

S T. C R O I X A V I S

The *Vice Chairman* remarked: That has been done already. The apparent shortage is due to members retiring and retaining their copies.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Curry*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District, however we are not going to vote on the merits of the bill today. I cannot see any reason why the ordinance cannot go to a committee. I do not think the Honorable Member has any objection.

5th Appointed Member (*Mc Intosh*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. When this ordinance was brought up at the last meeting I made a motion that it go to the committee, but for some reason or other discussion ceased. I now move that the bill go to a committee.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (*Alexander*) would like to know whether it is not necessary that the matter be discussed under first discussion before it goes to a committee.

The *Vice Chairman* in reply to the last speaker said: I suppose if the Council accepts the matter as being reintroduced first discussion is open.

1st Appointed Member (*Coulter*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I think we should have a little consideration for the Chairman of the Council. In regard to members not receiving copies of the draft of ordinance, there has been only one meeting since the new Council has been organized, and the Chairman has been ill since and therefore was unable that copies were forwarded to members; and probably the Clerk to the Council had not thought of forwarding copies to the new appointed and elected members; and perhaps twenty-four hour before this meeting the Vice-Chairman did not know that he would have had to act as Chairman of this meeting. Regarding a committee if you look up paragraph 11 of the Rules of Business you will see the right procedure.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I remember asking the Clerk of the Council for a copy of the draft of ordinance and he said he had no spare copies.

The *Vice Chairman* in reply to the last speaker said: I remember that quite distinctly and at that time I loaned you my copy.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. One member spoke about technicalities. I believe it is more than a technicality and unreasonable to expect a member to sit here and veto a matter with which he is not conversant.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Curry*) seconded the motion made by 5th Appointed Member (*Mc Intosh*) that the bill go to a committee.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (*Alexander*): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish to draw attention to the paragraph re-

ferred to by the Honorable 1st Appointed Member regarding discussion on a matter before it is forwarded to a committee.

5th Appointed Member (*Mc Intosh*): Mr. Vice-Chairman. There is a motion before the House.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Curry*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. This matter has been discussed and the history of it given by the Honorable Government Secretary. It has been our practice in the past that as soon as Government explains a bill if we saw fit to refer it to a committee that was done.

2nd Appointed Member (*Noll*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish to explain my position. It is not a question of discussing technicalities, but discussing the value of the ordinance, and following the rules laid down. We can step over and jump over as we want, but there will come a day when this Council will not be the one to pass on this law. With that in view I think it better that we proceed properly and when we are finished we will have done something which we know is proper.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Curry*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I take issue with the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member. He has on this floor violated the Rules of Business more frequently than any other member. I see no reason why the bill should not go to a committee today.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Whether a committee is appointed today or at the next meeting does not make any difference.

The Vice-Chairman put to the vote the motion made by the 5th Appointed Member that the bill be forwarded to a committee.

6 members voted for; 5 against.

The *Vice Chairman* remarked: The motion is carried. The committee will be appointed after recess.

The *Vice-Chairman* remarked: If Honorable Members have no objection I will take up the last item on the order of the day in place of the third item.

The Chair heard no objection.

2nd Appointed Member (*Noll*) would like to know whether the ordinance proposed by him is on the order of the day?

The *Vice-Chairman*. It is not.

2nd Appointed Member (*Noll*): I wish to introduce it today, because I may not be present at the next meeting.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (*Ramsay*) inquired of the Chair whether the ordinance will be put on the order of the day.

The *Vice-Chairman* answered yes.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (*Ramsay*): In preference to the budget?

The *Vice-Chairman*: No.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canagata*) proposed and it was agreed

to that the House proceed with discussion on the budget and after it is discussed, if time permits, the ordinance proposed by the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member could be brought forward.

Item 4.

Colonial Council Bill No. 2.

Introduction of and 1st discussion on draft of annual budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year from July 1, 1923 to June 30, 1924, introduced by Government.

Government Secretary (*Gaffney*) in introducing the Draft of Budget said: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Government introduces the draft of budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924. This draft of budget was sent to the Municipal Committee May 19, 1923, and owing to the various elective changes in this body and other bodies it was a little late. The draft of amendments to the budget as submitted by the Municipal Committee has been received by Government within the last twenty-four hours. Government would like to hear from the Chairman of the Municipal Committee in connection with the changes made.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canagata*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. In placing before you the recommendations of the Municipal Committee I regret very much that owing to the late hour at which the Budget was forwarded it was impossible to afford more time for members to make themselves acquainted with the amendments here proposed. We were somewhat uncertain at first as to the exact policy to pursue, but owing to the late hour and not wishing to place undue embarrassments on the Government we finally decided on the present plan as a basis of our recommendations and I feel that the results will be found fairly satisfactory on the whole.

This year we have asked for no information from Government as to the amount from the Federal appropriations to be allotted to St. Croix, but I see from the estimated difference between Revenues and Expenditures this has been fixed at Frs. 767,538.97½. The policy adopted therefore was to effect as much saving as possible so as to make provision for all necessary and needed improvements. At our request a statement was made out at the office of the Despatching Secretary of the actual amounts expended by the various departments for one month in each quarter of the current fiscal year so as to find out the average expenditure of each department under three different heads of salaries, maintenance and equipment and base our recommendations for the present year thereon. If necessary I shall refer to this statement later.

Reference to the Revenue side of the Budget will show that the total as submitted by the Government is Frs. 713,600. This total we have allowed to remain