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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

COLONIAL COUNCIL

FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish that prospects could be such that the lights could be turned on all night in both towns, and I fear if the people living in the two towns ask for light all night they run the risk of not getting any light at all. I understand that the storage battery now used by the Electric Plant cannot furnish sufficient juice for the present needs, if it is forced to produce more it might break down. As regards the outside world. I spent my vacation in a small town in New York last year, a progressive town, and there lights are turned out at 11 p. m.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) inquired of the Government Secretary whether Government favored the amendment?

Government Secretary [Gaffney] in reply said: Government has no objection to increasing the number of lights, or to have lights burn all night.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Before increasing the number of lights we have to get the number of lights we have at present established. It is not a question of crimes so much as it is a convenience to the people. If these lights only burn until twelve o'clock at night it will prove very inconvenient to the private individual in case of sickness, etc., we need it at many other times. I cannot discuss this matter technically. I understand that the cost of operating the plant is so high that it cannot pay under the present franchise, unless Government sees fit to have lights all night. Before we can talk of having more lights we have to establish the lights we have at present. I for one will vote for the amendment.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) inquired of the Government Secretary how much the Electric Company in St. Thomas is paid for lights?

Government Secretary (Gaffney) in answer to the last speaker said: I have not the information on hand, but I will forward it in the course of time.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town [Canegata] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. As a duly elected Member of Christiansted Town, (although it is said that I am not fit to be that), I will not vote for this amendment. I feel that every taxpayer has the same right. I do not think it right to light the two principal streets in this town and leave the rest in darkness. I understand that there is a memorial by the people of Christiansted asking for more lights. If that were true the people would have come to their representatives and get them to ask for more lights for the town; but the three representatives have been ignored. I think this way: Rather than have two streets lighted all night let us have all the streets lighted half of the night. If my knowledge of the facts is correct the number of lights on the streets at present is thirty. The Municipal Committee entered into a contract to furnish Christiansted Town with more lights and we have got, up to now, thirty-eight. I do not believe the additional lights have been installed as yet. I suppose the Honorable 5th Appointed Member, (the only representative member of the people of Christiansted), will enlighten us.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. There is already on the budget a large amount provided for lighting the town all night so that the people can see the time at night.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I agree with my colleague, the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town. I believe that an additional amount of \$800 for lighting the town of Christiansted for the entire night is exorbitant. Personally I fully agree

that the towns should be lighted all night, but as the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted has said certain streets are lighted and others are not. He is perfectly right that every tax payer should have equal right and their properties protected. My chief objection to the amendment is, the exorbitant amount asked for. According to the remarks of the Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) it seems as if this increase is asked for the sole purpose of enabling the plant to carry on. I consider that if we vote this money the consumers of electricity should be given some consideration in the rate.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I don't believe Government would have approved this amendment if it were a subsidy, because the American Government does not subsidize private corporations. I hardly agree that it would be possible to light more than two streets, the amount paid for street lighting is not sufficient. The present system must be established before we can talk about increasing the number of lights.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I do not think that this amendment is in form so that Members can understand the real purpose of it. The Council Members cannot see what it is for. I suggest that the matter be brought before the Council in a different form.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town [Canegata] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I agree with the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District. I know that the contract is ready to be signed. This amendment does not show whether we are going to have more lights. Rather than see \$3 000 spent for lighting two streets all night I would rather see it used for lighting all the streets for half the night.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I believe the Public Works Officer is in charge of this matter, and I believe some kind of franchise was granted or renewed, and it was left to the discretion of the Public Works Officer where these other lights would be placed. I move that the amendment be put to the vote.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish to explain to the Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District that since electric lights have been introduced in this town I have had the honor to be a Member of the Street Commission. The additional amounts granted was placed on the budget and the additional lights asked for were necessary. I wish the Honorable Member to explain the necessity of the amounts called for in the amendment.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Pub-