

ter is also before you on 3rd Discussion.

2nd Appointed Member [Noll] remarked Mr. Chairman: According to expressions of opinions I have heard I do not see anything else to do but to put the bill to the vote and take it off the docket. I move that the vote be taken on it.

The Chairman remarked: According to the Rules of Business the Secretary should read the bill before taking the vote on it, but it would be impossible for him to read such a voluminous bill. If any member has any objection as to whether it should be considered as read, I hope he will do so before the vote is taken on the question.

I will now put to the vote whether the bill should be considered as read. The copy I have on my desk has been very carefully compared and that will be the official copy.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] remarked: Mr. Chairman. Before the vote is taken I would like to ask when these laws are going to be put in force? I don't think they should be put in force before they are printed. There are many items of consequence that should be taken into consideration before the laws are put in force; I will mention one, does the present law acknowledge property rights between married people? There should be some prescription how these laws should be changed. There are many other questions which ought to be gone into so that people could know their rights. We are being put into a new code of laws right away whereas other places acquired by the United States are given time to change their laws, take Louisiana for an instance. We should know whether those legal rights existing under the other laws will be changed.

4th Appointed Member [Blackwood] remarked: Mr. Chairman. There seems to be some misunderstanding about the whole thing. This Council is supposed to represent the community, and nine members were appointed by the Council to go through these laws, and amendments were made. Member Stakemann was our legal adviser throughout the meetings, all suggestions made were incorporated and now to go over the whole thing again for the community to understand it paragraph by paragraph would be a tremendous work. As 2nd Discussion we went over the laws paragraph by paragraph and at 3rd Discussion to read the whole thing over again—(1st Member for Christiansted Country District Stakemann: We are not asking to read the whole thing over again) Member Blackwood continuing—The laws have been gone over thoroughly by the Committee and the Council has shown its willingness to accept the recommendations of the Committee. with this in view, I cannot see why it should be held up. There seems to be a peculiar move to hold up the bill.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen] remarked. Mr. Chairman. I wish to say that no attempt is being made to obstruct the passage of the law.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I think the Honorable 4th Appointed Member misunderstands the situation; there is no attempt to obstruct the passage of the law, it is only a point to which the Council's attention is drawn and that is, when the laws will be put in force, and I also made suggestions as to certain rights acquired under the Danish laws.

I find that the present criminal laws are very much like the laws made for these islands and were only awaiting Royal sanction, the only difference of importance I see is, the punishments, some of them are higher, the fines are also higher; we must give in to those things, they are United States laws and we have to follow the laws wherever we go. Changes have been made to sections which we believe would affect the rights of the community.

It is said that people will not be permitted to go out of their houses after ten o'clock at nights, but common sense will tell one that such a law could not even be proposed. As the laws stand at present I don't think the community will be placed in any worse position. The only thing left to be done is, to get the right man to administer them, the laws may be good, but the whole thing rests on the man who is to administer them.

4th Appointed Member [Blackwood] remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am indeed in accord with the words of the last speaker and am glad that he has given such an explanation which, to a great extent, will eliminate all the doubts and fears entertained by some people in this community.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. This is probably the most important matter that will ever be voted on by this Council, it is a matter that very few legislative bodies ever had an opportunity to vote upon; it is very seldom that a legislative body undertakes such a task. In the interest of future record and in case of denials I move that we take the vote by roll call.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Code of Civil Procedure which is before us I acknowledge that the procedure we had before was not recommendable, and I consider this code an improvement. We are very anxious to have trial by jury and it is provided for in this code.

The Chairman remarked: As previously stated the Rules of Business require that our Secretary read the laws before the vote is taken upon it. This I must admit would be an exceedingly hard task, therefore I must take the vote as to whether the rule should be suspended.

It was put to the vote and unanimously carried that the laws be taken as read.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) again proposed that the vote on the laws be taken by roll call.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay), 3rd Member for said District (R. W. Skeoch) and 5th Appointed Member (Lunney) seconded the member's proposal.

Accordingly the Chairman proceeded to take the vote by roll call with the following results.

1st Appointed Member [K. Henderson], Aye.
2nd Appointed Member [Noll].....Aye.
3rd Appointed Member [Armstrong] Aye.
4th Appointed Member [Blackwood] Aye.
5th Appointed Member [Lunney]...Aye.
1st Member for Christiansted Town [Abramson],Aye.
2nd Member for Christiansted Town [Canegata]Aye.
3rd Member for Christiansted Town [Pentheny].....Aye.
1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann).....Aye.
2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (MacKay).....Aye.
3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (Robt. W. Skeoch)...Aye.
4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay)...Aye.
1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter).....Aye.
2nd Member for Frederiksted Town [Merwin].....Aye.
1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen].....Aye.
2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (M. M. Skeoch)...Aye.
3rd Member for Frederiksted Country District (G. Nordby).....Aye.
4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Fleming).....Aye.

The Chairman remarked: The bill is unanimously adopted; furthermore the Chairman said: Honorable Members I believe you have cast the right vote, may the new Laws be a blessing to the Island. I congratulate you.

The Chairman further remarked: By request of Government an extraordinary meeting is called for Tuesday the 25th inst.

There being no further business before the House the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.45 p. m.

The exchange was fixed and announced by the National Bank yesterday afternoon at 10 and 11%.

Quite a shipment of goods is being received in these days. Of course the cost of these goods is very much higher than usual so as to offset the rate of exchange through which we look for a drop.

The Creole and Virginia have neither of them shown up as yet.