

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***Friday, June 29, 2001*

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

**PRAYERS**[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]**OMBUDSMAN REPORT (TWENTY-THIRD)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I have received the 23rd Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the period January 01, 2000—December 31, 2000. The report is laid on the table of the House.

**CONDOLENCES****(Mr. Tahir Kassim Ali)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, it is disheartening that I announce the passing of a former representative of this honourable House, Mr. Tahir Kassim Ali.

I wish to extend condolences to the bereaved family. Members of both sides of the House may wish to offer condolences to the family.

**The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, the deceased, Mr. Tahir Ali served this Parliament from the period 1971—1976. He was the elected Member of Parliament for Couva. He resided in the constituency of Couva South.

In addition to being a Member of Parliament, he was also a Councillor for the Couva electoral district in the Caroni County Council for the period 1968—1971. He served as Member of Parliament and Councillor as a member of the People's National Movement. In 1974 he deputized for the hon. Shamsuddin Mohammed, now deceased, as Minister of Public Utilities for a period of time.

In 1991, Mr. Tahir Ali assisted the United National Congress in the constituency of Couva South for the general election of that year. He would be remembered as a person who saw the light and came to the United National Congress. It is very sad that we have got the news that he has died but he has been ailing for some time. Notwithstanding that, however, it is a very sad moment for us and we on this side of the House would like to express our condolences to his wife and members of his family. Thank you.

**Mr. Kenneth Valley (Diego Martin Central):** Mr. Speaker, I think that death is always the reminder to all of us of our own mortality. I think it points to the fact that what is extremely important is what we do while we are here on earth.

*Condolences*  
[MR. VALLEY]

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I think it was Shakespeare who spoke about man having his entrance and exit, playing different roles from time to time. Longfellow said it differently: In the fourth standard *Royal Reader* he says:

“Tell me not, in mournful numbers,  
Life is but an empty dream!  
For the soul is dead that slumbers  
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul.”

Meaning, Mr. Speaker, that in fact, each and every one of us was put here on earth for a purpose. We have all been given talents by the Creator that make us equal but different. Equal in the sense that the sum of your talents is equal to the sum of mine; but different, meaning that you do not have the same talents that I may have. But the Creator has blessed us each with talents to be able to contribute in this world. Therefore, it is clear to all of us that life has a purpose.

Tahir Ali I have known since I was about 12 years old. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I am from Couva. Tahir lived on the McBean stretch just around the Rienzi Complex, in spite of the fact that he belonged to the PNM.

I remember Tahir at the time when he worked at Pointe-a-Pierre. He and one of his good friends opened a little restaurant, Sugar Inn, I think it was called, right at Bally Junction. In my youth I frequented the place and we became very close to the family. His sons and I played table tennis for the Youths Table Tennis Club, just to indicate how many years I am speaking about. So this is an individual that I have known at a very close range.

He has never campaigned for me, although I must inform the Leader of the House, that in fact, he returned to the PNM subsequent to 1991, having seen the light.

**1.40 p.m.**

Sometimes they say that the grass looks greener on the other side, but some of my friends are finding out that it is not so. It is only with time, just a little more time, they would come back where the grass is really green and we would welcome them back.

*Condolences*

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As we mourn the loss of another parliamentarian, it is good that we reflect on our own existence here on earth and come to terms with our mortality and the fact that we are here for some God given purpose, that we must try to identify and fulfil, if we are really to be one with our Creator.

On behalf of the Members of this side of the House, I join with my colleagues on the other side in sending condolences to the wife and children of Tahir Ali.

Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I have asked the Clerk to send a condolence card to the bereaved family.

*The House of Representatives stood.*

#### CIVIL AVIATION BILL

Bill to make provision for the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority, for the regulation of all civil aviation activities, for the implementation of certain international conventions and for the institution of safety requirements; brought from the Senate. [*The Minister of Transport*]; read the first time.

#### PAPERS LAID

1. The Petroleum (Amendment) Regulations, 2001. [*The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Arima Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1995. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
3. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Arima Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1996. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
4. The 1999/2000 annual report of the Venture Capital Incentive Program for the year ended September 30, 2000. [*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*]
5. The Professions Related to Medicine Rules, 2001. [*The Minister of Health (Dr. The Hon. Hamza Rafeeq)*]
6. Sector Policy for Food Production and Marine Resources 2001–2005. [*The Minister of Food Production and Marine Resources (Hon. Trevor Sudama)*]
7. A Special Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on an audit into certain areas of internal controls at the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA). (*Hon. R. L. Maharaj*)

*Papers 2, 3, 4, and 7 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.*

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NO. 2) BILL**  
**Select Committee Report**  
**Presentation**

**Mr. Subhas Panday** (*Princes Town*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the following report:

Special Report of the Special Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Occupational Safety and Health (No. 2) Bill, 2001.

**COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Select Committee Report**  
**Presentation**

**The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj)**: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the following report:

Report of the Committee of Privileges of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2001 Session).

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Tobago House of Assembly**  
**(Dispute Resolution Commission—Recommendations)**

**25. Mr. Nathaniel Moore** (*Tobago East*) asked the Minister of Finance:

In reference to the report of the Dispute Resolution Commission appointed under section 56 of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, No. 40 of 1996 and dated September 14, 2000 which was approved by the House of Representatives on October 25, 2000:

- (a) Would the Minister indicate and explain which of the seven (7) recommendations in the summary of the report have been implemented by the Government?
- (b) For each of the recommendations still to be implemented (if any) would the hon. Minister:
  - i. explain why it is not implemented;
  - ii. say when it is scheduled for implementation?
- (c) Since the triggering of the action of the Commission was particularly in reference to funding of the THA for the years 1998, 1998—1999 and 1999—2000, how much does the Government consider itself indebted to the Tobago House of Assembly for those years?

**The Minister of Enterprise Development and Foreign Affairs (Hon. Mervyn Assam):** Mr. Speaker, I am not the Minister of Finance. I am merely responding on his behalf because he is unable to be in this honourable House this afternoon.

The Dispute Resolution Commission in its report made seven recommendations. To date, the Government has implemented the following recommendations:

(1) Percentage of allocation of national budget

The commission recommended that a percentage in the range of 4.03 per cent to 6.90 per cent of the national budget be allocated annually to the Assembly. This recommendation is retrospective notwithstanding that the allocations to the THA during the years 1998–2001, fall well within the range of 4.03 and 6.90 per cent.

(2) Disbursements

The commission recommended that releases for recurrent and development expenditure in each fiscal year, bear the same proportion of total releases made to Government and departments and authorities in Trinidad. A review of the releases from October 1, 2000, to May 31, 2001 show that the percentage releases to the THA exceed those made to the central government as follows:

	2001 Allocations	Releases as at May 31, 2001	Releases as a percentage of allocation
<b>Central Government</b>			
Recurrent	14,955,430,046.00	10,149,174,000.00	67.86
Capital	863,269,000.00	456,320,000.00	52.86
Total Trinidad	15,818,699,046.00	10,605,494,000.00	67.04
<b>Tobago House of Assembly</b>			
Recurrent	374,861,000.00	291,926,600.00	77.88
Capital	98,600,000.00	67,220,000.00	68.17
Total THA.	473,461,000.00	359,146,600.00	75.86

**1.50 p.m.**

3. Collections

The commission recommended that the present arrangements whereby taxes and duties are collected by the Tobago House of Assembly and deposited into the fund be continued. I wish to advise that Government continue to adhere to the existing arrangements.

4. Restrictions on borrowings by the Assembly

The commission recommended that no restriction other than those imposed by the Act should be placed in the Assembly's way to facilitate its borrowings.

Section 51(b) of the Tobago House of Assembly Act No. 40 of 1996, states that the Secretary may:

“With the approval of the Minister, borrow sums by way of transfers for the purposes of capital investment.”

Borrowings would have to be considered within the context of the approved capital programme. This is what the Government has recommended.

Recommendations still to be implemented:

(1) The human resource needs of the Assembly. The commission recommended that the human resource needs of the Assembly rationalized as personnel expenditure form a significant component of recurrent expenditure.

In January 1997, Cabinet and the Assembly met and agreed that a committee be commissioned to examine the human resource needs of the Assembly.

The committee reported in 1998.

The consideration of the report of the committee has been deferred pending:

- (a) enactment of the proposed amendments to the Tobago House of Assembly Act, 1996;
- (b) a thorough analysis of the impact of the information technology on the human resource requirements of the THA;
- (c) the input of the divisional administrators in the THA as they relate to the strategic positioning of their respective divisions.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments to the Act have been forwarded to the new administration of the Tobago House of Assembly for consideration. Further,

the input of the THA in relation to the impact of technology on its human resource requirement and the strategic positioning of its divisions is required to advance this matter. The THA is currently reviewing the matter.

(2) Financial Rules prescribed under section 52 of the Act

The commission recommended that the financial rules be enacted as a matter of priority to ensure the proper management of the finances of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the Chief Secretary advised, by letter dated May 01, 2001, that:

“The revision of the Financial Rules (1997) is close to completion and the revised Financial Rules should be ready for submission to the Executive Council and subsequent debate in the Tobago House of Assembly, within one month.”

On receipt, the draft rules would be reviewed and steps would be taken to implement them.

(3) Revenue-sharing Arrangement

The commission recommended that with respect to revenues to be collected in Tobago, that a revenue-sharing arrangement be worked out with the Board of Inland Revenue and appropriate administrative arrangements be made to give effect thereto.

This matter has been reviewed. I have been advised that there are legal implications, which must be resolved before any such arrangement is put in place. In this regard, several amendments would have to be made to the various tax laws.

(4) Indebtedness to the Tobago House of Assembly for years 1998, 1998—1999 and 1999—2000

Mr. Speaker, by letter dated December 15, 2000, the chairman of the Dispute Resolution Commission advised inter alia that:

The percentage which the commission recommended in the range of 4.03 per cent to 6.90 per cent relates to the areas of the national budget for which the Assembly is responsible—that is, matters which fall primarily within the Fifth Schedule of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, not only with respect to the recurrent expenditure but also with respect to development expenditure.

The fundings to the THA during the years 1998—2001 fall well within the range of 4.03 per cent to 6.90 per cent. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the allocations range between 5.04 per cent and 5.84 per cent of the total national budget, less allocations for services for which the Tobago House of Assembly is not responsible.

Mr. Speaker, the conclusion is inescapable that the central government is not indebted to the Tobago House of Assembly for the years 1998, 1998—1999 and 1999—2001. In the first instance, the recommendation is prospective and further the allocations fall within the recommended range. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Dry Dock Arrangement**  
(*mf Panorama*)

**26. Mr. Stanford Callendar** (*Tobago West*) asked the Minister of Transport:

- (a) Is the Minister aware that the *mf Panorama* after lengthy delay was scheduled to go on dry dock in October 2000?
- (b) Could the Minister state when the *mf Panorama* will be dry-docked and what is the earliest date that this vessel will be available for service?
- (c) Could the Minister further state what contingency plans are in place to service the sea ferry needs of Tobago in the event that the *Beau Port* breaks down?

**Mr. Speaker:** Before I call on the Minister of Transport, let me congratulate her on the recent additions to her portfolio and to wish her well with those new assignments.

**The Minister of Transport, and Minister of Tourism and Tobago Affairs (Sen. The Hon. Jearlean John):** Thank you very, much Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the *mf Panorama* was originally carded to go into dry dock in June 2000. Due to the unavailability at that time to source a replacement vessel, the *mf Panorama* could not have been withdrawn from the inter-island service until January 2001. On the removal from service, the *mf Panorama* went on wet dock. The Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago has advised that:

1. The *mf Panorama* would proceed on dry dock in July 2001. Tenders for the technical management and S.O.L.A.S upgrade were opened on June 04, 2001. The evaluation and subsequent award of contract would take approximately three weeks to be completed, at which time the *mf Panorama* would proceed on dry dock.
2. Based on the schedule of activities provided by the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, it is expected that the *mf Panorama* would be available for active service by mid-October 2001.
3. In the event of a temporary breakdown of the *Beau Port*, the charter party provides that no hire is to be paid by the Government in respect of



any time lost during which the vessel is unable to perform the service immediately required. There is a penalty clause in the contract, which places the onus on the owners of the *Beau Port* to ensure that the boat operates daily at peak efficiency. In the event of a prolonged breakdown, the owners have assured the Government that a replacement vessel of similar dimension and capacity stands ready to operate the service if required.

**2.00 p.m.**

**INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY CHURCHES  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (INC'N) BILL**

*Question put and agreed to*, That a bill for the incorporation of the International Pentecostal Assembly Churches of Trinidad and Tobago and for matters incidental thereto, be now read the first time.

*Bill accordingly read the first time.*

**CLOSURE TO DISORDER IN THE HOUSE**

**The Prime Minister and Minister of National Security (Hon. Basdeo Panday):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that what I am about to say be not regarded as a contribution in a debate on any motion, but rather as a plea and a request, which I pray you will be pleased to grant.

I wish to make it clear, at the outset, that I point a finger at no one. During the past five years this honourable House has been allowed to degenerate to an unprecedented level of venom and spite, malice and vindictiveness. Members were called thieves, rogues, corrupt and criminals, without the slightest shred of evidence and, during the last six months, this trend has not in any way abated, so much so that the public has come to regard this House with disrespect and contempt. I think the time has come to take a good look at ourselves and take serious measures to restore this honourable House to its pristine glory.

It was with this objective in mind that, during the course of this week, the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister met and agreed to seek a means of closure to the uncommon rancour and the extent of disorder that has characterized the proceedings of this House in recent times.

When the doctrine of freedom of speech was introduced into ancient parliaments, it was never intended that the protection offered by this House would be used to defame or lie against another Member. Even when there were abuses, those abuses were limited in circulation. But in this electronic age, when

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proceedings of Parliament are captured by the television cameras, radios and microphones, the utterances delivered, the gestures made and the action taken in Parliament are magnified in the excerpts that are transmitted to the nation, often with seemingly unending repetition.

Today, when you defame someone in Parliament, you defame him to the world. No one will disagree that there is need for greater civility in the proceedings of our Parliament than the nation has been witnessing, particularly in recent times. The Parliament is the highest deliberative assembly in our republic. This calls, for manifest reasons, for civility and order as we go about the business of the people.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Irish philosopher and statesman, Edmund Burke, described a parliament that is an enduring ideal for the parliamentarians of every country. I quote him:

“Parliament is not a congress of Ambassadors from different and hostile interests; which interests each Member must maintain, as an agent and advocate, against other agents and advocates;

But Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole; where not local purpose, not local prejudice, ought to guide, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole.”

The essential message that Edmund Burke was delivering, in my view, is that Members of Parliament are here to promote the common good. He was also saying that always partisan antagonism should subserve the common good, not subvert it. It is as fundamental as that, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister, having had a meeting of minds, have agreed on the need for prompt measures on both sides to put an immediate end to the acrimony that has appeared to be intensifying with each sitting of this honourable House. We have no option but for both sides of this House to work together to restore its essential and necessary dignity to Parliament.

As is well known, there are interests outside of the Parliament, which are bent on subverting our democratic structure and institutions in pursuit of unlawful agendas. Those interests, which never sleep, are creating a public opinion that finds expression in a hot and poisoned breath that would rend our nation asunder before we even know it.

I made this point in my address to the nation on Monday night, as I did in my address to the national assembly of the United National Congress on Sunday

afternoon. We must be conscious of this reality and we must be alert to the threat to the common good.

We must now undertake to go forward in this honourable House with dignity and, hopefully, with decorum; with candour and not with rancour; with fearless advocacy, but not with acrimony; with righteous indignation if need be, but never with uncontrolled anger; with parliamentary cut-and-thrust, not threats and insults. Let us debate with passion, but never with poison; never, never, never with poison. We must above all, respect the rules that govern the conduct of Members of this honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, it would be greatly to the common good if in this august assembly of legislators, which is our essential character, we can also be an assembly of exemplars to the nation. I am confident that the hon. Leader of the Opposition will agree with this sentiment.

As this sitting of the honourable House proceeds, the steps agreed to by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and Prime Minister to end the acrimony and to restore civility and dignity to the proceedings of this House—this our Parliament—will be unfolded. Generally speaking, we would like to wipe the slate clean—to start afresh if that is possible; to remove all matters pending before this House relative to the allegations of misconduct, no matter whom it is against.

Mr. Speaker, you would note on the Order Paper of today, that there are several matters. There is a motion under “Private Business”, Motion No. 1. With your leave, we would like that Motion to proceed without debate. We on this side would support that Motion. There is Motion No. 2. If that is possible, with your leave and with proper procedure, we would like to have that, too, removed. There is also a matter of privilege and if the procedure will permit—and I believe it can—that matter, too, should be removed from the Table and the agenda of this House, so that we as representatives of our country can continue to do our people's business with honour and with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the debate has not started. I thought the procedure would have been a little different and the Motion might have been read. Since that is not the case, may I, Mr. Speaker, crave your indulgence that the rules be waived and that the Leader of the Opposition be permitted to make a statement of his own.

**Mr. Patrick Manning** (*San Fernando East*): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you and to hon. Members for this opportunity to make a very brief statement following the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister.

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The two longest serving Members of this Parliament happen to be the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. We see our responsibility—we discussed the matter—to preserve the dignity of this Parliament and our system of democracy, as perhaps going a bit above the responsibilities of other Members.

**2.10 p.m.**

If it is that against our vast background of experience we do not seek to set an example, Mr. Speaker, not just to the Members of Parliament but to the national community, then we have nobody to blame but ourselves when—not just the Parliament falls into disrepute—but the profession of politics and politicians, generally, are placed at the bottom of the pole when it comes to respect and dignity. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the initiative that has just been announced by the hon. Prime Minister—myself and Members on this side—to wipe the slate clean and, as it were, to have a new beginning.

Mr. Speaker, the role of the Opposition in the Westminster system is not just to oppose—as some people would have us believe—but it is to show the other side. The argument is that as the Government puts over its views and the Opposition shows the other side, those who hear us—the people on whose behalf we operate—are in a position to listen to both sides and to come to their conclusion as to where right may lie.

While the Parliament—and no Parliament—is expected to be a bishop's tea party and I assure you this one will not be, Mr. Speaker, it is possible for us to discharge our functions in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Parliament, in a manner that does not use as standard, some of the worst examples to be found in Parliaments elsewhere in the world. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we can do better than that and we are determined to do so.

In seeking to make this new beginning, Mr. Speaker, we fully recognize that the initiative could fail. It could fail! If that should come to pass let it not be said that the initiative has failed for lack of trying. It is our intention to give this initiative our best shot and we hope to God, Mr. Speaker, that it succeeds.

I would just like to make one final comment and it has to do with the role of the Speaker. No Parliament could operate without a presiding officer whose authority is accepted and respected. It is just not possible. The system of government under which we operate is a system that recognizes the need to have a Speaker. Without a Speaker, the Parliament cannot progress properly; there must be a presiding officer. I want to assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it is our intention on this side—whatever the antecedents may have been—to respect the office of

Speaker and to respect the occupant of that office. I assure you of that. [*Desk thumping*]

We feel confident that the work of this Parliament would be conducted in a manner that is acceptable to all of us and that it would be a credit to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. I am in a position this afternoon to give the assurance to the hon. Prime Minister, that Motion No. 2 on the Order Paper in the name of the Member for Diego Martin Central, at the appropriate stage of the proceedings, will be discontinued. We hope that at the end of today's sitting we could walk away from this Parliament with a clean slate, determined as we must be, to ensure that the new beginning on which we have embarked is a new beginning that redounds to the credit of our Parliament, to the credit of the Members of Parliament and to the credit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I am extremely heartened that Members on both sides of the House share my concerns for the necessity to maintain the dignity and to improve the decorum of this House, for the sake of this Parliament and the viewing public and the national community as a whole.

As Speaker, I expect from each Member the respect due to the Chair and I will give all hon. Members the assurance that without fear, favour or ill will to anyone, I intend to carry out the duties of my office and to ensure that the public's business is transacted in this House in an orderly manner.

I thank you for the statements coming from both sides.

**Mr. Kenneth Valley** (*Diego Martin Central*): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do not know whether it is allowed but honestly I want to place on the record my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister for negotiating and dealing with these matters. I think, as we have said from the beginning, we really wanted a resolution to these matters. I speak as the chairman of our caucus; we are happy that these matters are now off. In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to move Motion No. 1 on the Order Paper standing in my name.

*Whereas* the Member for Diego Martin West was suspended from the service of the House on May 24, 2001:

*Be It Resolved* that the suspension of the hon. Member be terminated forthwith.

I beg to move.

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*Seconded by Mr. Basdeo Panday.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the suspension of the hon. Member be terminated forthwith.

**MOTION OF CENSURE**

**(Recruit Intake No. 39)**

**Mr. Kenneth Valley:** (*Diego Martin Central*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I will not be proceeding with Motion No. 2 under Private Business on today's Order Paper, standing in my name:

*Whereas* the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of National Security advised this honourable House on May 07, 2001, that:

- in the first week of December 2000 the Chief of Defence Staff initiated the process for the recruitment of 104 persons to fill vacancies then existing in the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard;
- based on the standard procedure 104 applicants were selected for recruitment into the Coast Guard as "Recruit Intake No. 39"; and

*Whereas* the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security provided a list containing 104 names which the Prime Minister informed the House were the names of the persons forming the 39th Recruit Intake; and

*Whereas* the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security also provided a list containing the names of 31 applicants which he informed the House were the names of those applicants who were placed on standby in the event of the withdrawal of any of the applicants who had been selected to fill the 104 vacancies in the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard; and

*Whereas* the following six persons who were included among the 104 names provided by the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security on May 07, 2001 but whom the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security NOW ADMITS were, in fact, enlisted into the Coast Guard prior to the initiation of the process for the recruitment of the 39th Recruit Intake

NAME	ENLISTMENT DATE	REGIMENTAL NUMBER
Nigel Baptiste	10/5/2000	5933
Marlon Cayonne	10/5/2000	5934
Michael Edwards	10/5/2000	5935

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Selwyn George	10/11/1999	5931
Edric Hargraves	10/5/2000	5936
Claude Adams	10/5/2000; and	5932

*Whereas* the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security NOW ADMITS that the following six persons who were included among the 104 names provided by the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security on May 07 were not enlisted into the Coast Guard as part of the recruitment of the 39th Recruit Intake;

Joel Boucaud	Ezekiel Fraser
Anson Charles	Gerard John
Louis Martin	Richard Millette; and

*Whereas* the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of National Security NOW ADMITS that the following three persons whose names appear among the 31 names on the Standby List provided by the Prime Minister on May 07, 2001, were in fact part of the original intake on March 23, 2001:

Andre Dougan  
Marvin Williams  
Collin Phillip; and

*Whereas* on May 11, 2001, the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security informed the House that the list pertaining to Recruit Intake No. 39 was received by the Ministry of National Security on May 03, 2001 which is 41 days after the intake on March 23, 2001 and which time provided sufficient opportunity to provide an accurate list of the composition of the intake; and

*Whereas* only 89 of the 104 persons named on the list provided by the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security were in fact enlisted on March 23, 2001 as part of the original intake; and

*Whereas* no explanation has been given for the failure to enlist the shortfall from the Standby List:

*Be It Resolved* that this House censure the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of National Security for the incorrect, inaccurate and misleading information the Prime Minister provided to this honourable House on May 07, 2001.

I request that the Motion be removed from the Order Paper.

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**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, since the hon. Member for Diego Martin Central will not be proceeding with his Motion we will now take the next item of business.

**ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS**

**The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** I beg to move that the House proceed to deal with Government Motion No. 4 on the Second Supplemental Order Paper and then Motion No. 3 on the Supplemental Order Paper.

*Agreed to.*

**COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES REPORT**

**Select Committee Report**

**Adoption**

**The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name on the Second Supplemental Order Paper:

*Be It Resolved* that this House adopt the report of the Committee of Privileges of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2001 Session).

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 11, 2001, in response to a Privilege Motion moved by the Leader of the House, you referred the following matter to the Committee of Privileges of the House of Representatives for its consideration and report. The statements were made in the House of Representatives on March 16, 2001 by the hon. Member for Diego Martin Central and contained allegations concerning the official conduct of the hon. Member for Couva North.

**2.20 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker, the committee which was appointed on March 02, 2001 comprised the following members:

Dr. Rupert Griffith	Chairman
Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj	Member
Hon. Mervyn Assam	Member
Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar	Member
Mr. Martin Joseph	Member
Miss Penelope Beckles	Member



The committee was empowered to investigate every question of privilege referred to it and to report thereunto to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the committee held two meetings during which it considered the matter referred to it. This morning, all Members of the committee were contacted and they agreed to the following recommendations:

“It is your Committee's recommendation that no action be taken in the matter referred to it and that the matter be closed.”

The committee, as a matter of general principle:

“notes for the benefit of all Members that the privilege of freedom of speech is guaranteed subject to the observance of the Standing Orders which place certain limitations on this freedom. Your committee therefore further recommends to the House that Members should keep uppermost in mind the need to employ great care while exercising their right to speak freely in the House, particularly during the discussion of issues that are sensitive in nature.”

This was signed by:

Dr. Rupert Griffith	Chairman
Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj	Member
Hon. Mervyn Assam	Member
Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar	Member
Mr. Martin Joseph	Member
Miss Penelope Beckles	Member

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report adopted.*

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NO. 2) BILL**  
**Select Committee Report**  
**Adoption**

**Mr. Subhas Panday** (*Princes Town*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name:

*Be It Resolved* that this House adopt the special report of the Special Select Committee appointed to consider and report on a Bill entitled the Occupational Safety and Health (No. 2) Bill, 2001.

*Occupational Safety and Health Bill*  
[MR. S. PANDAY]

*Friday, June 29, 2001*

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 18, 2001, the House of Representatives agreed to the following resolution: The House of Representatives Bill No. 6 of 2001 entitled the Occupational Safety and Health (No. 2) Bill, 2001 be committed to a special select committee of the House in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 51(1), and to report within four weeks. And further, that notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 51(1), the committee be empowered to consider the general merits of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, at the sitting held on Monday, May 21, 2001, the House of Representatives appointed six Members: Mr. Harry Partap, Dr. Hamza Rafeeq, Mr. Mervyn Assam, Mr. Subhas Panday, Mr. Colm Imbert and Mr. Hedwige Bereaux. The committee's time expired on June 15, 2001. However, when the House last met on Friday, June 08, 2001, the sitting was adjourned to June 29, 2001.

During the course of our deliberations, several highly complex and technical issues have surfaced which required the consideration of the committee. Accordingly, the committee is regrettably unable to complete the consideration of the Bill and to report within the time frame given to it.

Mr. Speaker, to date, the committee has held a total of five meetings: on Friday May 25, 2001; Thursday, May 31, 2001; Friday, June 08, 2001; Friday, June 22, 2001; and also today, Mr. Speaker, Friday, June 29, 2001. In submitting the special report to the House, the committee seeks an extension of six weeks in order to fully complete the consideration of the Bill before it.

I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report adopted.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Attorney and Minister of Legal Affairs (Hon. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now stand adjourned to Friday, July 13, 2001 at 1.30 p.m., and hon. Members will be informed as to what will be discussed on that day.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*House adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 2.26 p.m.*