

ing and continuing existing laws.

Captain White remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Governor desires me to repeat what I have stated on Bill No. 29, and to state that the same conditions exist as in Bill No. 29.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As Chairman of the Committee appointed by this Council to receive, and consider, and report on the ordinance before this Council, I wish to state that the Committee, as far as I can see, has gone through it in its entirety. The Committee, during its deliberations, offered many changes to the draft as originally presented and every change offered has been incorporated, and the draft before you is as drafted by the Committee appointed to draft the laws and in it is embodied the changes made by your committee. In St. Thomas we spent much time in going over these laws and every suggestion made in St. Thomas by that Committee has also been incorporated and the draft as laid before you now is a draft compiled by the Commission appointed by the Government and by the Committee of nine members from the Colonial Council of St. Croix. The first draft as originally presented to the two Councils was a draft similar to the one before you; and I might state that during our deliberations we find that it did not contain a single serious clause which we were really afraid of; certainly after it has been gone over by twenty-three other men and all of their ideas incorporated, so far as the Government is concerned, we believe that this draft of ordinance is highly desirable for these Islands. It is probable that further changes will be requested and if it is the vote of the majority of this Council that these changes be made, there will be no objection; provided that the changes offered will not change the original features of the bill; so in speaking on 1st Discussion, it does not seem to me the time to waste time, in other words, the specific question before the Council on 1st Discussion is, do we think it a bad ordinance? If your answer is in the negative say it is a bad ordinance and it goes no further; if your answer is in the affirmative then it goes over to second discussion and there we will find out if any changes are necessary. In view of the fact that the Committee here and in St. Thomas have agreed that it is a good ordinance I don't think it necessary to waste time.

1st. Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] took the word and said, I refer to you Mr. Chairman, not only as Chairman of the Council, but as Secretary of the Committee on the laws. I would ask you if it is not possible as you took notes of all the amendments which we proposed to furnish copies of these amendments. As regards remarks which Judge Noll made in regard to changes made in St. Thomas as being

embodied, as far as I remember, I don't think they were placed before us. 2nd Appointed Member (Noll): Yes, I read them at the meeting of the Committee. Member Stakemann continuing, Probably I was absent when it was read. It would facilitate the discussions if we have copies of the amendments proposed. Those proposals and amendments which we have made have all been accepted and therefore I don't see that we have very much more to say on that subject. I don't think many of the members who have not been appointed on the Committee have had time to go through the copies of the draft furnished them, and therefore, I think the nine members appointed on the Committee will make remarks on the amendments proposed. I would like to know how this draft is to be put through the Council?

The Chairman replying to the last speaker said, I wish to state that the minutes of the meetings kept by me as Secretary of the Code Committee have been typewritten and exhibited at the meetings. Mr. Curry had it written up by the Stenographer at the Court House. I have a copy of that and it can be easily copied.

As to procedure, the draft before you is to be taken up page by page, and I will then ask members if they have any objections, and if there are any, amendments they can be brought in; and it is the duty of members to stop and ask for the word and offer suggestions subject to debate and eventually amendments, as we proceed page by page. It is not possible to read the whole code.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I think there will be a number of meetings and today it should be proposed that the first fifty pages will be taken up at the next meeting.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The question which the 1st Member for Christiansted Country District has brought up is one that has been in my mind very strongly and I mentioned it at the last meeting. We have spent a good deal of time going through these codes, the Secretary was careful in asking questions, and had everything straightened out so that members could have it before them. Without that guide to go by, I cannot see how members, outside of the Committee members could discuss the bill intelligently: so in my opinion it seems to me the best thing to do is to have the report printed and distributed to the members, who are here representing the community.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen] remarked: Mr. Chairman. While the bill is still under 1st Discussion I would like to make a few remarks. Since the change of the flag we understand that American customs would be introduced for the future progress of these islands. As a member

of the Committee on these laws I think it a good step to Americanize these islands, but I do also think it should be done in the right direction.

I would suggest that the Government get representation in Washington for us to have a better mail service, we had a very good service under the former administration and we should not have a poor service under the American Flag.

Coming back to the code of laws, I feel myself that we should ask Government to be considerate with our time as at present most of us are busy harvesting cane, so please do not ask us to give too much of our time now. We will come as often as time will permit.

2nd Appointed Member [Noll] remarked: Mr. Chairman: In regard to the remark made by the 4th Appointed Member, in order to facilitate I can have copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Code Committee mimeographed and distributed to members of the Council before the next meeting.

The Chairman remarked: Regarding the statement made by 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District about meetings of the Council, I wish to state that Government wishes to get these laws passed as quickly as possible. The Government has proposed to have a meeting every Monday until the laws are passed, if that does not suit members they may say so and a vote will be taken. The Government's proposal is in keeping with the Rules of Business.

Captain White remarked: Mr. Chairman. With regard to the remarks of the 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District the Government wishes to state that the postal service is under the control of the National Government and that is a national affair. The Governor of these islands have no control of these post offices here and cannot interfere in any way whatever. There have been complaints made and the Governor has made complaint to the Postmaster General, and if any member wishes to make a proposal to the Postmaster General the Governor would be glad.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. That's very satisfactory remarks, but we feel that we cannot expect any change as long as conditions remain as they are, and it is doubtful whether any changes will be made. Is it possible that the Governor cannot do something until Washington feels that it is necessary to make some changes in the conditions of the post offices down here? Conditions in the post offices here are such that it has become exceedingly necessary that report be made; for instance, when the mails arrive here on Saturdays it takes sometime to distribute them and we receive our letters too late to make reply by the return boat. Couldn't a few Marines be detailed to help at the post office so as to relieve the difficulty? With all the troubles in the