to the reasonable rental rates for which he would be liable. Such amounts shall also include all rents unpaid by the occupant prior to the period of the stay.

section 6. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to a hotel or transient lodging house.

Rent Control Commission

section 7. There is hereby created a Rent Control Commission for each Municipality to be composed of 5 members who are citizens of the United States, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the respective Municipal Council. Members shall serve for a term of four years; provided, however, that any or all members shall be subject to recall by the Governor at any time for just and proper reasons. The Commission shall elect its own officers. Members of the Commission shall be compensated at the rate of \$5 per day or any fraction thereof actually spent in the work of the commission in addition to reimbursement of expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

Appropriations shall be made annually in the budget for all expenses of the Commission.

section 8. The Commission may make such studies and investigations and obtain and require the furnishing of such information and data or affirmation or otherwise, as it deems necessary or

proper, to assist it in prescribing any regulation or order under this Act, or in the administration and enforcement of this Act or regulations and orders thereunder. For such purposes the Commission may administer oaths and affirmations, may require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documents at any designated place, may require persons to permit the inspection and copying of documents, housing accommodations and may by regulations or order, require the making and keeping of records and other documents. In the event of contumacy or refusal to obey such subpoena or requirement under this section, the Commission may make application to the District Court of the Virgin Islands for an order requiring obedience thereto. Thereupon, the Court with or without the notice and as it in its discretion may decide, shall make such order as is proper and may punish as contempt any failure to comply with such order.

Section 9. The Commission shall have authority to promulgate, issue, amend or rescind rules and regulations and to issue such orders as may be deemed necessary or proper to carry out the purpose and provisions of this Act or to prevent the circumvention or evasion thereof. The Commission is further authorized, in cases where unduly high rents are charged, to fix a new maximum rent ceiling upon the application of the tenant, which new rent ceiling shall be substantially equal to that fixed for other properties of like kind and use and shall in no case exceed 10% per annum on the capital investment or reasonable fair valuation of the property.

Section 10. Any petition the Commission shall fix the maximum rent ceiling for housing accommodations and shall in no case exceed 10% per annum on the capital investment or reasonable fair valuation of the property. The Commission shall also have authority to order structural repair, whereupon

the Commission may ^{by} order adjust such maximum rent ceiling in such manner or amount in accordance with the provisions of the Act, as it deems proper to compensate therefor, in whole or in part, if it finds such adjustment necessary or appropriate to carry out the purpose of this Act: Provided, that no such adjusted maximum rent ceiling shall permit the receipt of rent in excess of the rent generally prevailing for comparable accommodations.

(b) Any tenant may petition the Commission to adjust the maximum rent ceiling applicable to his premises on the ground that the maximum rent ceiling permits the receipt of rent substantially in excess of the prevailing rent of equivalent accommodations. Upon the Commission may by order adjust such maximum rent ceiling in such manner or amount as shall in its judgment, effectuate the purposes of this Act and provide a fair and reasonable rent for such premises.

(c) Any adjusted maximum rent ceiling ordered pursuant to this section shall be the maximum rent ceiling for the accommodations subject thereto; except that in the event that the adjustment order is stayed or set aside by the court, the maximum rent ceiling therefor applicable to such accommodations under this Act shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 16. Any petition filed by a landlord or tenant shall be promptly reviewed by the Commission.

(b) Hearing under this section shall be conducted in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Commission. The landlord and tenant shall be given an opportunity to be heard or to file written statements in regard to the information required to be given for the purpose of the hearing.

(c) If the Commission, after hearing, shall make a finding that such an adjustment is necessary, it shall, upon the basis of the evidence presented, make such adjustment as it deems proper.

Judicial Review

Section 12.(a). Within fifteen (15) days after issuance of an order of the Commission, any aggrieved party may file a petition to review such action in the District Court and shall forthwith serve a copy of such petition upon the Commission. Thereupon the Commission shall certify and file with the Court a transcript of the record upon which the order complained of was entered. Upon the filing of such transcript the Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to affirm, set aside such order or remand the proceedings. Provided, that the Commission may at any time, reasonable notice and in such manner as it shall deem proper, rescind, modify or set aside, or in part, any such order, at any time, notwithstanding the pendency of the petition to review.

(b) No order shall be set aside or remanded unless the petitioner shall establish to the satisfaction of the Court that the order is not in accordance with the law, or is not supported by substantial evidence. The commencement of proceedings under this section shall not operate as a stay of the Commission's order.

Enforcement Penalties

Section 13.(a). If any landlord receives rent in violation of any provisions of this Act, or of any regulations or order thereunder prescribing a rent ceiling, the tenant paying such rent or the Commission, on behalf of such tenant, may bring suit for double the amount of the rent paid exceeds the applicable rent ceiling or, if the amount is greater, plus attorney's fees and costs as determined by the Court. An action may be brought with the amount involved.

(b) Any person who violates any provision of this Act or any person

who wilfully commits any acts with intent to evade this law or any regulation or order requirement thereunder, shall be prosecuted therefor on information filed in the Police Court and shall upon conviction be fined not more than \$100; Provided, that any person against whom a judgment has been entered under subsection 13(a) shall not be subject to prosecution under this subsection.

(c.) No person shall be held liable for damages or penalties in court or any grounds for or in respect of anything done or omitted to be done in good faith pursuant to any provision of this Act or any regulation or order. The Commission may intervene in any suit or action wherein any party relies for ground of relief or defence upon this Act or any regulation, order or requirement thereunder.

Price Control Commission

Section 14. The Price Control Commission shall be designated the Price Control Commission by the Governor whenever in his opinion the public interest deems such action necessary. Such Commission shall be empowered to make investigation to determine prices for all articles of foodstuffs and general supply in the Municipality.

Section 15. The Price Control Commission shall have the power to investigate the prices at which all articles of food and general supplies are sold or purchased by importers, merchants, dealers, producers, manufacturers, or consumers; and for that purpose the invoice of all such shall be opened to inspection by the Commission, and if necessary, it may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or for the production of invoices or other documents and it shall have the power to take testimony under oath.

Section 16. The Price Control Commission shall determine the prices at which all food and general supplies are sold by wholesalers, retailers, and producers.

(c) The term "maximum rent ceiling" means the maximum rent which may be demanded or received for the use or occupancy of accommodations.

(d) The term "tenant" includes a sub-tenant, lessee, sub-lessee, or other person entitled to the use or occupancy of any housing or business accommodations other than the owner.

(e) The term "landlord" includes an owner, lessor, sub-lessor, or other person entitled to fix and receive rent for the use or occupancy of any housing or business accommodations.

Separability

Section 20. If any of the provisions of this Act or the applications of such provisions to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid the validity of the remainder of the Act and the application of such provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Short Title

Section 21. This Act shall be cited as the "Virgin Islands Rent Control Law."

Repealer Clause

Section 22. All laws or ordinances, or parts thereof in conflict with this Act is hereby repealed.

Section 23. This Act shall take effect sixty (60) days after its approval.

Mrs. Alarman yes
Mr. Benjamin yes
Mr. Carroll yes
Mr. Lique yes
Mr. Gill yes
Mr. Gomez yes
Mr. Hernandez yes
Mr. yes

Mr. Otley yes
Mr. Bello yes
Mr. Buel yes
Mr. Rhynes absent
Mr. Richards not voting
Mr. Rohlsen yes
Mr. Schade absent
Mr. absent

The of the

An Act to Provide a Uniform Compensation for Members of the Municipal Council.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. The Chairman of the separate Municipal Councils and the three (3) permanent members of the separate Municipal Committees of the Municipal Councils shall receive an annual salary of \$2400.

The Members of the Municipal Councils who are neither the Chairman nor members of the Municipal Committees shall receive an annual salary of \$2100.

Such salary, in each category, shall be the total compensation for such officers and members with the exception of compensation and subsistence for Assembly Sessions or such reasonable travel expenses and subsistence as may be provided by Ordinance of the separate Municipal Councils.

Mr. Abramson	May
Mr. Benjamin	yea
Mr. Carroll	yea
Mr. Creque	May
Mr. Flick	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea
Mr. Hodge	yea

Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Peto	yea
Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Rhysac	absent
Mr. Richards	May
Mr. Rohlsen	May
Mr. Schade	absent
Mr. Spruce	absent

Bill No. 80

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3th Session 1953

Law to Provide a Uniform Method for the Registration of

Be It Enacted
the

Assembly of
assembled:

Short Title

Section 1. This Law shall be known as the Vital Statistics Law of the Virgin Islands.

Definitions

Section 2. The following terms, wherever used or referred to in this Law, shall have the following meanings, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

- (1.) "Commissioner of Health" means the Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands or any of his duly authorized representatives;
- (2.) "Live Birth" is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached;
- (3.) "Fetal death" means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the foetus does not breathe or show any evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles;
- (4.) "Delayed Certificate" means a certificate filed after the time specified by law.
- (5.) "Registrar" means the Commissioner of Health or any official or deputy local registrar.

Division of Vital Statistics

Dept. of Health of the Virgin Islands
Its office is located at the Department of Health

Section 4. The Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands shall hereafter be the Registrar of Vital Statistics and shall have charge of the registration of births, deaths, and other vital statistics in the Virgin Islands. The Commissioner of Health shall prepare the necessary instructions, forms, and blanks for obtaining and preserving such records and shall procure the faithful registration of the same. He shall recommend from time to time such additional legislation as may be necessary to that end and shall issue such rules and regulations, not in conflict with this law, as may be necessary to complement the provisions thereof. The said rules and after being approved by the Legislative Assembly and the Governor of the Islands shall have the force of law.

Section 5. The Governor is hereby authorized to designate and define local registration districts in the Virgin Islands, to appoint local or designate public officials to act as local registrars as may be necessary or desirable, and similarly to appoint or designate deputy local registrars.

Five Births

Section 6. The birth of each and every child born alive shall be registered as hereinafter provided.

Section 7(a) Within ten days after the date of each live birth, there shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the birth occurred a certificate of such live birth, as provided in Section 8 of this law.

(b) In each case where a physician, midwife, or person acting as a midwife, was present at the birth, it shall be the duty of such person to file a certificate of birth with the local registrar.

(c) In each case where a person was acting as a midwife, it shall be the duty of such person to file a certificate of birth with the local registrar.

birth, it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child, the householder, or owner of the premises where the birth occurred, or the manager or superintendent of the public or private institution where the birth occurred, each in the order named, within ten days after the date of such birth to report to the local registrar the fact of such birth. In such case, and in case the physician, midwife, or person acting as midwife, in attendance upon the birth is unable, by diligent inquiry, to obtain any item or items of information as required in section 8 of this law, it shall then be the duty of the local registrar to secure from the person so reporting, or from any other person having the required knowledge, such information as will enable him to prepare the certificate of birth herein required, and it shall be the duty of the person reporting the birth or who may be interrogated in relation thereto to answer correctly and to the best of his knowledge all questions put to him by the local registrar which may be calculated to elicit any information needed to make a complete record of the birth as required by said section 8, and it shall be the duty of the informant as to any statement made in accordance herewith to verify such statement by his signature, when requested to do so by the local registrar.

Section 8. The certificate of livebirth shall contain at least the items of the standard form approved by the United States Federal Security Agency.

Section 9. In the case of an illegitimate child the name of the father or reputed father and information about the father or reputed father shall not be entered upon the birth certificate or birth record of such child unless a notarized affidavit of paternity or a certificate of legitimation is presented.

Section 10. Any person who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this law shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$100 and the costs of the proceedings. The court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this law.

information to the contrary or unless paternity has been established through court action or through an affidavit of paternity.

Section 11. In a case where the natural parents of a child marry subsequent to the birth of the child, such a child is considered legitimate. In order to correct the record of a certified copy of the marriage license, a notarized affidavit of paternity shall be submitted to the Registrar of Vital Statistics (by any interested person). Upon receipt the Registrar will prepare a new record covering the birth, which will show correct information regarding the father and mother, provided that if an affidavit of paternity had been filed previously, a new affidavit will not be required.

The original certificate together with a certified copy of the marriage license and the affidavit of paternity shall be placed in a sealed file and shall be made available only to the parents, courts, and to the child when he reaches maturity.

Section 12. In the case of a newly-born, abandoned or exposed child of unknown parentage such child shall be brought to the Chief Municipal Physician or his deputy in the district where such newly-born, abandoned or exposed child of unknown parentage is found, who will examine the child to determine approximate age and date of birth. The physician shall assign a name to the child and prepare a standard birth certificate for such child. In order to preserve all identity possible, personal description and all facts relative to the discovery of the child shall be placed on a note attached to the birth certificate on the reverse side of the certificate.

Section 13. In the case of a child of unknown parentage, if the child is found with-
out the name of the child, there shall be a special report made by the child and a special report made by the child directed,

and returned to the local registrar as soon as the child has been named and not later than six months after birth. No minister authorized by the Government to perform the ceremony of baptism shall baptize a child unless a certified copy of the record of birth stating the name of the child has been produced; provided, that such minister, in cases where there is reason to believe that a child might die before the certificate can be obtained, shall be allowed to baptize the child without the certificate, but it shall then be the duty of the minister to report within 24 hours to the Office of the Local Registrar the name with which the child was baptized.

Section 14. A certified decree of every adoption for every child born in the Virgin Islands shall be forwarded by the clerk of the District Court to the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the municipality in which the adoption takes place. Upon receipt of the certified copy of the decree of adoption the Local Registrar shall prepare a new certificate of birth of the child showing the adoptive name and the names of the adoptive parents. This shall be filed with the original record. A copy of the new certificate shall be sent to the Office of the Commissioner of Health where it shall be filed with the copy of the birth certificate originally submitted to that office. On the back of the new certificate shall be entered the date of filing of the certificate of adoption.

Section 15. If at any time after the birth of a person a certified copy of the record of such birth should be required and after a search it appears that the birth was not registered the Commissioner of Health shall require the person responsible for presenting the certificate for registration to present the certificate for registration to the Registrar of Vital Statistics in a form as the Registrar may require. There shall be filed with the Registrar all such certificates as the Registrar may require.

for the presentation has died or cannot be found, the person asking for the certified copy of the record may present a delayed certificate of death with such affidavits or other documents as may be required by the Commissioner of Health, all of which shall be filed in the Department of Health. A certified copy of the certified shall then be issued to the applicant upon payment of the fee as stipulated in this law.

Deaths

Section 16. The body of any person whose death occurs in the Virgin Islands or which shall be found dead, shall not be interred, deposited in a tomb, cremated or otherwise disposed of, or removed from or into any registration district (or temporarily pending further disposition more than 24 hours after death), unless a permit for burial, removal, or other disposition thereof shall have been properly issued by the local registrar or deputy registrar of such local registration district. And no such burial or removal permit shall be issued by any registrar until, wherever practicable, a complete and satisfactory certificate of death has been accomplished as hereinafter provided. Provided, That when a dead body is transported from outside the Virgin Islands into the same for burial, the transit or removal permit, issued in accordance with the law and health regulations of the place where death occurred, shall be accepted by the local registrar in lieu of such certificate. In such a case the local registrar shall note upon the face of the burial permit that the body was shipped for interment and shall also note thereon the place of death.

Section 17. The certificate of death shall at least contain all of the standard information required by the United States Code.

(b) The certificate of death shall contain the following particulars of the death:

person acquainted with the facts. The statement of facts relating to the disposition of the body shall be signed by the undertaker or person officiating as such. The medical certificate shall be made and signed by the legally qualified physician, if any, last in attendance upon the deceased, or a local qualified physician, or by any other physician whose duty it is to hold an inquest on the body of a deceased person. The cause of death shall be so stated as to show the cause of disease or sequence of causes resulting in death, and only statements declared by the Commissioner of Health to be reliable statements of cause of death will be held sufficient for the issuance of a burial or removal permit.

Section 18. In case of death occurring without medical attendance it shall be the duty of the personal representative, neighbor or finder of the deceased to notify the Chief Municipal Physician, or the local police official in the district, for investigation and certification. If any person shall have reason to believe that any death occurring in any municipality shall have been due, immediately or immediately, to any fault, neglect, or misbehavior on the part of any person, he shall notify the Chief Municipal Physician, or the local police official of the district, thereof.

Section 19. Whenever there is reason to believe that a death has been caused by violence or unlawful means, by suicide, by accident or casualty, the Chief Municipal Physician, or the local police official of the district, shall report the case to the coroner, who will conduct an inquest on the death and may order an autopsy, if he deems it necessary. The Chief Municipal Physician, or a Physician of the district deputized to him, shall be present at such inquest, and the certificate of death shall be made by such physician who shall state in certificate, the name of the district causing death, or, if from external causes, the means of death, and whether (probably) accidental, suicidal or homicidal, and shall in any case, report the same to the Chief Municipal Physician.

Section 20. It shall be the duty of the Chief Municipal Physician or the District to perform or cause to be performed a post-mortem examination in any case where the cause of death cannot otherwise be definitely determined or in cases where there are reasons to believe that death may have been due to a disease the knowledge of which gained by such post-mortem examination would be of importance in guarding the health of the community; provided, that no such post-mortem examination shall be performed contrary to the wish of the personal representative of the deceased unless there be reasonable grounds to believe that such deceased died as a result of an illegal act or acts or from a quarantinable disease, or from suicide.

Section 21. The local registrar, or his deputy, shall obtain personal and statistical particulars from the person best qualified to supply them, over the signature and address of his informant. He shall then see that the necessary medical certificate of the cause of death is properly accomplished, and that the other particulars necessary to complete the record are entered. He shall then cause the undertaker, or person acting as such, to endorse upon the record, over his signature, and address, the date and place of removal or burial. He shall then issue to the undertaker, or person acting as such, the permit for burial, removal or other disposition of the body. The undertaker or person acting as such shall deliver the burial permit to the person in charge of the place of burial, before interring or otherwise disposing of the body, or shall attach the removal permit to the box containing the body, when shipped by common carrier, said permit to accompany the body to its destination.

Section 22. The disposition of or other disposition of the body to be made within the limits of the jurisdiction of the local registrar, and the wording of the permit may be limited to a nature, that

a satisfactory certificate of death having been filed by him, as required by law, permission is granted to inter, remove or dispose otherwise of the body, stating the name, age, sex, and other necessary details upon the form prescribed by the registrar, provided, however, that if death be due to a dangerous contagious disease it shall be so stated on the burial permit, before it is issued.

Section 23. No person in charge of any premises on which interments are made shall inter or permit the interment or other disposition of any body unless it is accompanied by a burial permit, as herein provided. And such person shall endorse upon the permit the date of interment, over his signature, and shall return all permits so endorsed to the local registrar of his district within one week from the date of interment. He shall keep a record of all bodies interred or otherwise disposed of on the premises under his charge, in each case stating the name of each deceased person, place of death, date of burial or disposal, and name and address of undertaker; which record shall at all times be open to official inspection; provided, that the undertaker or person acting as such, when burying a body in a cemetery or burial ground having no person in charge, shall sign the burial or removal permit, giving the date of burial, and shall write across the face of the permit the words "No person in charge" and file the burial or removal permit within one week with the registrar of the district in which the cemetery is located.

Foetal Deaths (Stillbirths)

Section 24.
certificate
with the
form
of foetal
attending
cause
and
weeks of
gestation
Burial as
prescribed

in each foetal death a
certificate shall be filed
with the registrar of the
district. The certificate
shall be signed by the
attending physician or
midwife. If known
to the registrar in
advance of the
burial, the
certificate shall be
filed for

fetuses which have advanced to the twentieth week of uterogestation. ^{For} deaths occurring without attendance of a physician shall be treated as deaths without medical attendance as provided for in Section 18 of this Law. ^{For} a fetus which has not advanced to the twentieth week of uterogestation a burial permit may be issued if requested, provided that a physician's signature to the certificate before the issuance of the permit is not required.

Marriages And Divorces

Section 25. Every officer who issues a marriage license in the Virgin Islands shall forward to the Commissioner of Health on or before the 15th day of each calendar month, free of charge, a certified copy of each certificate of marriage filed with him during the preceding calendar month.

Section 26. The marriage certificate shall contain the following details:

1. The given names, surnames, age at last birthday, date and place of birth, race, usual residence, and previous marital status (never married, widowed, divorced, marriage annulled) of bride and groom;
2. The date and place of marriage;
3. Date and place of issuance of license;
4. Name and title of officiant;
5. Signature and title of local recording officer;
6. Date recorded.

Section 27. The Clerk of the District Court or any court which issues a decree of divorce or annulment of marriage shall forward to the Commissioner of Health on or before the 15th day of each calendar month, free of charge, a certified copy of each decree of divorce or annulment ordered by the court final during

where in his opinion it was contracted.

General Provisions

Section 31. Unless supplied from other sources the Commissioner of Health shall prepare, print, and supply to all local registrars all blanks and forms used in registering, recording and preserving the returns, used otherwise carrying out the purpose of this law; and shall prepare and issue such detailed instructions as may be required to procure the uniform observance of its provisions and the maintenance of a perfect system of registration; and no blanks shall be used than those supplied by the registrar. He shall carefully examine the certificates received monthly from the local registrars, and if any such are incomplete or unsatisfactory, he shall require such information to be supplied as may be necessary to make the record complete and satisfactory. And all physicians, midwives, informers, undertakers, and all other persons having knowledge of the facts are hereby required to supply the same upon a form provided by the registrar, in person, by mail or through the local registrar; provided, that no certificate of birth, death or fetal death, after its acceptance by the local registrar for registration, and no other record made in pursuance of this law, shall be altered or changed in any respect otherwise than by amendments properly dated, signed and witnessed, and that the word "amended" be stamped and signed by the registrar on the face of the document. The registrar shall further arrange, bind and permanently preserve the certificates in a systematic manner, and shall prepare and maintain a separate card index of all deaths registered, and a separate card index of all deaths registered, said index to be arranged alphabetically, in the case of deaths, and in the case of accidents, and in the case of deaths, the names of the children shall be given in full from all local registrars. The records shall be consolidated in a separate volume, or volumes, as may be required, to be preserved in the office of the Commissioner of Health.

may be taken to prevent their spread.

If any cemetery, company or association, or any church or historical society or association, or any other company, society or association, or any individual, is in possession of any record of births or deaths which may be of value in establishing the genealogy of any resident of the Virgin Islands, such company, society, association or individual may file such record as a duly authenticated transcript thereof with the registrar, and it shall be the duty of the registrar to preserve such record as a transcript and to make a record, and index thereof in such form as to facilitate the finding of any information contained therein. The contents of such record and index shall be available to the public subject to any such reasonable conditions as the registrar may prescribe.

Section 32. Each local registrar shall supply blank forms of certificates to such persons as required them. Each local registrar shall carefully examine each certificate of birth, foetal death or death when presented for record in order to ascertain whether or not it has been made out in accordance with the provisions of this law and the instructions of the Commissioner of Health, and if any certificate of death is incomplete or unsatisfactory, it shall be his duty to call attention to the defects in the return, and to withhold the burial or removal permit until such defects are corrected. Provided, however, that if the Registrar is satisfied or has reason to believe that the required information to cure the defects in the return is not readily available, then and in that case the said Registrar is authorized to grant a removal or burial permit despite the presence of such defects.

All certificates of birth, foetal death or death shall be legibly and completely typed or typewritten and shall be supplied to the Registrar for their death.

or foetal death is properly executed and complete, he shall then issue a burial or removal permit to the undertaker, provided, that in case the death occurred from some disease which held by the Commissioner of Health be infectious, contagious or communicable and dangerous to the public health no permit for the removal or other disposition of the body shall be issued by the registrar, except under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of Health. If a certificate of birth is incomplete, the local registrar shall immediately notify the informant and require him to supply the missing items of information if they can be obtained. He shall number consecutively the certificates of birth, foetal death and death, in separate series, beginning with number one for the first birth, the first foetal death and the first death in each calendar year. He shall sign his name as local registrar, in all certificates, of the date of filing in his office. He shall also make a complete and accurate copy of each birth, each foetal death, each death certificate received by him, to be preserved permanently in his office as the local record, in such manner as directed by the Commissioner of Health. And he shall on the fifteenth day of each month transmit to the Commissioner of Health all original certificates or copies, as directed by the Commissioner of Health, registered by him for the preceding month. If no births, foetal deaths or deaths occurred in any month, he shall, on the fifteenth day of the following month report that fact to the Commissioner of Health on a card provided for such purpose.

Section 33. The registrar shall, upon request, supply to any applicant, who has a legitimate interest, a copy of any certificate of birth, foetal death or death registered under this law, for the making of which a fee of fifty cents shall be paid in the treasury of the municipality by the applicant. The registrar shall also, upon request, supply a copy of the record of any certificate of birth, foetal death or death registered under this law, for the making of which a fee of fifty cents shall be paid in the treasury of the municipality by the applicant. The registrar shall also, upon request, supply a copy of the record of any certificate of birth, foetal death or death registered under this law, for the making of which a fee of fifty cents shall be paid in the treasury of the municipality by the applicant.

shall, upon request of any parent or guardian, supply without fee, a certificate limited to a statement as to the date of birth and name of any child, when the same shall be necessary for baptism, for admission to school or for the purpose of securing employment; provided further, that the United States Federal Security Agency or other Federal Agency and any office or official of these islands, may, in the discretion of the Governor, be furnished for official use only, the transcript of certified copies of birth, fetal deaths and deaths, without payment of the fee herein prescribed.

Section 34. Any person, who for himself or as an agent, officer or employee of any other person, or of any corporation or partnership, or other association of any character shall - - - -

- (a) inter, cremate, or otherwise finally dispose of the dead body of a human being, or permit the same to be done, or shall remove said body from the registration district in which the death occurred or the body was found, without authority of a burial or removal permit issued by the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred or in which the body was found;
- (b) refuse or fail to furnish correctly any information in his possession or shall furnish false information affecting any certificate or record required by this law;
- (c) wilfully alter otherwise than is provided by section 31 hereof, or shall falsify any certificate of birth, fetal death or death, or any record established by this law;
- (d) being appointed in accordance with the law, shall not deliver to any person a certificate of birth, fetal death or death, or any record established by this law;

(c) being a local registrar or deputy local registrar shall fail, neglect or refuse to perform his duty required by this law, and by instructions and directions of Commissioner of Health issued under,

shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall, for the first offence be fined no less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars; and for each subsequent offence, not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned more than sixty days, or be both and imprisoned at the discretion of the court, provided, that compliance with this law shall constitute a condition in the granting of licenses to physicians, midwives and embalmers, and any violation of this law by such persons shall be considered cause for revocation of licenses.

Section 35. Each local registrar and deputy local registrar is hereby charged with the strict and thorough enforcement of the provisions of this law in his registration district, and under supervision and direction of the Commissioner of Health. And he shall make an immediate report to the Commissioner of Health of any violation of this ordinance coming to his knowledge, by observation or upon complaint of any person or otherwise.

Section 36. The Commissioner of Health is hereby charged with the thorough and efficient execution of the provisions of this law in every part of the Virgin Islands, and is hereby granted supervisory powers over all local registrars and deputy registrars, to the end that all registration shall be uniform. The Commissioner shall personally or by his deputy visit and inspect all local registrars and deputy registrars in such cases as he may deem necessary or proper.

this law to the prosecuting officials of the Virgin Islands with a statement of facts and circumstances; and when any such case is reported to him by the Commissioner of Health, the prosecuting official shall forthwith initiate and promptly follow up the necessary court proceedings against the person or corporation responsible for alleged violation.

Section 37. The Commissioner of Health shall include in his annual report to the Governor of the Virgin Islands a report on the number of births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, divorces and annulments of marriages registered in the Virgin Islands during the preceding calendar year and such additional information about vital statistics in the Virgin Islands as he may deem necessary for operation, evaluation, and planning a sound program of public health and welfare, or that the Governor may require.

Section 38. All laws or parts of laws governing Vital Statistics in the Virgin Islands or any Municipality thereon in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

mps. Abramson	yea
Mr. Benjamin	yea
Mr. Carroll	yea
Mr. Cereque	not voting
Mr. Flick	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Hodge	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea

Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Pedro	yea
Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Rhymer	absent
Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Roelsen	yea
Mr. Schade	absent
Mr. Sprauve	absent

Bill No. 81

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

5th Session 1948.

An Act to "Fund to Erect a Building Code for the Virgin Islands." Approved May 25, 1948.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States:

Section 1. "To Establish a Building Code for the Virgin Islands."

approved May 25, 1948, is amended to read as follows:

No building or structure or part thereof including electric wiring for light and power, shall hereafter be built, altered, repaired, or, if within the limits of town, moved or demolished until a permit therefor has been granted by the Superintendent. Permits issued under this section shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the building or work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 120 days from the date of such permit or if the building or work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 360 days. Preliminary repairs to buildings or structures or parts thereof exclusive of electric wiring for light and power, may be made without permit. Such repairs shall not include the removal of any wall or any portion thereof, the removal, or cutting away of any beams or supports, or the removal, or closing of any stairway or exit.

Mr. Abrahamson yea
Mr. Benjamin yea
Mr. Carroll nay
Mr. Leque yea
Mr. Flick yea
Mr. Gomez nay
Mr. Heywood yea
Mr. Hodge yea

Mr. Otter yea
Mr. Feltz nay
Mr. Reed yea
Mr. Rhynes absent
Mr. Richard yea
Mr. Goffen yea
Mr. Wade absent
Mr. Sprague absent

Bills No. 82.

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States.

5th Session 1951

An Act to Amend the "Act of 1940 of the
Virgin Islands," approved May 25, 1940.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly
of the Virgin Islands, assembled:

Section 1 of "The
Act," approved

January 25, 1940, is hereby amended to read as follows:

There shall be and is hereby created a School Board for each Municipality, subject to the general supervision and control of the Governor in accordance with Section 20 of the Organic Act, which shall consist of five members, appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Municipal Council having jurisdiction, provided that members of each School Board shall be residents of the Municipality in which the School Board functions. The term of office of the School Board members shall be two years. All the business which the School Board is authorized to do shall be done at regular or special meetings at which not less than three members are present, and no act shall be valid unless voted for by affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, and a true record made of such votes. The Head of the Department of Education shall report on educational progress of each particular Municipality when requested by the School Board. The Head of the Department of Education shall attend all meetings and act as Secretary of the School Board, take part in discussions and make recommendations to the Board but shall have no vote. Any measure adopted or any decision reached by the School Board shall be set forth in writing as an order of the Board. All such orders shall be transmitted by the Chairman of the School Board to the Head of the Department of Education for his guidance and for distribution to interested parties.

Section 20 of Chapter 2 is hereby amended to read as follows: The Head of the Department of Education for each Municipality shall have the status of an official of the Government and shall be subject of the budget of the Department of Education. The Head of the Department of Education shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Municipal Council having jurisdiction.

whatever title the Governor may designate

Mrs. Abramson yea
 Mr. Benjamin yea
 Mr. Barrall yea
 Mr. Breque yea
 Mr. Glick yea
 Mr. Gomez yea
 Mr. Heywood yea
 Mr. Hodge yea

Mr. Ottley
 Mr. Pedro
 Mr. Reese
 Mr. Rhynes
 Mr. Richards
 Mr. Rohrer
 Mr. Schade
 Mr. Sprauve

Bill No. 83.

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

5th Session 1953

An Act to Amend "A Law to Create a Body Corporate and Politic, to be known as the Virgin Islands Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and for other purposes," Approved September 19, 1950.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. That Section 5(a) of "Law to Create a Public Body Corporate and Politic, to be known as the Virgin Islands Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and for other purposes," Approved September 19, 1950, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Its powers, rights, privileges, functions and duties of the Authority shall be vested in seven commissioners, not more than four from any one municipality, nor more than three of whom shall at any time be salaried officials or employees of the local or Federal Government. The first commissioners of the Virgin Islands Housing and Redevelopment Authority appointed pursuant to Bill No. 15 of the 15th Legislative Assembly shall continue to serve until their terms expire and shall be re-appointed. The additional provisions provided by this Act shall be for a

period of two years. All appointments shall be with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, or if the Assembly is not in session, of both Municipal Councils. All vacancies shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired terms. A Commissioner shall hold office until his successor has been appointed, confirmed and has qualified, unless sooner removed as herein provided. Any Commissioner may be removed from office by the Governor for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office after a hearing before the Governor or an impartial person designated by the Governor for the purpose.

Abramson	yea	Mr. Otley	yea
Benjamin	yea	Mr. Pedro	yea
Burton	yea	Mr. Reese	yea
Carter	yea	Mr. Rhyme	
Flick	yea	Mr. Richards	yea
James	yea	Mr. Robson	yea
Kaywood	yea	Mr. Schade	
Mr. Hodge	yea	Mr. Sprague	

The Assembly adjourned at 2:10 O'clock P. M.

Walter I. M. Hodge.
Chairman

Raymond A. Pedro
Secretary

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

First Session 1954

June 14, 1954

Pursuant to concurrent Resolution of the Municipal Council of Saint Thomas and St John and the Municipal Council of Saint Croix, adopted June 8 and 9, 1954, respectively, the first session of the Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands convened in Saint Thomas on June 14, 1954 at 12:00 Noon.

The Acting Chairman, Earle B. Otley, Chairman of the 17th Legislative Assembly, called the meeting to order. 11 AM
answered the roll as follows:

Ann Abramson	Present
John W. Benjamin	Present
Eric H. Carroll	Present
Henry C. Cregue	Present
John W. Fells	Absent
Joseph A. Gomez	Present
Herbert H. Heywood	Present
Walter J. M. Hodge	Absent
Earle B. Otley	Present
Raymond A. Pedro	Present
Weymouth Rhymur	Present
Henry V. Richards	Present
Henry E. Rohsen	Absent
Percival H. Rose	Absent
Alfred W. Schade	Present
Julius E. Spawell	Absent

The Legislative Assembly
of the Virgin Islands of the United States
Saint Thomas, Saint Thomas

Roll Call

I, Earle B. Otley, Chairman of the
Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of
the United States, do hereby certify that
Pursuant to concurrent Resolution of the
Municipal Council of Saint Thomas and
Saint John and the Municipal Council of
Saint Croix, adopted June 8 and 9, 1954,
respectively, the first session of the
Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands convened at 12:00 Noon on
June 14, 1954, in Saint Thomas, Saint
Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Special session of the Legislative Assembly
of the Virgin Islands to be held on Monday
June 14, 1954, at 11:00 A.M., Municipal Council's
Chambers, Municipal Building, Charlotte
Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, for
consideration of the following:

- (1) Election of Officers.
- (2) Report of the Assembly's Delegation to Washington, D. C., relative to the New Organic Act for the Virgin Islands.

Witness my hand the Seal of the Legislative
Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United
States, at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin
Islands, this 9th Day of June, A. D., 1954

Earle B. Otley,
Vice Chairman.

In accordance with the purpose of the meeting, the Chair announced the Office of Chairman vacant and asked for the election of a Chairman for the year 1954.

Below is the result of the voting for the officers of the Assembly:

Frank B. Otley, Chairman
 Herbert H. McLeod, Vice Chairman
 Henry V. Richards, Secretary
 (Mrs.) Ann E. Abramson, Assistant Secretary

The Committee, elected to go to Washington, on the Organic Act, through Assemblyman Heywood presented the Committee's report as follows:

Report
Of The Legislative Assembly's Delegation On The
Organic Act.

When the celebration comprised of
Honorable and Mr. [unclear], and Messrs.
Dor. [unclear] and [unclear] A. Dill,
arrived in [unclear] [unclear] Bill
3378, [unclear] [unclear] Act
of [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The companion bill, H. R. 5181 in the House was due to be reported to the House Committee on Interior and Affairs in executive session on the day the Delegation arrived, May 4, 1950.

Although we arrived in Washington at 1:30 A. M., we immediately contacted Honorable Walter F. M. Hodge, Chairman, Legislative Assembly, who had been in Washington, D. C., for some time, and discussed with him at that late hour plans for attending the executive session of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs which had been for 10:00 o'clock that same morning. Hodge assured us that the members of the Delegation would be heard by the House Committee. We gave him a copy of the Bill which had been adopted by the Legislative Assembly in informal session the week before. He told him that that was the status of the Bill in the revision of the Organic Act, and that we were authorized to press for those amendments.

The members of the Delegation were present at the chambers of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs at 9:30 a. m. on May 7. There we were joined by Hon. Hodge, and Messrs. Crawford, Johnson and Ralph Haiswiler. Together we went over the details of the amendments requested by the Legislative Assembly as outlined in the Bill. Through the cooperation of Mr. Jack Simpson, a member of the House, approximately 25 copies of the Bill were mimeographed for distribution among the members of the Committee and other interested persons.

Before the Committee met in executive session, we had the opportunity to speak to the basic self-governing principle of the new Bill.

In executive H.R. 5781 was amended to provide that the electors may vote for four of the six members at large for the legislature, instead of for two only as originally provided in the Bill. The motion was made by Congressman Aspinall who made a splendid argument in favor of the people voting for all the members at large in order to develop the two party system, but finally compromised on a motion to vote for four. The motion barely passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 6 against. Among those who were opposed to the motion were the Chairman, Mr. Miller and Congressman Saylor.

A motion was made by Congressman Wilson of New York that the special internal revenue fund provided for in sub-section 27 (b) be reduced from a ceiling of 5 million to 3 1/2 million dollars. This motion was defeated by a vote of 4 in favor and 6 against. The bill was also amended to insert the following proviso in sub-section 27 (c): "That the term 'inhabitants of the Virgin Islands' as used in this section shall include all persons whose permanent residence is in the Virgin Islands, and such persons shall satisfy their income tax obligations under applicable taxing statutes of the United States by paying their tax on income derived from all sources both within and outside the Virgin Islands into the treasury of the Virgin Islands." Sec. 33 establishing sugar quotas was deleted.

An attempt was made for representatives from the Virgin Islands to be heard before the Bill was finally adopted by the House Committee with the amendments mentioned above. Paragay, Mr. Miller, Chairman of the Committee, stated that the Virginians were asked, and if he allowed anyone to testify at that time he would be required to hold the hearings in New York and New Jersey and it would drag on for many more days or even weeks. He already had a report of the Virginians.

At the close of the hearings we listened to a conversation in which Congressman Saylor indicated the Bill would be placed on consent calendar of the House soon as action was taken on companion Bill, S 3378 in the Senate on May 17. It became very clear to us that leaders of the House committee were determined to have the bill pass without any other major amendment. We then realized other angles if we were going to be able to impress Congress with the importance of major amendment to provide national government for the people. The following are highlights of our activities, although we had many contacts on an informal

On the afternoon of May 4
tried to see Senator Sargent,
of the Senate Committee on
and Finance Affairs.
Arrived at his office too late,
he had already gone to the
floor. During these days there was
in process, an amendment to the
1st - Further Act, and it was extremely
difficult to contact Senator for any
length of time. We also visited Mr.
Stewart French, Staff Consultant, Senate
Committee on Finance and Finance
Affairs. Mr. French advised the
negotiation that it was his opinion
that it would be extremely difficult
to get any substantial amendments
to the Senate bill at this late date.
He informed us that the bill was
scheduled to come up for the consent
of the Senate on May 10th. That barring
any objection, it would be passed.
He also advised us that that
the Senate was not behind
the bill, but that it was
at the time it was
passed.

not so much a matter of cost as the fact that a basic principle of American Democracy was involved, which is representation.

On May 5 we visited Dr. Jack Taylor in the Office of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and obtained a list of the 59 cablegrams which were sent from certain residents of the Virgin Islands supporting the adoption of H. R. 5181 without any amendments. The day before Dr. Miller had stated that he was highly impressed with these messages which indicated that the people were behind the bill as written. Unfortunately, up to that time no message had been received opposing H. R. 5181. Upon examining the cablegrams we found that they had all been sent on May 4 which indicated that a campaign was underway in the Islands.

The Delegation then visited the office of Congressman Aspinall. But he told us that he was on the floor of the House. We tried to make an appointment, but were advised that his schedule was very tight which included a daily radio broadcast, committee meetings, and attending the sessions on the floor of the House. We found this same type of situation when we tried to contact other Congressmen and Senators. We had to resort to catching them in the corridors as they move to and fro. However, it must be realized that this type of contact is not very effective.

On May 6 we again visited Dr. Taylor in his office. There we obtained a copy of a letter from Mr. St. Norman Skeoch requesting that the session of the Legislature under the new Organic Act be changed from January and February to July and August. This was immediately put forward as a bill. This was important in the interest of the people. Dr. Taylor was very helpful in this regard.

obtaining the bill and committee for

the first time that we saw the telegram sent by Mr. Walter White, Executive of the M. A. A. C. P., stating that the as they reported out of the Congress was designed to curtail the franchise the people, the power of the legislature and did not provide for any advancement in self-government. Mr. French was visibly upset over this telegram, and told us that the message could make a lot of difference because the M. A. A. C. P. was a powerful organization.

On May 7 we met with Mr. Cyril King, a Virgin Islander, who is the staff of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. We learned from that Senator Humphrey had received a copy of the Assembly's brief and material pertaining to the revision of the Organic Act. We asked Mr. King to do whatever possible to convince Senator that essential changes were necessary in the Act to provide for self-government for the people.

On that week-end we decided to go New York and try to obtain help from the office of the M. A. A. C. P. and other sources. This decision was made after we had seen the M. A. A. C. P. message in Mr. French's Office. Mr. Heywood and Mr. Hill went to New York, while Mr. Gordon remained in Washington to contact newspaper reporters and others, and to be on hand in case any new situation arose and keep us advised.

On May 10 we conferred with Mr. Ralph Bunche and Attorney James A. Baugh in Mr. Bunche's Office in the United Nations Building. Mr. Bunche was favorably impressed with the efforts of the people for more self-government. He had on his desk a cablegram from the Virgin Islands. Mr. Bunche explained the policy of the United Nations in the governing territories; and that the jurisdiction only over that territory was a trust matter.

However, he did give us valuable information and advise informally.

On May 11 we conferred with Mr. Edward Dudley, a member of the M. A. A. B. P. staff. In this conference we discussed extensively the economic features of the bill, and weighed them against the curtailment of the franchise and legislative powers, and the denial of more self-government. It was the consensus of opinion of the delegates that certain basic elements of self-government could not be sacrificed. The delegation on its own initiative sent message to certain New York Senators and Congressmen again expressing our views on this matter.

Attempts were made to contact leaders of Virgin Islands organization. We had been informed that Mr. Hatten was in Chicago attending a convention. We were able to contact Mr. Rufus Watterpool of the Professional League of Virgin Islanders and he tried to make certain contacts for us. However, our time in New York was very limited.

On May 13 we worked all day preparing a last appeal to members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and influential Senators. This statement was mimeographed and mailed to the Senators, so that it could be received before May 17. An effort was made by the public relations officer of the M. A. A. B. P. to get us in contact with New York newspaper reporters. However, in every case the indicated a lack of interest in the news-worthiness of the Virgin Island bill. In some cases they stated that the important news of the moment were the Indo-China affair and the McCarty-Hughes affair. We then prepared letters to the Editors which were sent to the Post, New York Herald Tribune, and the New York

On May 14 we received a cablegram from St. Louis of St. Louis men saying that he return to St. Louis to make order.

arrangements to leave New York. Mr. 7
 returned to Washington D. C. to join
 Mr. Gordon in order to be present
 the Bill came up in the Senate
 May 17.

On May 17 Mr. Hill visited Dr. Taylor
 the House Committee and read the report
 of the House Committee Report on
 H. R. 3181. This Report included only
 the amendments which were passed by
 the Committee on May 4. Dr. Taylor
 advised me that he would send copies
 of the Report to the Virgin Islands
 as soon as Congressman Saylor
 passed on it, and it was printed.
 again stated that action in the
 would depend on the action taken
 the Senate that day.

In the afternoon Messrs. Gordon
 Hill were present in the Senate
 when the Bill came up and was
 passed with minor amendments.
 Hill left next day to return to the
 Islands, while Mr. Gordon remained
 longer to obtain a copy of the
 Official Record of May 17, which
 the proceedings in the Senate
 Organic Act Bill.

III

Certain facts became very evident
 to the Delegation during our stay
 in Washington. We learned that:
 (1) Leaders of Congress were
 determined to push through a new
 Organic Act with certain punitive
 features as far as the people of the
 island were concerned. (2) A
 minority in the Islands with strong
 political support on the mainland
 had been working actively for the
 passage of the Bill as reported out
 by the Committee. (3) The Delegation
 should have been in a line when
 the Bill was reported upon
 by the Senate Committee.
 (4) There is a strong feeling in the Islands
 contact with the mainland, even
 on a small scale, and the people of
 the

that the Department of Interior is not in a position to faithfully represent the wishes and aspirations of the majority of the people.

We recommend that plans be made right now to push for certain amendments to the new Organic Act which will grant more self-government to the people and make the economic benefits more effective, and that we fight for these amendments in the 84th Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert H. Heywood

Ray O. Gordon

Valdemar A. Hill.

May 21, 1954.

Pursuant to motion made by Assemblyman Heywood and seconded by Assemblyman O'Rymer, the Report of the Delegation was accepted with just one minor amendment on page 4, to wit: "upon completion of his travel order."

Following the adoption of the Report the house discussed the departure from the islands of the former chairman of the Assembly, Walter J. M. Hodge. Following the discussion a motion was made by Assemblyman Ann C. Chapman and seconded by Assemblyman Joseph A. Gomez, that the Chair be authorized to call Mr. Hodge back to the Chair because he is unofficially absent from the Legislative Assembly and from the Municipal Council, and that he be asked to be back here not later than June 17, 1954.

He was then called by roll call and is indicated below:

Mr. Chapman	present	yea
Mr. Gomez	present	yea
Mr. Hodge	present	yea
Mr. O'Rymer	present	yea
Mr. Heywood	present	yea
Mr. Hill	present	yea
Mr. [unclear]	absent	absent
Mr. [unclear]	present	yea
Mr. [unclear]	absent	absent

Mr. Breque explained, after the voting he voted "May" because he thought Mr. was trying to get an Organic Act for the Islands and that because he was traveling under the authority of the Organic Act Committee of which is chairman.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P. M.

Earle B. Otley,
Chairman.

Henry V. Rich,
Secretary.

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States.

Second Session 1954

August 9 to August 20, 1954.

Pursuant to call of the Governor of the Virgin Islands of July 27, 1954, the Second Session of the Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands convened in Saint Thomas, on Monday August 9, 1954, at 11:30 P. M.

Chairman, Earle B. Ottley, Presiding.

The following members were present:

	Present	Absent
Ann. E. Abramson	"	
John W. Benjamin	"	
Eric H. Canall	"	"
Henry C. Creque	"	
John W. Fitch	"	
Joseph A. Gomez	"	
Robert H. Hargood	"	
Walter J. M. Hodge	"	"
Earle B. Ottley	"	
Raymond Peden	"	
Herival H. Reese	"	
Weymouth Skynner	"	"
Henry V. Zichard	"	
Henry E. Dapleson	"	
Adel Schade	"	"
Julius E. Sprauve	"	

The following proclamation was read:

The Virgin Islands of the United States
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas.

By the Governor of the Virgin Islands

A Proclamation

convening the Eighteenth Assembly of the

of

of

the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, do hereby convene a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to be held at the Municipal Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at 11:00 a.m., Monday August 9, 1954, for consideration of the following subject matter:

1. For the purpose of enacting a new "Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands of the United States" to conform with the provisions of "the Organic Act of the United States Virgin Islands" signed by the President of the United States January 1954.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 27th Day of July, A.D. 1954.

A.A. Alexander
Governor of the Virgin Islands

(Seal)

Countersigned

Charles H. Blanchy
Government Secretary

The Governor addresses the assembly as follows:

Governor's Address -

Mr. Chairman, members of the Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed a pleasure to come before you. I think I met you when I came to the Governor's office here - a sort of a first step into the world of the legislature and I am very happy to be here.

It is my first step into the world of the legislature and I am very happy to be here.

understanding you met this morning -- a few moments, I don't know if you discussed it or no ---. We are only anxious, the Executive department of your Government -- to make a good law and one in which there will be complete 100% agreement on.

I noticed in the old election law that there were several things that could happen and I just caution you on this because we want this to be a bona fide one. We want it to be legal. I noticed that there are so many -- I don't know if you can call them loopholes or no -- but there are so many ways in which the election could be declared void, and I think that it will be a shame to go to the expenses, due to the situation that this law wouldn't prevent us to go ahead with confidence and enter into the new phase of the Virgin Island Organic Law which we know will take effect January 10, 1955.

I might say here that I hope most of you -- and you all can't be, somebody is got to lose -- because I understand there only be 11 members I think of the next legislature. That is another reason why I think that whether this is the last meeting or no, why it should be as if you are entering into a new day, as far as the Virgin Islands Government is concerned.

I made the statement several times that we are interested in good government. We know that you should be and I think you are -- no question about it. I have never found the Virgin Islander any different than I found people in general any place in our 48 States in the Union and Territories. I think we all want progress. That's number one. I think we all want to be honest and I think that we want to be fair and I know that we want good government.

I don't believe there is anything extra -- I don't want to say there today only to say that the things that are going on in the past --

(I don't believe in dwelling on the past that we were not willing to cooperate but we are. I think it is a matter completely understanding which I am if we haven't got now we soon have. And I want you to know I stand for that and I want it and want it badly, and I think if we all get our shoulders to the wheel, we all do what we know is right, being fair at the same time, that we will all accomplish our needs.

I trust that these deliberations will be constructive and instructive and that we will go forward from now on. I will say that I will have a Peace in my hands and I hope that you will.

If there is anything that our department can do, we want to do it. I am sure that you are going to follow the same way.

Thank you very much for this letter Sir.

The following correspondence was read.

Christiansted, St. Croix
Virgin Islands.

July 28, 1954.

Honorable Archie G. Alexander,
Governor of the Virgin Islands
Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Dear Governor Alexander:

We have read in the local paper your request to a special session of the Legislature August 2, 1954, to revise the present election laws in harmony with the new constitution.

As the people of Puerto Rico are a people of high spirit and high ideals, we are

we are willing to cooperate and form part of the Election Board to facilitate the registration of the Spanish and French citizens of the Virgin Islands and respectfully ask you that provisions be made so that we have a representation in the Board of Elections and that all printed matter with reference to registration and elections be printed in Spanish as well as English so that every citizen will be conscious of his way of voting.

We want to thank you in advance for your democratic spirit and recognition of equality for all citizens of the Virgin Islands.

Respectfully submitted
Unión Civica Puertorriquena

Board of Directors

San Juan
Dr. Clemente Cintron, et al

San Juan
Jorge Rodriguez, et al

American Civil Liberties
245 Fifth Avenue, New York
10, N. Y.

July 30, 1954

Hon. Earle Ottley
Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I.

My dear Mr. Ottley:

We know that the bill to revise the Organic Act has become law. Despite our opposition and protest, it is important for us to know the judgment of the President and the next moves.

We advocate the same principles that we have always stood for. The danger is that the people will retreat and the island will be lost.

We are of the view that our failure to block the bill was due in part ^{any} to the lack of agreement in the islands, criticism in Congress of the system and pressure from special interests.

We believe that these obstacles can be overcome and a further revision secured along democratic lines if the plan submitted to the Councils by us and the Virgin Islands Civic Assn. in New York were put into effect.

Is that practicable in the view of the Assembly? If not, what steps seem to island representatives desirable?

With regards to you and your colleagues

Sincerely yours,
 W. Roger Baldwin.

August 6, 1954

Mr. Roger Baldwin
 American Civil Liberties Union
 170 Fifth Avenue
 New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter of July 30, 1954, and for your continued interest in trying to attain more autonomy and civil liberties for the people of the Virgin Islands.

The Legislative Assembly will convene in a special session on August 9. During this session, if possible, it would be possible for the Assembly to consider and take action on the suggestions which you have made. I shall keep you advised.

Very truly,
 W. R. Baldwin

Government House
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas
Virgin Islands of the United States

August 10, 1954

The
Honorable Earl B. Ottley
Chairman
Municipal Council of St. Thomas
and Mr. John
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Dear Chairman Ottley:

I am enclosing herewith two copies of the suggested draft of an Election Law for the Virgin Islands.

In all fairness to the new Insular Legislature which will come into office on January 10, 1955, I recommend this Electoral Bill be enacted for the 1954 election. In this manner the new Insular Legislature will not have to repeal any electoral law now enacted.

In this draft the only changes from the present electoral law are those necessary to have the law comply with the new Organic Act of July 22, 1954.

It may be after further study that I shall make some minor changes in this suggested draft. If I do find this necessary, I shall advise you within the next 48 hours.

Hoping that I may have your cooperation and the cooperation of the Legislature, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. A. Alexander
A. A. Alexander
Chairman

AAH/gld

August 11, 1954

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

my dear Mr. Chairman:

Please find enclose herewith, a list of names that we have been advised has heretofore been submitted for appointment to the various boards and commissions named. It is requested, and you are hereby directed, that these names be forthwith withdrawn for appointments on the respective boards.

This action is taken in anticipation of the immediate reorganization of various departments, which is being in compliance with the New Organic Act. We feel that the limited time that remains in which to serve does not justify the Governor in asking for appointments.

Sincerely,

18/ A. A. Alexander
A. A. Alexander
Governor.

Encl.

May 13, 1954

Honorable Archibald A. Alexander
Governor of the Virgin Islands
Government House,
Charlotte Amalie, V.I.

Rear Bay window:

[illegible]

visor of unemployment compensation for Veterans in the U.S. Employment Service.

This meeting was called by Colonel Christmas at the request of former Governor Morris F. de Castro as authorized by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands for the express purpose of determining the need for legislation to benefit and assist veterans in the Virgin Islands, and to make recommendations for proposed legislation in that direction.

The formation of this committee was a direct result of the many representations made by veterans to members of council, to the American Legion Officers in St. Croix, and to other interested persons, all of which tended to show that our veterans were not receiving the benefit of various services to which they were entitled by law.

Responsible officials of the Veterans Administration in Puerto Rico have explained that a limited budget and under-staffing were responsible for the failure of that office to step up the service in the Virgin Islands in ratio to the increase in the number of veterans returning to the islands from service.

Undeniably, this is preventing our islands from taking advantage of the large potential income which would accrue to veterans if they were in a position to secure it by enrolling in schools, obtaining building and business loans, etc.

A conservative estimate would show that veterans of World War II who enrolled in schools in St. Croix and St. Thomas, brought in to the island in excess of \$240,000 each year in subsistence allowances. The flow of that amount of money into the community would be a great stimulant to business, as it is true we sorely need and can ill afford to let go by the board because we lack the necessary service to process payments in an efficient manner.

Other considerations and ramifications of this problem are at hand. We could not begin to list them if we were

permitted to discuss them with you, and we pray for such an opportunity at convenience.

The enclosed resolution outlines substance of the committee findings and recommendations for legislation to strengthen and improve the present type of assistance to veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. Belling, Chairman
Hugh W. Smith, Secretary
Herby Rohlsen
Albert Melchropp
Lt. Colonel Christmas
Bernard Reese

Enclosure.

Government House
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands of the United States

June 4, 1954

The Honorable
Mr. Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Christianstedt
St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

You will find enclosed herewith copy of a resolution made by a committee authorized by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands and called at the request of the Honorable Governor Morris G. de Castro. The resolution is self-explanatory and it is sent to you for your consideration and decision.

Sincerely,

W. B. Alexander

George W. Hamilton
Assistant.

Encl.

June 25, 1954

Mr. Earle B. Otley, Chairman
Legislative Assembly
St. Thomas, V.I.

Dear Mr. Otley:

Will you please authorize the payment of the following expenditures in connection with my last trip to Washington in work done on the Organic Act.

Air Transportation	\$196.00
20 days at \$15 per day per diem	300.00
Total	\$496.00

Sincerely yours,
Irwin M. Silverman

W.S.P.

The West Indies Bank and Trust Company
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

May 27, 1954

Office of
The President

Mr. Walter Hodge, Chairman
Legislative Assembly
St. John, Virgin Islands

Dear Walter,

The following are the expenses which were incurred by me in representing the Senate and House of Representatives of the Virgin Islands.

Travel	\$196.20
Per diem	15.00
Hotel	5.00
Meals	5.00
Total	\$261.20

I billed the Legislative Assembly for last year's expenses last year, but have not as been reimbursed for it, so will you please arrange to have this bill paid to me at your earliest convenience.

Yours f.

Sincerely yours,
B/ Irwin M. Silverman

Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

August 12, 1954.

Mr. Irwin M. Silverman
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Silverman:

I am now presently in receipt of a bill submitted by you to the Legislative Assembly for certain expenses incurred during the period of time for which you were under contract with the Assembly to perform certain duties in Washington, D. C. It is my opinion, that this bill is not a proper one, but rather should be construed as a part of the fee for which you were retained by the Assembly.

Before making a final decision however, I shall be very happy to discuss the matter with you at your earliest opportune time.

Sincerely yours,

B/ Sanford H. Heywood
Chairman.

The Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

August 14, 1954

Hon. Earle B. Otley
 Chairman, Legislative Assembly
 Charlotte Amalie
 St. Thomas, V. I.

Dear Mr. Otley:

We understand that in connection with the revision by the Legislative Assembly of the Electoral Law to conform with the provision of the new Organic Act, a proposal is being discussed to have two instead of one place of voting in St. Thomas.

In reviewing the past, we have found that:

1. The present place of voting at Fort Christian is within reasonable access of all the voters of this community, including the Country District.
2. The rather minor inconvenience of traveling to Fort Christian and standing in line to await one's turn to vote does not justify the additional expense that will be incurred in setting up a new voting place, not to speak about the necessary changes that will have to be made for the recording and checking of the ballots as required.
3. The records of the past do not show that any voter was unable to exercise his right to vote because it was done at Fort Christian within the time usually specified - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For the above reasons, the Chamber of Commerce of St. Thomas wishes to go on record as being against the establishing of another place of voting at this time and respectfully requests that its position be made known to the Assembly by having the Chamber make it available to the membership.

Respectfully,

Chamber of Commerce

Morris G. de Castro
 P.O. Box 82,
 Charlotte Amalie
 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

August 18, 1954

Hon. Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
 Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John
 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

It is indeed gracious of the Legislative Assembly to invite me to be its guest at dinner on Thursday evening at the Water Isle Hotel. I regret very much that a previous engagement, which cannot be cancelled, will prevent me from attending.

Thanking you again and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,
 M. Morris G. de Castro.

The following list of appointments were confirmed as shown and by the votes indicated:

Virgin Islands Auditor:

Elena Artiang Maguire as clerk-stenographer, with pay at the rate of \$2040.00 per annum, effective on and after October 16, 1953.

Insular Advisory Commission on Children & Youth:

Miss Clarice Bryan reappointed to serve for a term of three years, also Mrs. Ann Holland for three years.

Rev. Frederick H. Smith reappointed to serve for a term of three years, also Hon. Eric Carroll for three years.

Banking and Finance:

George G. de Castro reappointed to serve for a term of three years, also Mr. J. H. de Castro for three years.

Board of Nurses Registration & Nursing Education:

Mrs. Josephine Singleton and Miss Anabella Hutein for a term of one year, and Miss Lanthé Blyden, Mrs. Eugenie Gaide, and Miss Ingeborg Mesbitt for a term of two years.

Board of Dental Examiners of the Virgin Islands:

Dr. Ptolemy Lefebvre 3 years
 Dr. Aubrey Anduze 2 years
 Dr. Randolph R. Landos 3 years

Board of Medical Examiners for the Practice of Medicine and Surgery:

Dr. Eric O'Meal 4 years
 Dr. Melvin H. Evans 2 years
 Dr. Carl M. Rice 3 years.

Board of Medical Examiners for the Practice of Veterinary Medicine:

Dr. Carl M. Rice 4 years
 Dr. Rutki Von Decker-Luers 2 years
 Dr. Randall James 3 years

Ann C. Abramson	yea
James W. Benjamin	yea
Eric H. Carroll	yea
Perry O. Creque	may
John W. Flink	yea
Joseph Gomez	yea
Herbert H. Heywood	may
Walter J. M. Hodge	yea
Carl B. Odley	yea
Raymond Pedro	not voting
Reinval H. Reese	yea
Weymouth Rhymen	yea
Perry V. Richards	yea
Henry E. Schofield	yea
Carl M. Rice	yea
Julius E. Sprauel	yea

The following Committee were elected:

Committee to work on amendments to the new Organic Act: Schade, Heywood, Abramson, Reese, Sprauel and Richards.

Committee on Rules, Pedro, Carroll, Hodge, Gomez, Rhymen and Creque.

Mrs. Abramson	yea
Mr. Benjamin	yea
Mr. Carroll	yea
Mr. Creque	Not Voting
Mr. Glick	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea
Mr. Hodge	yea
Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Pedro	yea
Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Richards	Not Voting
Mr. Rohlsen	yea
Mr. Schade	yea
Mr. Sprauwe	yea

The following Resolutions and Bill were adopted in the form and by the votes shown.

Resolution
The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1954

Establishing the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor to be awarded by the Virgin Islands Legislature of the Virgin Islands for Outstanding Public Service.

— 11 —

Whereas, It is deemed fitting and proper that persons who have rendered outstanding public service should be officially recognized and public honored; and,

Whereas, There is need for a standard medal of Honor to be established in the Virgin Islands to be awarded by the Legislature in such cases:

Now, therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, that:

1. There is hereby created the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor, which shall be cast in gold with a design to be approved by the Officers of the Virgin Islands Legislature.

2. This medal of Honor shall be awarded only upon the adoption of a Resolution

by the Legislature recognizing a person or persons who have rendered outstanding public service to the People of the Virgin Islands.

3. In each case the medal of Honor shall be presented at appropriate ceremonies to be arranged by the Virgin Islands Legislature.
4. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Assembly are hereby authorized to expend from available appropriations the funds necessary for the preparation of a reasonable number of medals.

Mrs. Abramson	...	yea
Mr. Benjamin	...	yea
Mr. Carroll	...	yea
Mr. Lereque	...	Absent
Mr. Glick	...	Absent
Mr. Gomez	...	yea
Mr. Heywood	...	yea
Mr. Hoelge	...	yea
Mr. Ottley	...	yea
Mr. Pedro	...	Absent
Mr. Reese	...	Absent
Mr. Rhymey	...	yea
Mr. Richards	...	yea
Mr. Rohlsepr	...	yea
Mr. Schade	...	yea
Mr. Sprauve	...	Absent

Resolution

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1954

Petitioning the President and the Congress of the United States of America to Grant to the People of the Virgin Islands and other United States Territories and Off-Shore Areas, the Privilege of Voting for the President and Vice-President of the United States.

— " —

Whereas, under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States it is within the authority of Congress to adopt amendments to the Constitution, subject to the

ratification by the States, as well as the power to grant to grant whatever political rights it deems necessary and proper to the People residing in United States Territories and off-shore areas; and,

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands and the residents of the United States Territories and off-shore areas are citizens of the United States; and,

Whereas, One of the essentials of American Government is government by representation so accurately described by Abraham Lincoln as "Government of the people, for the people, and by the people;" and,

Whereas, The two important political parties of the United States have recognized this doctrine of the Government of the United States of full participation by all United States citizens by allowing the Commonwealth, Territories and off-shore areas of the United States to send delegates to the National Political Convention for the selection of party candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the United States; and,

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States now provides for the election of the President and Vice-President by Electors appointed by the States; and,

Whereas, This method as provided for in the Constitution does not permit United States citizens to participate directly in the election of the President and Vice-President of the United States and allows no participation whatsoever for United States citizens residing in the Commonwealth, Territories and off-shore areas of the United States; and,

Whereas, There are approximately 3,000,000 United States citizens permanently residing in the United States Commonwealth, Territories and off-shore areas who are disfranchised because of Article II of the Constitution of the United States; and,

Whereas, It appears to be desirable and proper in keeping with the fundamentals on which the Government of the United States is based, that United States citizens should vote directly for the President and Vice-

President of their nation, without discrimination as to place of residence, provided that such place of residence is within the jurisdiction of the Government of the United States; and,

Whereas, granting this privilege to American citizens who reside in the American commonwealth, territories and off-shore areas will be an outstanding example to the People of the entire World of the principles of American Democracy, which are standards of government so constituted as to be in fact "Government of the people, for the people, and by the people"; and,

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands are keenly desirous of the opportunity and privilege of casting their ballots for the President and Vice-President of the United States, as well as to see the same privilege granted to all other United States citizens residing in the American commonwealth, territories, and off-shore possessions.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved by the Legislative Assembly and Congress of the United States, be petitioned to adopt amendments to the Constitution, subject to the ratification of the States, as follows:

1. That the Election for President and Vice-President by votes of Electors appointed by the States, as now provided for in the Constitution of the United States, be abolished and repealed;
2. That all citizens of the United States whether residing in the States, the commonwealth, territories, or off-shore areas of the United States be given the right to vote directly for the President and Vice-President of the Nation; and,

It is hereby further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Governors and Legislatures of all American Territories and off-shore areas, with the request that they also petition the President and Congress to grant to their peoples (American citizens) the privilege of voting for the President

and Vice - President of the United States; and,
 It is hereby further Resolved, That copies of this
 Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of
 the Department of the Interior, The Governor
 of the Virgin Islands, The Council of State
 Governments, The American Civil Liberties
 Union, The National Association for the
 Advancement of Colored People, All Virgin
 Islands living and Political Organizations
 in the Islands and on the mainland
 of the United States; and to any other
 Civil Rights Organizations, soliciting their
 assistance in petitioning Congress to
 implement the provisions of this Resolution.

Mrs. Abramson	yea
Mr. Benjamin	yea
Mr. Barrall	absent
Mr. Breque	absent
Mr. Flick	absent
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Hodge	yea
Mr. Heywood	yea
Mr. Ottley	yea
Mr. Pedro	absent
Mr. Reese	absent
Mr. Rhysner	yea
Mr. Richards	not voting
Mr. Rohlsen	yea
Mr. Schade	yea
Mr. Sprauwe	absent

Bill No. 86

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the
 Virgin Islands of the United States

2nd Session 1954

Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands of the United
 States.

— II —

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of
 the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Chapter I

Title

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the
 Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands of the
 United States.

Section 2. Date of Election

Section 2. The next general election in the Virgin Islands shall be held on November 2, 1954. At such time there shall be chosen the entire membership of the Legislature as herein provided. Hereafter the general elections shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, beginning with the year 1956, and every two years thereafter.

Officials to be Elected.

Section 3. There shall be elected eleven members of the Legislature as follows: two (2) Senators shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district of Saint Thomas; two (2) Senators shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district of Saint Croix; and one (1) Senator shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district of Saint John. The remaining six (6) Senators shall be Senators At Large, and shall be elected by the qualified electors of the Virgin Islands as a whole.

Senatorial Districts.

Section 4. The District of Saint Thomas will comprise of Saint Thomas, Hassel, Water, Savana, Anner Brass, Outer Brass, Hans, Lollie, Little Hans, Lollie, Big Saint James, Little Saint James, and Capella Islands, Hatch Bay, and adjacent islets and cays. The District of Saint Croix comprises Saint Croix, Buck Islands, and adjacent islets and cays. The District of Saint John comprises Saint John and Nolanagan Islands, Brass, Prings, Lovango, and Congo Bays and adjacent islets and cays.

Chapter II

Qualification for Electors

Section 5. (a) That the right of franchise shall be vested in residents of the Virgin Islands except as hereinafter provided, who are:

(A) Citizens of the United States;

- (B) Twenty - one years of age or over;
 (b) Able to read and write.

(b) For the purpose of this law "residents of the Virgin Islands" shall be persons who have maintained legal residence in the Virgin Islands for a period of one year next preceding the date of the election, and in the district in which they desire to vote for a period of sixty days next preceding the election. In all cases of doubt as to legal residence the Board shall request the registrant to submit substantial and satisfactory proof that the said registrant has fulfilled the legal residence requirement. The domicile, which is the registrant's legal residence, shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

- 1) Every person has a domicile
- 2) There can be but one domicile
- 3) Legal residence or domicile is the place where a person habitually resides when not called elsewhere to work or for some other temporary purpose and to which such person returns in season for rest.
- 4) Legal domicile or residence may be changed by joinder of act and intent.
- 5) A domicile cannot be lost until a new one has been acquired.

This subsection shall be strictly enforced by the Board.

Section 2. Every person who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony or of a crime involving moral turpitude shall be debarred from voting for a period of one year following the date of his discharge. Provided, However, that every person who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude for two or more such offenses shall be debarred from voting for a period of ten years. No inmate of any public or private

institution for the insane or persons who are under the care of a guardian by reason of any mental incapacity shall be entitled to vote.

Section 3. For the purpose of this law, no person on active duty in the Armed Services or Coast Guard of the United States or any person residing on active military reservations shall be deemed to have acquired residence in the Virgin Islands in consequence of having been stationed within the same.

Chapter III

Registration Board — Registration of Voters

Section 1. There shall be and is hereby created a Registration Board for each district composed of the Election Boards herein created. The judge of the Police Court of each district shall be chairman and shall have one vote on the Registration Board; provided, however, that as long as there is more than one judge of the Police Court the members of the Registration Board shall select which judge shall be its chairman. In case of a tie vote the side on which the chairman votes shall be considered the majority.

Section 2 (a). Provision for registration of qualified electors shall be made beginning in the year 1954 and biennially thereafter as herein provided; Provided, However, that the registration lists in existence on the date of the enactment of this law shall be validated as the existing official registration list for the respective districts.

(b) The Registration Board of the Districts, or a part thereof of not less than two members shall, beginning with the first week in August and continuing each week thereafter, sit at least once a week each week for the purpose of examining and registering applicants for registration. Provided, However, that such registration must cease thirty days before the date of election.

An applicant once registered need not re-register except in case of continuous absence from the Virgin Islands in excess of one year.

Beginning with the year 1954, the Board shall issue certificates of Registration to each registrant. This certificate shall carry the registration number of the registrant which appears on the official list and date registered, and shall be signed by the registrant and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board. This section shall be retroactive for existing Registration lists.

(c) The Chairman of the Registration Board for each district shall cause to be published in the local newspapers in his respective district once a week for three consecutive weeks preceding the annual registration days a general notice of registration.

(d) Not less than thirty (30) days before the days of registration provided for in this law the Chairman of the Registration Board must post notices in three public places in each district which notices must specify the time, the place and the hours during which registration may be made in that district.

(e) The Registration Board may make provisions for the registration of qualified electors in each district on such days and times in addition to those provided for as it may deem advisable, provided, however, that all registration must cease thirty days before election.

(f) Registration shall be made at such place or places in each district as the Registration Board may designate.

(g) The Registration Board of the District or a part thereof of not less than two members shall be in session in the place designated by the Registration Board continuously for not less than two hours each day and such hours must be specified in the public notices.

(h) All applicants entitled to register who are in the place where the registration is held at or before the time of closing shall be allowed to register if qualified.

Section 3(a). The Official Register for each

district shall contain the full name of each elector, the sex, age, occupation, address and birthplace. If naturalized, the place, court and date of naturalization and whether citizenship has been acquired by treaty or by Act of Congress.

(b) A supplementary list containing the same information may be made for those applicants who are not qualified but will become qualified before the day of election.

(c) Each applicant for registration if not known to the Board must be personally identified before the Registration Board.

(d) Any applicant for registration may be challenged by any qualified elector in the District, and any one or more members of the Registration Board must thereupon read to the afterwards administer to the persons challenged an oath, in substance, as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States, that you are twenty-one years of age or over, that you have resided in the Virgin Islands one year next preceding this election and that you are qualified to register as otherwise provided in the election law and that you have not registered in another district for this election." If he takes the oath prescribed in this section his name must be registered.

(e) Any person who wilfully swears or affirms falsely as to his right to register after he has been challenged is guilty of perjury upon conviction thereof is punishable as provided by law.

(f) Each applicant for registration is responsible for producing the facts in his own case.

(g) One week after the close of registration the official registration list shall be posted in the Police Stations and in at least one public place in each electoral district; one week later the Registration Board of the district shall meet for the purpose of hearing challenges and making decisions on the same.

Section 4. Besides the Registration Lists, the Registration Board shall keep a journal of all

its proceedings. This journal may be kept by one of the members or by some one designated by the Registration Board.

Section 5. The Board shall have authority to pass on all problems of registration of voters, and its decision shall be final insofar as the instant election is concerned; but this shall not be construed to deny the voters an appeal to the District Court of the Virgin Islands from the decision of the Registration Board.

Section 6. Each chairman and each member of the Registration Boards and assistants shall receive a stipend of five (\$5.00) dollars per meeting for attendance at all meetings and travel allowance at the rate of ten cents per mile for actual travel both ways, provided, however, that for services rendered on election days members of the Registration Boards and assistants shall receive a stipend of fifteen (\$15.00) dollars, which stipend and travel and allowance shall be provided for in the annual budget.

Chapter IV

Nomination of Candidates

Section 1. (a) Candidates for election to the Legislature shall be nominated by not less than six registered voters in the district in which the candidate desires to seek office and for the Members At Large, by at least eighteen (18) such registered voters in any electoral district. Each candidate shall file with the Election Board a notarized affidavit certifying that he is a qualified candidate for election in accordance with sub-section 6 (b) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954. Falsification of such an affidavit shall be punishable as perjury. The candidate's acceptance of such nomination shall be indicated by his signature to the petition. Persons employed in the legislative, executive or judicial branches of the Government of the Virgin Islands shall be eligible for nomination as candidates for the Legislature.

(b) The petition shall be certified by the signators under oath that they are qualified electors and that the signatures are bona fide

and made by the signators' own hand. Notarization shall be free.

Such petition shall be substantially in the following form: "We, the undersigned qualified electors of (name of district) do hereby nominate _____ a qualified elector of the District of _____ for (position sought.)"

Section 2. Nominating petitions shall be filed with the chairman of the Registration Board not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days prior to the date of the election.

Section 3. Within three days after the close of the nominating period the Registration Board shall meet. At this meeting the chairman and the Board shall examine the nominating positions. So this meeting the chairman, with one day's notice, may cause to be summoned in the presence of witnesses the signators whose identity is unknown to him, also signators whose identity seem to him to be doubtful. The Registration Board has then to see to the signator's identity and to take care that the candidates have been correctly nominated. If the petitions are not faulty the candidates' names must be placed upon the ballot.

Section 4. When a petition is established faulty the candidate shall be notified immediately by special messenger with the reason or reasons therefor and if a new valid petition is not filed within three days thereafter the candidates shall be disqualified for nomination.

Section 5. Nominations of candidates may be withdrawn down to the close of this meeting by the candidates themselves but after that they cannot be recalled.

Chapter I

Notice of Election

Section 1. Not less than three weeks before the election provided for in this law, the Registration Board must post notices in three (3) public places in each district

which notices must specify the time and place, the location of the polls, and the hours during which the polls will be kept open. This notice must also contain the names of the duly nominated candidates to be voted upon in that district.

Section 2. At least once a week for three weeks preceding the election the Registration Board shall cause to be published in the newspapers a general notice of elections.

Chapter VII.

Election Board

Section 1 (a). There shall be and is hereby created an Election Board for each district composed of members as follows:

(a) For the District of St. Croix, sixteen members; (b) For the District of St. Thomas, sixteen members; (c) For the District of St. John, eight members. The members of the Board shall be citizens elected by the Municipal Council having jurisdiction or by the Legislative Assembly, and the Police Judge of the District, who shall be chairman; Provided, however, that no member of an Election Board shall be a candidate for election in any district or at large.

(b) The Election Board shall choose from among the members a Vice Chairman to act in the absence of the Chairman.

(c) Members of the Election Board shall hold Office for a period of two years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(d) Each member shall take the Oath of Office prescribed in Section 29 of the Organic Act approved July 22, 1954, and the chairman or his deputy or deputies shall be authorized to administer oaths to any person in connection with the elections.

(e) In case of a member's inability to act on any Election Board, that Board shall temporarily fill the vacancy.

(f) The Election Board shall keep a Journal of all its proceedings. This Journal may be kept by one of the members or by some one designated by the Election Board.

(g) Each chairman of the Board is hereby authorized to hire the services of not more than two clerks for each district at a salary which shall be provided for in the annual budget, in addition to other necessary personnel.

The Ballot

Section 2. (a) The Chairman of the Election Board shall prepare and have printed an official ballot. The order of names upon the ballot for each office shall be determined by lot among the candidates: Provided, that the Government Secretary or his designee is authorized to draw for a candidate who does not appear in person, or by authorized representative at the drawing of lots. The ballot for the candidate At Large shall be uniform throughout the Virgin Islands. At the top of the ballot shall be designated the number of candidates to be voted for, such as "vote for not more than two" or, "vote for not more than," as the case may be. Where one candidate only has been nominated, the word "yes" and "no" with a printed horizontal line separating them shall appear on the ballot after the name of the candidate. Provided, however, that the names of the candidates at large shall be on a separate ballot from the names of the candidates for the district. On the back of the ballot shall be printed only the name of the electoral district and the year and date of the election.

(b) Each ballot shall be placed in an envelope of opaque material and of such form as entirely to cover the enclosed ballot. Provided, however, that the names of the candidates at large shall be on a separate ballot from the names of the candidates for the district, and provided further that should either ballot be invalidated it, in itself, shall not invalidate the other ballot.

(c) No party, other name, word, sign, party emblem, nor designation shall be placed upon the ballot or the the envelope either by printing or writing or in any other way.

Section 3. The Chairman of the Election Board in each district shall on or before the day of election prepare and have ready a supply of ballots for that district which shall be at least equal to the number of qualified electors in each district as appears from the registration list thereof.

Elector - Voting

Section 4. The right of voting can only be exercised by personal attendance and no unregistered person shall be allowed to vote at any election. All persons whose names appear on the registration list shall be permitted to vote and shall be given ballots for such purpose.

Section 5. (a) When an elector enters the place where the election is being held he has to address himself to the Election Board. His name is looked up on a list of registered electors in charge of one of the members of the Election Board, and is marked off upon it in the manner decided upon by the Election Board. The mark being uniform for all electors. His name with his running number, shall also be entered on a list to be kept by a member of the Election Board (the voting list).

(b) Thereafter the ballot and an envelope are delivered to the elector and must moreover be told him - - -

1. That he must put a cross opposite the names of those persons for whom he wishes to give his vote; if there is one candidate, opposite the word "yes" or "no."
2. That a cross must not be made on the ballot opposite more names than there are candidates to be elected.
3. That neither on the ballot nor on the envelope must any mark be written, drawn, or otherwise made by

which the elector may be supposed intentionally to wish to give the ballot a particular stamp.

4. That nothing may be put in the envelope besides the ballot.
5. That the envelope must be sealed.
6. That in case an envelope, after delivery to the elector but before it is deposited in the ballot-box, is found unserviceable, or is inadvertently made so, the elector concerned can go back to the keeper of the voting list and explaining satisfactorily what has happened and giving back the spoiled part can have it exchanged for another with proper record in all journals.

This information may be given to several electors at one time, and may be omitted when an elector declares himself to be acquainted with it.

(c). A booth or private room shall be provided and voters shall be required to enter such booth or private room for the purpose of marking their ballots. The voting room must be so apart that the voter cannot be seen by any person outside the room, must be sufficiently lighted for writing to be plainly read in it and must be furnished with an ordinary lead pencil and a fixed desk for support in writing.

(d) The voter is shown into the voting room where there must be no other person present. Here he puts a cross on the ballot opposite the names of the candidates whom he wishes to vote for and marks the words "Yes" and "No" on the ballot, then opposite the words "Yes" and "No" places the words "Yes" and "No" on the ballot.

After the voter has marked his ballot, he is shown to the ballot box and is told to put it in. The voter is then shown to the ballot box and is told to put it in.

to the collector appointed by the Election Board to receive the votes (the receiver votes). This collector sees that the envelope is closed. The ballot in sealed envelope is then placed in ballot-box by the receiver of votes at the same time enters the voter's name on a list of voters voted.

Ballot Boxes

Section 6. Ballot boxes shall be provided by the chairman of the Election Board one to contain ballots voted and another for the rejected and defective ballots. The ballot boxes shall be of sufficient size to contain all the votes and be constructed that no ballots can be taken out of it without the box being opened. These boxes shall be inspected by the Election Board and candidates, present, before any voting begins. The keys of the boxes shall be in the possession of the Election Board which lock shall not be opened until the time set for the casting of the votes cast.

Designation of Polls

Section 7. Within thirty days after the approval of this law, the Election Board of each district herein created shall meet and shall designate two voting places in each district. The president and members of each district residing on a given number of streets or a given number of blocks, shall, by this designation, be required to vote at such polling place as is designated by the Board; provided that, in the absence of such designation, a polling place in the district shall be designated, further, that the voters of the district shall be recognized as entitled to vote at the designated polling place in the district. The Board shall designate the polling places in the town and district. The Board shall also designate the polling places in the district.

Section 8. Electioneering

within the polls or on the grounds or in other buildings connected with the polls.

Section 9. The polls shall be open from 8:00 o'clock a.m., until 6:00 o'clock p.m., and at no time shall less than three members of the Election Board be present.

Section 10. All voters entitled to vote who are in the place where the election is held at or before the time of closing the polls shall be allowed to vote.

Section 11. Any voter may be challenged by any qualified elector of the District and the Election Board must thereupon read to and afterward administer to the person challenged an oath in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States; that you are twenty-one years of age; that you have resided in the Virgin Islands one year next preceding this election, and in this District sixty days next preceding this election, and that you are a qualified elector registered under this name and that you have not voted before on this day." If he takes the oath prescribed herein his vote must be received otherwise his vote must be rejected.

(b) The Election Board shall challenge every person applying for a ballot when it shall be known or suspected that such person is not a qualified elector in the District.

(c) Any person who wilfully swears or affirms falsely as to his right to vote after he has been challenged is guilty of perjury and after conviction may be punished in the manner provided by law for the punishment of such crime.

(d) A person who is not qualified to vote at such election and who shall vote, threaten, attempt, or attempt to be paid, shall be guilty of a crime punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars or by imprisonment for not less than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Provided, however, that no election shall be invalidated by such votes.

Section 12. The Election Board shall have the right to prevent congres-

tion, may specify the number of votes allowed in the polling place at any time; provided, however, that no qualified elector be denied his right of voting.

Section 13. No election officer or other shall attempt to discover, or having discovered shall disclose how any person has voted. Violation of this section shall be punishable as a misdemeanor.

Section 14. It shall be the duty of the Police Department to aid the Election Board in carrying out the provisions of this law at the polls on Election Day.

Chapter VII

Canvassing of Votes

Section 1. The ballots shall be counted and canvassed by the Election Board in the presence of the public. The votes, for each candidate, shall be tallied and counted by the Board and a statement shall be made containing the names of each candidate receiving votes and the number of votes cast for each candidate. Such statement shall also give the number and describe the ballots which are declared void, also specify the number of wholly blank votes cast. Such statement shall be signed by the Election Board members and be kept as a record in the Election Journal.

Section 2. (a). Immediately upon the close of the polls the Election Board shall count the envelopes found in the ballot box without opening them except so far as it is necessary to compare the number of envelopes found in the ballot box with the number of persons recorded in the poll list as having voted at the election. If the number of envelopes found in the box should exceed the number of names by sufficient votes to cause a tie vote or other material change of the result of the election, the election shall be declared void. The counting of the ballots shall be done by one of the members of the Election Board, taking out and reaching aloud the ballots, while the other members verify and note down how

many votes have been given for each candidate, or where there is only one candidate, how many votes have been given for and against him. During the counting of the ballots, the Chairman of the Board shall announce to the public the results of the canvassing at least once every hour.

(b) Should any envelope contain anything else or more than the required number of ballots its contents are invalid. A ballot is furthermore invalid - - -

1. When it does not appear with certainty to which of the candidates the voter has intended to give his vote or (if there is one candidate) whether the voter means to give his vote for or against him.
2. When the quality of the ballot or envelope in which it is, gives ground for supposing that the ballot is not one of those given out by the keeper of the voting list and marked in a voting room.
3. When on the ballot, or the envelope, anything is found, written, drawn, or marked in any other way, whereby it is found to be purposely made for a purpose other than the voter's use, or generally when by any treatment which can only be supposed to have been the work of the elector, the ballot is found to have been intentionally given a peculiar stamp or character.

(c) After the ballots are counted and the statements have been made as required herein the ballots shall be sealed in a package. Each package shall be securely sealed and deposited by the Election Board with the Chairman. The unused ballots shall be placed in a package and returned at the same time and at the same place that such ballot boxes are delivered. All books, lists, papers, ballots, and other vouchers in connection with the election are to be signed by the Election Boards and kept by the Chairman as vouchers to the election, for a period of at least two (2) years.

(d) After the votes for each of those for whom votes have been given have been counted, the result shall be made known to the person present. The persons receiving the greatest number of votes in their district shall be declared elected and they shall hold office after qualifying as herein provided, until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

(e) Where the voting has been for one candidate only, he must have more than half of the votes cast in his favor in order to be regarded elected. If he has not reached such a number of votes a new election shall be fixed for the 8th day thereafter. If then no other candidate has in the meantime appeared, the first, without further voting is to be regarded as elected; provided, however, in instances of this type only, the nominating petition may be filed four days previous to the election.

(f) In cases where two or more candidates should receive an equal number of votes, and it is thus impossible to determine which candidate has been elected, a new election shall be held to determine the member elected the particular position to be filled, said election to follow the procedure provided in sub-section 2 (e) of this Chapter.

(g) It shall be the duty of the Chairman of each election board, within five (5) days after the determination or canvass by the Board, to notify in writing each candidate elected to membership from the District. Within twenty-four hours after the determination or canvass by the Board, the Chairman of each Election Board shall report to the Government Secretary in writing the number of votes cast for each candidate at large in the district. Upon receiving these reports the Government Secretary shall determine the candidates who have been elected, and shall so notify them within five days.

Request for Recount

Section 3, (a). Any qualified elector of the District voting in the election who believes there has been fraud or error committed by the Election Board in their canvass or return of the votes cast at said election may petition

the election board not later than seven days after the election at which the votes were cast for recount of the votes.

(b) The said petition must be sworn to before a Notary Public.

(c) Upon the filing of such petition, the combined Election Boards for the districts in which the recount takes place shall cause notice of such recount to be given in a manner decided among themselves. Such recount must be held within ten (10) days after the filing of the petition and must be public. The Election Board shall make triplicate certificates of such determination under oath showing the result of the election and what persons were declared elected to fill offices, one of which shall be filed with the Recorder or Clerk, one with the Chairman of the Registration Board, and one with the person filing the petition for recount. Their count shall be public. The person receiving the greatest number of votes in his district, as shown by said statements, shall be deemed to have been elected, but if there shall be no choice by reason of two or more candidates having received an equal number of votes for the office, a new election shall be held in accordance with sub-section 2 (c) of this chapter.

Section 4 (a). Each candidate shall have two duly authorized watchers present at each polling place throughout the entire election and canvass or part thereof to secure a fair conducting of the election and canvass or part thereof, but at no time may watchers interfere with the actions of the Election Board.

(b) Candidates who desire watchers must give written announcement of their watchers' names to the Election Board upon the opening of the polls. Provided, however, that candidates for Senator At Large may have two watchers at each polling place in each district.

Chapter VIII

Vacancy in Legislature

Section 1. In the case of vacancy in the

membership of the Legislature, occurring by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise, said vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled by the Governor in accordance with Section 6 (h) of the Organic Act of 1954.

Chapter IX

General Provisions

Section 1. Regular Election Day, as herein provided, shall be a legal holiday in the Virgin Islands of the United States. All employees who are required to work on election day shall be entitled to two hours off from their jobs to vote in all elections, provided they notify their employers before such election of their intention to be absent for the purpose of voting.

Section 2. Any person or persons found guilty of burning or in any manner destroying, or confiscating the used ballots of an election shall be punishable as for a misdemeanor.

Section 3. Every record made in pursuance of this Law by the Registration Boards and the Election Boards shall be prima facie evidence of the facts herein set forth and shall be received as such in any court or tribunal in which the same is offered as evidence.

Section 4. Should any section or part thereof of this law be declared invalid by a court of competent authority it shall not invalidate the remaining sections.

Section 5. The Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands of the United States of June 5, 1948, and all laws and ordinances or parts thereof in either Municipality inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this law are hereby repealed.

Mrs. Alramson	...	yea
Mr. Benjamin	...	yea
Mr. Carroll	...	yea
Mr. Creque	...	yea
Mr. Flich	...	absent
Mr. Gomez	...	yea
Mr. Heywood	...	yea
Mr. Hodge	...	yea

Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Pedro	yea
Mr. Reese	absent
Mr. Rhynes	yea
Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Rohlson	yea
Mr. Schade	yea
Mr. Sprauve	absent

The Legislative Assembly adjourned at 4:50 P.M.
August 20, 1954.

Earle B. Otley
Chairman

Henry V. Richards
Secretary

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States.
Third Session 1954

October 11 To October 12, 1954

Pursuant to call of the Governor of the Virgin Islands of October 1, 1954, the Third Session of the Eighteen Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands convened in Saint Thomas on Monday, October 11, 1954 at 5:00 P. M.

- Earl B. Ottley, Chairman presiding

The following members answered the roll.

	Present	Absent
Ann C. Abramson	"	
J. Wilfred Benjamin	"	
Eric H. Carroll	"	
John W. Flick	"	
Joseph Gomez	"	
Walter J. M. Hodge	"	
Earl B. Ottley	"	
Raymond Redro	"	
Percival H. Reese	"	
Weymouth Rhymes	"	
Henry E. Rohlsen	"	
Apel W. Schade	"	
Henry O. Creque		"
Herbert H. Heywood		"
Henry V. Richards		"
Julius E. Sprauve		"

The following Proclamation was read:

Government of
The Virgin Islands of the United States

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

By the Governor of the Virgin Islands

A Proclamation

Convening the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands

I, Archibald A. Alexander, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, do hereby convene a special session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to be held at the Municipal Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at 11:00 a.m., Monday, October 11, 1954, for consideration of the following subject matter:

1. Amendment to the Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, as amended, to provide exemption from the provisions of the Merit System Law of all federal employees to be transferred to the municipal payrolls in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Act of July 22, 1954.

Witness our hand and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 1st day of October, A.D., 1954.

A. A. Alexander
A. A. Alexander
Governor of the Virgin Islands

(Seal)

Countersigned:

18/ Charles K. Blanch
Charles K. Blanch
Government Secretary

The following Bill and Resolution were adopted in the form and by the following votes:

Bill No. 87

The Eighteen Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

Third Session 1954

Law to Amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, Approved December 16, 1946, as amended.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

Section 1. Sub-section 9 (b) of the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved December 16, 1946, as amended, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

1. Positions for which rates of basic compensation are specifically fixed, or expressly authorized to be fixed by any Municipal Ordinance or Insular Law, in cases where special circumstances require such action in the best interest of the Government, whether or not such positions would ordinarily be included in the classified service.

Section 2. Section 15 (b) of the said Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved December 16, 1946, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b). Such pay plan shall take effect on the first day of July next following its approval by the Governor; Provided, that the original plan and any proposed amendments also be submitted to the respective municipal councils at the time it is submitted to the Governor, and shall not become effective in a Municipality if within thirty (30) days after such submission the municipal council of that Municipality shall, by Resolution, disapprove the pay plan. Amendments thereto may from time to time be recommended by the Director and submitted to the Governor and the respective municipal councils for approval. Any amendment submitted to the Legislative Body having jurisdiction may be approved or disapproved in whole or in part by such legislative body. Each employee in the classified service shall be paid at one of the rates set forth in the pay plan for the class of position in which he is employed; provided that nothing in this Act shall cause the salary of any employee holding a position in the Government Service to be reduced below the amount he was receiving on the effective date of this Act.

Mr. Abramson yea
Mr. Benjamin yea

Mr. Carroll	yea
Mr. Crague	yea
Mr. Dylich	yea
Mr. Gomez	yea
Mr. Heywood	absent
Mr. Hodge	yea
Mr. Otley	yea
Mr. Pedro	yea
Mr. Reese	yea
Mr. Rhysner	yea
Mr. Richards	yea
Mr. Rohlsen	yea
Mr. Schade	yea
Mr. Sprame	absent

Resolution

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

Third Session 1954

Petitioning the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior to Proceed to have the Properties, Assets, and Functions of the Virgin Islands Corporation transferred to the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, Under the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, approved July 22, 1954, the internal revenues collected on commodities produced in the Virgin Islands and transported to the United States will be deposited in the Treasury of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, With the return of these internal revenues the Virgin Islands will have available a substantial fund for economic development in order to make the islands more self-supporting; and,

Whereas, The Virgin Islands Corporation, created by Act of Congress of June 30, 1949, to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands through the economic development of the Virgin Islands, is wholly financed by Federal funds; and,

Whereas, The Government of the Virgin Islands is now in a position to relieve the Government of the United States of this financial burden; and,

Whereas, One of the important activities of the Virgin Islands Corporation is the cultivation of sugarcane, and the sugar industry on the Island of St. Croix, which constitutes the foundation of the economy of the People of that Islands and will continue to be the basic economic activity for many more years; and,

Whereas, The several activities of the Virgin Islands Corporation are so closely interwoven in the economic fabric of the Virgin Islands that to transfer the sugar industry or any other of these activities to private enterprise at this time will definitely upset the economic balance of the Islands, and especially the Islands of St. Croix; and,

Whereas, The People of the Virgin Islands are ready and willing to shoulder their responsibility of developing the economy of the Islands and desire to accept the financial burden of operating the activities of the Virgin Islands Corporation;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, That:

1. The Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior be, and he is hereby petitioned, to proceed to have the properties, assets, and functions of the Virgin Islands Corporation transferred to the Government of the Virgin Islands as soon as possible in order to relieve the United States Government of this financial burden;
2. The Governor of the Virgin Islands be, and he is hereby petitioned, to support this recommendation of the Legislative Assembly and to do everything within his executive powers to effectuate this transfer.

And, It Is. Hereby Further Resolved That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs, and Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, the President of the

Virgin Islands Corporation, The President of the American Virgin Islands Civic Association, and other organizations interested in the economic development of the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Abramson	.....	absent
Mr. Benjamin	.....	yea
Mr. Carroll	.....	yea
Mr. Creggie	.....	yea
Mr. Felick	.....	absent
Mr. Gomez	.....	yea
Mr. Heywood	.....	absent
Mr. Hodge	.....	yea
Mr. Pedro	.....	yea
Mr. Reese	.....	yea
Mr. Rhynes	.....	yea
Mr. Richards	.....	yea
Mr. Rohlsen	.....	yea
Mr. Schade	.....	yea
Mr. Sprague	.....	yea
Mr. Otley	.....	yea

Resolution

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States

3rd Session 1954.

Petitioning the Governor to have the new Pay Plan patterned more closely to the standards provided in the Federal Classification Act of 1949.

— " —

Whereas, A report on the reorganization of the executive branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands has been submitted to the Governor for whatever action he deems appropriate; and,

Whereas, This report suggests a new pay scale for all Virgin Islands Government employees to be put into effect with the re-organization of Government in 1955; and,

Whereas, Under the proposed new pay plan submitted to the Governor, federal employees who are being transferred to the Virgin Islands payroll face a drastic salary cut, while grave injustices against hundreds of employees will be perpetuated; and

Whereas, In the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands

approved July 22 1954, it is specifically provided that department heads shall be paid salaries in accordance with the standards provided in the Federal Classification Act of 1949; and,

Whereas, It will be fair to the other government employees if their salaries were also patterned closely to the standards provided in the Federal Classification Act of 1949; and,

Whereas, The recommendations in the suggested Pay Plan are inadequate, unfair, and discriminatory in many cases, and they are not acceptable to the Legislative Assembly;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, that the Governor be, and he is hereby petitioned, to undertake by whatever means he considers desirable, a more detailed study of the Pay Plan for the purpose of the following more closely the standards provided in the Federal Classification Act of 1949.

Mrs. Abramson	.....	absent
Mr. Benjamin	.....	yea
Mr. Carroll	.....	yea
Mr. Lereque	.....	yea
Mr. Glick	.....	absent
Mr. Gomez	.....	yea
Mr. Graywood	.....	absent
Mr. Hoelge	.....	absent
Mr. Ottley	.....	yea
Mr. Pedro	.....	absent
Mr. Reese	.....	yea
Mr. Bryner	.....	yea
Mr. Richards	.....	yea
Mr. Prohlsen	.....	yea
Mr. Schade	.....	yea
Mr. Sprauve	.....	absent

Having completed its business the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Adjourned at 2:50 p.m. October 12, 1954

Earle B. Ottley
Chairman

Henry N. Richards
Secretary

The Fourth Session of the
Eighteen Legislative Assembly of the
Virgin Islands of the United States
from November 22 to December 17, 1954

— " —

Pursuant to Concurrent Resolutions of
the Municipal Councils of St. Croix and
the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and
St. John, adopted November 16 and November
19, 1954, ^{the Legislative Assembly} The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
convened in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, in the Chambers
of the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John,
Virgin Islands, on Monday, November 22, 1954, at
11:45 p. m.

— " —

Chairman Earle B. Ottley, presiding.
Present were the following members:

Ann C. Abramson (Mrs.)
J. Wilfred Benjamin
Eric H. Carroll
Henry O. Creque
Joseph Sorney
Walter L. M. Hodge
Earle B. Ottley
Raymond J. Pedro
Reverol H. Reese
Weymouth Rymer
Henry V. Richards
Henry E. Pohlson
Julius E. Sprauve

The following Resolutions and Call
convening the sessions of the Assembly
were passed:

Resolutions
The Ninth Municipality Council of St. Thomas
St. John
1953-1954

Convening the sessions of the Legislative
Assembly of the Virgin Islands.

For the Chairman, *Earle B. Ottley* Act
Attest, *Julius E. Sprauve*

approved June 22, 1936, provides, in part, that joint sessions of the Municipal Council of Saint Thomas and Saint John and the Municipal Council of Saint Croix shall constitute the designated the Legislature of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, said Section 7 also provides that the Legislative Assembly shall convene in Saint Thomas whenever both Municipal Councils shall determine by Resolutions passed each of them; and,

Whereas, said Section 7 of the Organic Act of 1936 is still in force and effect; and,

Whereas, November 22, 1954, is deemed by both Municipal Councils to be an appropriate date on which to convene a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands:

Now, therefore, Be It Resolution, and hereby Resolved by the Municipal Council of Saint Thomas and Saint John in assembled, that pursuant to Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands the Legislative Assembly be convened in formal session Monday, November 22, 1954, at 11:00 o'clock for consideration of the following:

- (1) Report of the Committee on Rules of Business.
- (2) Preparation and Consideration of an Interim Budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Municipal Council No. 196
 Joint Session
 November 22, 1954
 Resolution

Convening a Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands

Witness my hand and the seal of the Virgin Islands at Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 22nd day of November, 1954.
 St. Croix
 Witnessed

the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, Said Section 7 also provides that the Legislative Assembly shall convene in St. Thomas whenever both Municipal Councils shall determine by Resolutions passed by each of them; and,

Whereas, November 22, 1954, is deemed by both Municipal Councils to be an appropriate date on which to convene a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved by the Municipal Council of St. Croix in session assembled that pursuant to Section 7 of the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands the Legislative Assembly be convened in formal session on Monday, November 22, 1954, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., for consideration of the following:

1. Report of the Committee on Rules of Business. (Proposed by Committee of the Whole)
2. Preparation and Consideration of an Annual Budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands. (Proposed by the Committee of the Whole)
3. Resolution regarding the Governor to Establish a Department of Industries and a District Office for the Department. (Proposed by Committee of the Whole)
4. Amendment to the Electoral Law for the Government of the Virgin Islands. (Proposed by Hon. Mr. [Name] and Hon. Mr. [Name])
5. [Faint text] Minimum Wage Board to set the minimum wage. (Proposed by [Name])

Resolution

The Ninth Municipal Council of St. Thomas & St. John 1953-1954

To Amend Resolution "Convening a Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands," passed by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John on November 10, 1954.

Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved by the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John in session assembled, That Resolution "Convening a Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands," passed on November 10, 1954, be and is hereby amended by adding the following items for consideration of the Legislative Assembly:

3. Resolution Requesting the Government to Establish, Under the Department of Insular Affairs, a Contact Office for Veterans.
4. Amendment to the Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved August 24, 1954.
5. An Act to Provide for a Wage Commissioner for the Virgin Islands, to Establish the Procedure for Determining the Minimum Wage for Different Occupations, setting Maximum Working Hours and Labor Conditions, to Establish a Weekly Rest Period and for other Purposes.

Call for Assembly

I, Earle B. Otley, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, acting in conformity with concurrent Resolutions of the Municipal Council of Saint John and the Municipal Council of Saint Thomas and Saint John, adopted on November 16, and 17, 1954, hereby call the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands to meet at the Municipal Council Chamber, Saint Thomas, on November 18, 1954.

Virgin Islands, at 11:00 o'clock, A.M.
Monday, November 22, 1954, for consideration
the following:

- (1) Report of the Committee on Rule of Business.
- (2) Resolution Requesting the Governor to Establish, under the Department of Insular Affairs, a Contact Office for Veterans. Proposed by the Committee of the Whole.
- (3) An Act to Amend the Electoral Law of the Virgin Islands. Proposed by Eric H. Carroll and Henry E. Rohlfsen.
- (4) Preparation and Consideration of an Insular Budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands.
- (5) An Act to Provide for a Wage Commissioner for the Virgin Islands, to Establish the Procedure for Determining the Minimum Wage for Different Occupations, Setting Maximum Working Hours, and Labor Conditions, to Establish a Weekly Rest Period and for other Purposes. Proposed by the Committee of the Whole.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed, this 19th Day of November, A.D., 1954, at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

[Seal]

Earl B. Otley
Chairman

The following correspondence

Department of the United States

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

Nov 24, 1954

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this date issued the following interim appointment:

May Amitt as Director of Public Health Education in the Virgin Islands, with pay at the rate of \$3960.00 per annum, effective from and after July 4, 1954.

The above appointee has produced evidence sufficient in the opinion of this office to establish the fact that he is a citizen of the United States.

In accordance with Section 24 of Organic Act, I request that this appointment be confirmed at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

Copy of the appointment is transmitted herewith for the information of the Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander
Alexander

Attest my hand and the Great Seal of the United States

1954

that
J

ad-interim appointment:

Alfred E. Francis as Clerk-Typist
III in the Division of Personnel on
the Virgin Islands, with pay at the
rate of \$2040.00 per annum, effective
on and after September 5, 1954, until
the return of Personnel now on educa-
tional leave.

The above appointee has produced
evidence sufficient in the opinion
of this office to establish the fact that
he is a citizen of the United States.

In accordance with Section 24 of the
Organic Act, I request that this appointment
be confirmed at the next meeting of the Legislative
Assembly.

Copy of the Appointment is being furnished
herewith for the information of the Legislative
Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

W. Charles K. Thomas
Acting Governor.

The Virgin Islands of the United States
Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas

September 7, 1954.

The Honorable
The Governor of the Virgin Islands
St. Thomas

Very truly yours,

W. Charles K. Thomas
Acting Governor

The Honorable
The Governor of the Virgin Islands
St. Thomas

The above appointee has produced evidence sufficient in the opinion of this office to establish the fact that he is a citizen of the United States.

In accordance with Section 24 Organic Act, I request that this appointment be confirmed at the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

Copy of the appointment is transmitted herewith for the information of the Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

15/ A. A. Alexander
A. A. Alexander

Government Of
The Virgin Islands of the United States
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

August 25, 1954

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this date made an interim appointment:

One Mr. [Name] to the position of [Title] in the [Department] of the [Government].

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. A. Alexander

cc - [Name] of the Organic Act
[Name] of the Legislative Assembly

Copying of the appointment is transmitted herewith for the information of the Assembly.

Sincerely yours

15/ A. G. Alexander
A. G. Alexander
Governor.

September 15, 1954

The Honorable Earle B. Ottey,
Chairman, Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Dear Mr. Ottey:

On Friday, September 10, 1954, the Virgin Islands Flag Commission met in St. Croix and made the final selection of the design for a New Virgin Islands Flag.

No single design of the twenty-seven entries satisfied the Commission as a complete flag design hence parts of two drawings were embodied to produce our recommended Virgin Islands Flag design.

I am happy to further inform you that the winning entries were submitted by Messrs. J. H. Marshall of St. Croix and Geoffrey J. Anterpool of St. Thomas. Mr. Anterpool represented the Virgin Islands Professional League of New York.

Mr. Marshall has been designated to reproduce three drawings of the recommended design each to a size appropriate to a flag which upon completion will be submitted to the members of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Virgin Islands. The drawings will be submitted within a week or two.

Very truly yours,
A. G. Alexander
Governor

It is the hope of the Commission that the chosen Virgin Islands Flag will meet the approval and satisfaction of all.

Respectfully

15/ Ivan A. Pearson
Ivan A. Pearson
Chairman, Virgin Islands Flag
Commission.

Government Of
The Virgin Islands of the United Kingdom
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

October 15, 1954

The Honorable
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this date examined and approved the following bill which was approved by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands on October 12, 1954:

Bill No. 1 to amend the Personnel Merit System Law of the Virgin Islands, approved October 12, 1954, is amended.

Sincerely yours,

Ivan A. Pearson
Chairman

Secretary of the Legislative Assembly

Dear Mr. Otley:

Thank you for your letter of August 9 to the Secretary, enclosing a copy of the Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, petitioning that the people of the Virgin Islands be granted the privilege of voting for the President of the United States.

I understand you have forwarded a copy of the Resolution to the President of the United States. I feel sure you will have a response from the White House in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,
W. C. Strand
William C. Strand
Director

The following Resolutions and Bills were read and discussed and adopted in the form and by the votes shown:

Resolution
The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
4th Session
1924

Requesting the Governor of the Virgin Islands to Establish Under the Department of Insular Affairs, a Compact Camp for Veterans.

Whereas, by 1922 the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, by Resolution created a Joint Committee on Education and recommended legislation to be introduced pending in the Virgin Islands.

And whereas, by 1924 the Governor of the Virgin Islands submitted to the Legislative Assembly a bill to be introduced in the Joint Committee on Education.

Resolved, That the Committee on Education be authorized to report to the Legislative Assembly.

Whereas, The Legislative Assembly in the recommendation of the Committee;

Whereas, According to the provisions Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954 Governor is empowered to reorganize Government of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, Plans are now being considered by the Governor for the reorganization of the Government of the Virgin Islands;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled, that

The Governor be, and he is hereby requested to establish under the contemplated Department of Insular Affairs a Contact Office for Veterans with branches on the Islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Abramson	Yea
Mr. Benjamin	Absent
Mr. Carroll	Yea
Mr. Flick	Yea
Mr. Gorney	Yea
Mr. Heywood	Yea
Mr. Hodge	Yea
Mr. Otley	Yea

Mr. Pedro	Yea
Mr. Reese	Yea
Mr. Rhymer	Yea
Mr. Richards	Yea
Mr. Rohlsen	Yea
Mr. Schade	Yea
Mr. Sprawl	Yea
Mr. Creque	Absent

The resolution

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
in the United States

4th Session 1954

Petitioning the Governor of the Virgin Islands to negotiate with the Federal Administration Service to prepare a permanent office for the Territory of the Virgin Islands.

Whereas, On January 16, 1954, the employees of the Municipality of Saint John and the employees of the Municipality of Saint Croix will be transferred to the Government of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, It is the intent of the Legislature to force and effect such transfer of employees in retirement allowances and to call for

expert examination in order to satisfactorily develop an insular retirement plan in the light of present-day concepts of retirement planning; and,

Whereas, Since the financial condition of a retirement system is determined upon certain basic factors such as conditions for retirement, rates of death, rates of separation from the service, rates of disability, among others, it is important that scientific knowledge be utilized to formulate an adequate Retirement Plan for the employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands; and,

Whereas, The Public Administration Service, which has just completed an actuarial survey and investigation of the retirement systems of Saint Thomas and Saint John, is fully qualified to prepare the necessary legislation:

Now, Therefore, B.C. It Resolved, and it is hereby Resolved, by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands, in session assembled, that the Governor be and he is hereby petitioned to negotiate with the Public Administration Service for the preparation, and submission, as soon after January 10, 1955, as possible, of an Insular Retirement Plan for the Territory of the Virgin Islands. The Retirement Plan must be based on present-day concepts of retirement planning and must be based on present-day concepts of retirement planning and must embody a plan of contributions whereby the employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands may come within the purview of the Federal Social Security Act of September 8, 1954; and,

And it is hereby further resolved that the Retirement Board be and it is hereby authorized to prepare the necessary legislation to carry out the provisions of the above resolution.

Mr. Rhymes
Mr. Richards
Mr. Rohlsen
Mr. Scholz
Mr. Sprawl

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virginia
of the United States
4th Session 1957

Islands attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution be and are hereby transmitted for the consideration of and the adoption by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Abramson	--- yes	Mr. Attley	--- yes
Mr. Benjamin	--- "	Mr. Pedro	--- yes
Mr. Carroll	--- "	Mr. Reese	--- absent
Mr. Creque	--- absent	Mr. Rhynes	--- yes
Mr. Hlack	--- yes	Mr. Richards	--- yes
Mr. Gorney	--- yes	Mr. Robben	--- yes
Mr. Heywood	--- absent	Mr. Schade	--- absent
Mr. Hodge	--- yes	Mr. Sprank	--- absent

Bill No. 89
The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
5th Session 1954

An Act to Authorize the Governor of the Virgin Islands to expend funds from the Treasury of the Virgin Islands to meet the necessary expenses of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year 1955, and for other purposes.

Section 1. The balance of sums for salaries and expenses, or so much thereof as may be required, necessary, which were appropriated by Bill No. 354, The Ninth Municipal Ordinance of Saint Thomas and Saint John, was amended, and by Bill No. 158, The Ninth Municipal Ordinance for Saint John, which was subsequently amended, which will be transferred to the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the purpose of being made available for the use of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the period ending June 30, 1955.

The Governor of the Virgin Islands, with the approval of the Council of the Virgin Islands, having

for the current fiscal year as may be necessary for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands, without regard to department, function or purpose for which such sum or sums were appropriated.

Section 3. The Governor, with the prior approval of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislative Body, having jurisdiction, shall have the power to amend or rescind any of the general provisions or any section or item in the bills referred to in Section 1 and to issue appropriate rules and regulations relating to the financial affairs of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the purpose of carrying out an orderly and effective reorganization of the executive branch of the Government.

Section 4. Until otherwise provided by the Governor, the Commissioner of Finance for the Virgin Islands shall...

- (a) Receive and deposit all moneys paid to the Government of the Virgin Islands and shall pay out the same as directed by law. Checks on depositories in which money may be deposited shall be signed either by the Commissioner of Finance personally or by a person on a check the facsimile signature of the Commissioner or by a Disbursing Officer directly responsible to the Commissioner of Finance.
- (b) Pay out of the Treasury on demand, upon warrants or checks if issued, such sums as may be authorized by law. If there be a warrant or check thereon to pay the sum, the Disbursing Officer shall pay the sum if such warrant or check is made in accordance with the law and is signed by the Commissioner of Finance or by a Disbursing Officer directly responsible to the Commissioner of Finance.

Classify the said receipt, keep records showing the check number, date, payee and amount of each cash disbursement and classify said disbursement, verify at the end of each month the amounts shown by his record and reconcile same with the banks' statements.

Section 5. Within fifteen (15) days after the end of each month, the Commissioner of Finance shall submit to the appropriations committee of the Legislative Body having jurisdiction a complete, concise and detailed report in tabular form, of all receipts and expenditures of the General and Special Funds of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Section 6. Unless otherwise provided by law, all moneys collected or received by any officer or employee, or agent, for and in behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands, shall be deposited daily as the Commissioner of Finance may direct, and shall be accompanied by a statement in such form as the Commissioner may prescribe showing the amount of such collection, and from whom and for what purpose or purposes the same was received. All moneys paid into the Treasury shall be credited to the General Fund unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 7. The provisions of Bill No. 331 of the Municipal Government of Saint John approved March 15, 1954 and the provisions of Bill No. 101 of the Municipality of Saint Croix approved March 15, 1954 shall continue in force and effect and shall govern the deposits of funds of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Thompson - yes

Mr. Bailey	yes
Mr. Smith	yes
Mr. Jones	absent
Mr. Brown	yes
Mr. White	yes
Mr. Black	yes
Mr. Green	yes
Mr. Grey	yes
Mr. Gold	yes
Mr. Silver	yes
Mr. Copper	yes
Mr. Iron	yes
Mr. Steel	yes
Mr. Lead	yes
Mr. Zinc	yes
Mr. Nickel	yes
Mr. Tin	yes
Mr. Aluminum	yes
Mr. Magnesium	yes
Mr. Potassium	yes
Mr. Sodium	yes
Mr. Calcium	yes
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Mr. Copper	yes
Mr. Zinc	yes
Mr. Iron	yes
Mr. Steel	yes
Mr. Lead	yes
Mr. Tin	yes

Bill No. 90
The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands of the United States
4th Session 1954

Law to Amend the Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands of the United States, August 24, 1954.

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands in session assembled:

That the Electoral Law for the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved August 24, 1954, be and is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Sub-sections 3(d) and (e), Chapter III of said Law is hereby amended to read as follows:

(d) Any applicant for registration may be challenged by qualified elector, member of the Registration Board, or anyone or more members of the Registration Board must thereupon read to and administer to the person challenged the oath, or substance, as follows: "You (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States, that you are twenty-one years of age or over, that you have resided in the Virgin Islands one year next preceding this election and that you are qualified to register as otherwise provided in the election law and that you have not registered in another district for this election." If he takes the oath required in the section this name must be registered.

(e) The Registration Board shall investigate promptly all challenges made by an elector or member of the Board itself, and shall make all reasonable efforts to verify the truth of the allegations. The Board shall make a list of the names of the persons who are qualified to vote, and shall make a list of the names of the persons who are disqualified. The list of the names of the persons who are qualified to vote shall be made available to the public.

in any particular, the Registration Board shall strike the name from the Registration List and shall submit the evidence to the District Attorney who shall file the proper complaint against said person. Any person who wilfully swears or affirms falsely as to his right to register after he has been challenged is guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof is punishable as provided by law.

Section 2. Section 2 (b) of Chapter VII of said law is hereby amended by the addition of the following:

7. When any mark other than a cross is written on the ballot used in voting.

Section 3. Section 3, Chapter VII, of said law is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) A petition for a recount may be filed by any candidate in an election who believes that there has been fraud or error committed in the canvassing or return of the votes cast at said election. The petition shall be filed with the Election Board of the district in which the recount is requested. Such petition shall contain a statement sworn to before a notary public that he has personally believed and does believe that the records or copies of records made by the election officers of said district are erroneous, respectively wherein he deems such records or copies thereof to be in error, or that votes were cast by persons not entitled to vote therein, and that he believes that no recount of the ballots cast in said election will affect the election of any candidate voted for at said election. The petition shall be filed within ten days after the date of the election.

The Election Board, upon receipt of the petition, shall cause a recount of the ballots cast in said election to be made.

should decide in favor of the rec. the Board shall cause notice of such count to be given in a manner deemed among themselves. Such recount may be held within ten (10) days after the the petition and must be public. The Election Board shall make triplicate copies of such determination under showing the result of the election and persons were declared elected to fill office, one of which shall be filed with the Clerk, one with the Chairman of the Registration Board, and one with the person filing the petition for recount. Their count shall be public. The person receiving the greatest number of votes in his district, as shown by said statements, shall be deemed to have been elected, but if there shall be no choice by reason of two or more candidates having receiving an equal number of votes for the office, a new election shall be held in accordance with sub-section (e) of this Chapter.

(c) If the Election Board should not to approve the petition and grant recount, it shall place on the record the reasons for such decision, and any aggrieved Candidate may, within ten days after the decision of the Board, have been made, appeal his case to the District Court. The District Court shall review the appeal provision and render a decision. If the decision is in favor of a recount, the Election Board shall be so notified, and the Board shall proceed as provided in sub-section (b) of this section.

Mrs. Abramson	Mr. Otley	Yes
Mr. Benjamin	Mr. Doherty	Yes
Mr. Carroll	Mr. Higgins	Yes
Mr. Cremer	Mr. Jones	Absent
Mr. Clark	Mr. Smith	Yes
Mr. [unclear]	Mr. [unclear]	Yes
Mr. [unclear]	Mr. [unclear]	Absent
Mr. [unclear]	Mr. [unclear]	Absent

... were shown
Health
at
and

Ina Steel as Clerk - Stenographer III
in the Division of Personnel in the Virgin
Islands, with pay at the rate of \$2040 per
annum, effective on and after August 26, 1954
until the return of personnel now on study
leave.

Alfred E. Francis a Clerk - Typist III
in the Division of Personnel in the Virgin
Islands, with pay at the rate of \$1848 per
annum, effective on and after September 5,
1954, until the return of personnel now
on educational leave.

Volunteer Barry M. Clerk - Stenographer
in the Division of Personnel in the
Virgin Islands, with pay at the rate of
\$1320 per annum, effective on and after
September 15, 1954, until the return
of personnel on leave.

Mr. Abrahamson	Yes
Mr. Benjamin	Yes
Mr. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Creque	Absent
Mr. Flick	Yes
Mr. Goney	Yes
Mr. Hayford	Absent
Mr. Hodge	Yes

Mr. Kelly	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Rouse	Absent
Mr. Rhys	Yes
Mr. Richards	Yes
Mr. Rollan	Yes
Mr. Soble	Absent
Mr. Spence	Absent

The meeting of the Board of Directors
adjourned at 5:00 p.m., December 17, 1954.

For the Secretary, Harry V. Richards
Secretary.







