

*Leave of Absence**Wednesday, April 20, 2005***HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

*The House met at 1.30 p.m.***PRAYERS**[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I have received communication from the following Members requesting leave of absence from the sitting of the House: the Member for St. Augustine, (Mr. Winston Dookeran) for the period April 19 to 24, 2005 and the Member for Laventille West (Hon. Eulalie James) from today's sitting of the House. The leave which the Members seek is granted.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES**First Report****(Consideration of Submissions)**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I have received two items of correspondence with respect to an order in today's proceedings, firstly from the hon. Member for Fyzabad and, secondly, from the hon. Member for Caroni East. The hon. Member for Fyzabad has written to me concerning, as I said before, a matter on the Order Paper today, and then I got another and more substantial letter from the hon. Member for Caroni East.

With respect to these two items of correspondence, I wish to indicate to Members that the item listed as "Motions" on the Order Paper, and in particular, the Motion relating to the First Report of the Committee of Privileges of the House of Representatives on the allegations of breach of privilege arising out of an incident that occurred in the Members' Lounge on Wednesday, September 15, 2004, I would need time to consider the submissions of both Members.

As I said, the hon. Member for Caroni East, being a lawyer, his submission to me was in greater depth than that of the hon. Member for Fyzabad, but both Members have set out in their letters to me, sufficient matter that requires me to give further thought to whether I should allow this Motion to be proceeded with. So, for the moment, I am ruling that this Motion not be proceeded with at today's sitting of the House and I would rule later on concerning same.

PAPERS LAID

1. Report on the administration of the Ministry of Housing and its agencies for the period October 2000 to September, 2004. [*The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley)*]
2. Report of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for the period January 2002 to September 2003. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
3. Report of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for the period October 2003 to September 2004. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
4. Annual report of the Environmental Management Authority for the years 2001 and 2002. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
5. The Elections and Boundaries Commission Draft Order, 2005. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
6. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Penal Debe Regional Corporation for the financial year ended September 30, 2000. [*Hon. K. Valley*]
7. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Penal Debe Regional Corporation for the financial year ended September 30, 2001. [*Hon. K. Valley*]

Papers 6 and 7 to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (AMDT.) BILL

Bill to amend the Tobago House of Assembly Act, 1996 [*The Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister*]; read the first time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Mr. Speaker, in light of your ruling, I have to move the adjournment of this House, because, as you know, this was a special sitting to debate this matter and we respect your ruling. We feel certain that after due consideration—

Mr. Singh: No. Do not prejudge the issue. You see, that is the point I am making, you know.

Adjournment

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mrs. Persad-Bissessar: You had a plan to break the law and you got stopped.
[*Crosstalk*]

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be adjourned to Friday, April 29, 2005 at 1.30 p.m. and on that day—[*Interruption*] We have to give you the first Friday in May for Private Members’ day. On that day the Government plans, first of all, to continue to debate the Motion on the Local School Boards and, secondly, the Elections and Boundaries Commission Report.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Speaker, the fourth Friday of every month is Private Members’ day and I have not agreed to forego that privilege of the Members on this side.

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions I mentioned to the Chief Whip—and I thought he said “That’s right”. I mentioned to him—and I am sure it is recorded—that we would have to give him the first Friday in May, and I heard, “That’s right”, so I assumed that was an agreement.

Mr. Singh: No, no, no. You cannot seek by subterfuge to slip in that. It is by agreement. If it is that you want—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you all need to go behind the Chair and discuss it.
[*Crosstalk*]

Hon. K. Valley: Did you not agree?

Mr. Singh: No, no, no. Let us have a Private Members’ day.

[*Brief pause for discussions behind the Chair*]

Hon. K. Valley: Mr. Speaker, the Chief Whip feels he must have his Private Members’ day on April 29, 2005. In those circumstances, could I amend the Motion to adjourn the House to Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 1.30 p.m. so that the Government can conduct its business?

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 1.40 p.m.