

No. 2

Thursday

First Session

3rd March, 2011

Ninth Parliament

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

ADVANCE COPY

OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE SECOND MEETING, FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH
PARLIAMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES CONSTITUTED AS SET OUT IN
SCHEDULE 2 TO THE SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ORDER, 1979.**

EIGHT SITTING

3RD MARCH 2011

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Honourable House of Assembly met at 10:10 a.m. in the Assembly Chamber, Court House, Kingstown.

PRAYERS

MR. SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR

Honourable Hendrick Alexander

Present

MEMBERS OF CABINET

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance,
Economic Planning, National Security,
Grenadines and Legal Affairs
Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves

Member for North Central Windward

Attorney General
Honourable Judith Jones-Morgan

Minister of Education/ Deputy
Prime Minister
Honourable Girlyn Miguel

Member for Marriaqua

Minister of Housing, Informal
Human Settlements, Physical Planning,
Lands and Surveys
Honourable Clayton Burgin

Member for East St. George

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries and Rural Transformation
Honourable Montgomery Daniel

Member for North Windward

Minister of Tourism and Industry
Honourable Saboto Caesar

Member for South Central Windward

Minister of Health, Wellness and
The Environment
Honourable Cecil McKie

Member for West St. George

Minister of National Reconciliation
Labour, Information and Ecclesiastical Affairs
Honourable Maxwell Charles

Member for Central Leeward

Minister of National Mobilisation,
Social Development, the Family,
Persons with Disabilities, Youths,
Sports and Culture
Honourable Frederick Stephenson

Member for South Windward

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade
And Consumer Affairs
Honourable Dr. Douglas Slater

Government Senator

Minister of Transport and Works, Urban
Development and Local Government
Honourable Julian Francis

Government Senator

Parliamentary Secretary in the Office
Of the Prime Minister
Honourable Elvis Charles

Government Senator

Honourable David Browne

Government Senator/ Deputy Speaker

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

Honourable Arnhim Eustace Leader of the Opposition	Member for East Kingstown
Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday	Member for Northern Grenadines
Honourable Terrance Ollivierre	Member for Southern Grenadines
Honourable St. Claire Leacock	Member for Central Kingstown
Honourable Daniel Cummings	Member for West Kingstown
Honourable Roland Matthews	Member for North Leeward
Honourable Nigel Stephenson	Member for South Leeward
Honourable Vynnette Frederick	Opposition Senator
Honourable Anesia Baptiste	Opposition Senator

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH, 2011

Honourable Mr. Speaker Hendrick Alexander read the prayer of the House. Pray be seated.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Prime Minister, I believe that you are ... it seemed like you are about to stand for some reason; but before you do so I need to deal with some, what I consider quite pertinent issues because as parliamentarians and as Members of the public and particular strangers, we need to inform ourselves on some issues with reference to the Parliament of St Vincent and the Grenadines. And I do not know how many of us as parliamentarians are aware of chapter three that is of the House of Assembly Privileged Immunities and Powers Act and in respect of certain authorities that are given to certain persons. And I will just like to bring to your attention this morning because I believe it is important especially in this age of misinformation that we understand the principles by which we are guided and how we ought to perform in the House of Assembly.

And I am reading chapter three and I am reading from Section (23): **Rights of and Offences by Strangers.** And the law says - the Act says:-

“No stranger shall be entitled to enter or remain within the House or the precincts of the House without the authority of the Speaker.”

And it goes on:-

“The Speaker may at anytime order any stranger to withdraw from the House or from the precinct of the House, and if any such person may fail to obey such order, he may be forcibly removed from the House or from the precinct of the House by any officer of the House; and no proceedings shall lie in any court against the Speaker or against such officer in respect of such removal”.

And 3 said:-

“Nothing in this Section contained shall be construed so as to prevent any member from going or coming from the House or the precinct of the House of which he is a Member.”

Twenty four:-

- a. **“Any person who being a stranger enters the House or the precincts of the House without permission duly granted under the authority of the Speaker contrary to the provisions of**

Section 23 or being therein with such permission refuses to leave at the order of the Speaker.

- b. Being admitted to the House or to the precinct of the House as a stranger contravenes any rules made by the Speaker under Standing Orders of the House relating to the admission of strangers or**
- c. Attends any sitting of the House as a representative of any journal after general permission granted under the Standing Orders of the House to the representative or representative of that journal have been revoked is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine \$750.00 and to imprisonment for three months”.**

And (25), I think it is important that I read that as well:-

- a. “Any stranger, who assaults, hinders, obstructs or insults any member coming to, going from or being within the House or the precinct of the House.**
- b. Interferes with, resist or obstructs any officer of the court while in the execution of his duty or**
- c. creates or joins in any disturbance which interrupts or is liable to interrupt the proceedings of the House while it is in sitting is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$1500 and to imprisonment for six months”.**

And Section (26) is very important I would not read it but it also gives the Speaker, power to have any such person arrested and kept in custody in this House, until his release is so ordered by the Speaker. This is the law that governs the House of Assembly, and I just want it to be known that the House is not just running at it were speed or its own laws. These are the laws: some of these and I am urging Members that you need to get yourself familiar with that particular Act, House of Assembly Rights Privileges and Immunities Act. It is Chapter 3 of Volume 1 of the Act Honourable Prime Minister.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate for the benefit of Honourable Members in respect of our Orders of the Day; we have item No. 3 which is the:-

- Representation of the People (Amendment Bill)

And there are three other Bills which are of a non-controversial nature:-

- The Governor-General’s Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill

which traditionally comes on the same day when we pass the Appropriation Bill, because we have to address the Governor General's Emolument separately by virtue of the law of the land.

- The Status of Children Bill 2011

It is listed 2010, it is 2011. It was here in 2010 and Honourable Members would recall that in the last parliament we were ready to proceed with the debate but some Members suggested that we put it into Select Committee and there was in fact a Select Committee named, but before the Select Committee could meet there was a dissolution of parliament and General Elections were held. So, it fell with the dissolution and it is now back here.

There are four Bills addressing Children and the Family; we have addressed one already this is the second we have two others. It is a package of reforms. Item No. 6 the:-

- Recovery of Possession (Amendment) Bill

The distinguished Chief Magistrate had written the Honourable Attorney General a letter and has drawn it to my attention where she is calling for an amendment to Section 3 which has a maximum jurisdiction for a consideration of \$1200 that is \$100 per month. Now, you can see in today's day and age there are not many houses about the place which are rented for \$100 or under. As a consequence, there are a number of very small Recovery of possession issues, which have to go before the High Court and they cause great hardship to both landlord and tenant, so that is the only change in that. All things being equal we should have a short day today, Mr. Speaker, that is the situation where we are. The other Bills were added under the general authority of the Speaker, and with the applications of the Rules of the House of Commons, if there is a need for a special resolution for me to move, Mr. Speaker, I can move it in respect of the Agenda.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes, while I agree to it, it comes under the general authority of the Speaker; I prefer that we have a consensus more or less on the issue and that you therefore move that resolution:-

“Notice have been given of such intention to move if it so require”.

And I therefore suggest that you move that resolution.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the additional items listed 4, 5 and 6 be placed on the Order Paper of this suspended sitting of this Honourable House.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Resolution has been seconded there is not necessarily any need for a debate on this resolution I will just put the question.

Question put and agreed to

Shall we proceed as listed on the Order Paper?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

3. Representation of the People Amendment Bill 2011.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Before you move that let me just make an excuse for the Madam Clerk who is at this time on sick leave she would be out for about ten days or so, and therefore we are being graced here with the presence of the Deputy Clerk this morning. We want to wish her all the best in her performance, I know she is quite capable and she is quite efficient. She has been well tutored and I believe she will do a good job. Of course, like everybody else the first time she might be a little bit nervous, but I am sure when she is able to overcome that in a very short time, she will perform with excellence. Thank you very much. [Applause]

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, perhaps out of abundance of caution I beg to move under Standing Order 12(5) that the proceedings of today's sitting be exempted from the provisions of the Standing Order hours of sitting.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second it.

Question put and agreed

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move a Bill for an Act to amend the Representation of the People Act to be read a first time. The Bill seeks to amend Section 51 of the Representation of the People Act by repealing Subsection 3 and 4. I so move.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second it.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable ...

HONOURABLE ARNHIM EUSTACE: I rise Mr. Speaker, under Rule 59.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Rule 59, yes.

HONOURABLE ARNHIM EUSTACE: Mr. Speaker, this Rule provides, Mr. Speaker, and I will read it.

“The member in charge of a Bill may make a Motion without notice for its withdrawal either before the commencement of public business; or when any stage of the Bill is reached in the order of business”.

It is 59. Mr. Speaker, I call on the Prime Minister to withdraw this Bill it is within his remit as carrier of the Bill. I do so, Mr. Speaker, because I believe sincerely that this piece of legislation and indeed, Mr. Speaker, the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Bill which he dealt with the last time we were here both infringed on rights, infringes our freedoms and threatens our democracy and therefore I call on the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, to withdraw this Bill.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That is it? You are still standing. That's it?

HONOURABLE ARNHIM EUSTACE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am still standing.

HONOURABLE MR SPEAKER: Well, could you take your seat please. Kindly take your seat because you have made a request I expect there is going to be a response to it and I cannot have two people standing on the floor at the same time. Honourable Member, could you please take your seat having made your request, I believe you expect a response; could you kindly take your seat.

HONOURABLE ARNHIM EUSTACE: Mr. Speaker, I wish the Prime Minister to indicate whether he will withdraw this Bill.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: But you have to sit down before I could reply to it.
[Laughter]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, Honourable Member, [long pause] I am requesting of you as Speaker of this Honourable House that you take your seat while the Prime Minister responds to this matter. As you are aware we cannot have two persons speaking on the floor at the same time. So, I am asking you to take your seat if this matter has to be addressed, and if you do not take your seat to have this matter addressed then of course, I will just note the Point of Order and ask the Prime Minister to proceed with the Motion as was moved on the Bill. And failing to obey the authority of the Speaker having asked you to sit down; if you do not I will ask you to leave the Chamber, the House of Assembly, immediately. I have pleaded with you, I have begged you; I am asking you to do so of your own will and volition and if you do not do so then I may ask a member to move a motion on that behalf so that you may leave the House of Assembly. But again I give you an opportunity to sit and let us proceed with the business, okay.

Honourable Member I bring to your attention that the authority of the Speaker has been disregarded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and; therefore I am going to name him: I am going to ask Mr. Arnhim Eustace to leave the Parliament at this moment. Mr. Arnhim Eustace you are asked to leave the Parliament at the moment.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, may I draw a matter to your attention. The Honourable...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Prime Minister I do not ... I understand what you are doing.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, it is a disciplinary matter, I am rising.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: I am not interfering with your ruling Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please [**Picture taken of the standing Prime Minister by Opposition Member**]

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: She has taken a picture of the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Speaker, she has taken mine as well as she has said.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: [Inaudible] being taken all over the place.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: She is not...

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Photographs are being taken all over the place.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Those ... just a minute Prime Minister. [Knock of gavel on desk] Those who are taking photographs here are given permission by the Speaker, to so do. Nobody comes in here and takes a picture without my authority.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Well

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: There is no well about this, Honourable Member.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Give your authority or don't give it.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: There is nowhere ... and listen to me please I would not accept any form of rudeness from any Member within this House.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Really? All on that side took the ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member would you please, please discontinue arguing with me.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: I have no argument with you.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the order should be that she deletes the photograph and so inform this Honourable House. She may well put it on the face book if she does not delete it.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: It gone *ah* ready. [Interjection]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking on the desk with the Gavel] Just a minute. Honourable Member, if you persist in that kind of attitude I will have to ask you also to leave the House.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Go right ahead.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Right. Honourable Prime Minister you were making a matter on discipline.

DR. THE HONOURBLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, that is the issue which I was raising, I was not interfering at all with you. Mr. Speaker, I also want to ask as Leader of the House since the Opposition has come here this morning to create confusion, I would wish to ask, Mr. Speaker, that the police guard the Mace because they intend ... and since Senator Leacock has gone to that seat has confirmed in my mind ...

HONOURBLE SABOTO CAESAR: Yes, yes. [Laughter]

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker,

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking of Gavel on the desk]

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the seating arrangements have been laid out.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker ...

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: I am on my feet please.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes Sir, but why are you sitting there Senator Leacock?

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker,

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Why are you sitting there?

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Could I raise my point of order, Mr. Speaker?

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Why are you sitting there?

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, all I was asking ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: May I, Mr. Speaker, raise my point of order?

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, all I was asking was for the ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: security, for the police to go close to the Mace.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Raise your point of order.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: I have absolutely no intention to interfere with the Mace and the insinuation by the Prime Minister who continues to address me wrongly is out of order.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Totally.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: And I take exception to his insinuation that I am here for disorder and to remove the Mace. It is not a part of my intention.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: I do not so function; I will ask him to withdraw his statement [inaudible].

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Prime Minister, if he has indicated ...

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I am gratified ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: to hear that that is not pertaining to this ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Okay, so you would withdraw the statement.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: but when I see the conduct of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Senator Frederick ...

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: [Inaudible] you do not remember...

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: it leaves me as a reasonable man to assume that we would have other instances of disorder.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: But you have just been unreasonable so you have not apologised to me, I ask that you withdraw.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: He has, I thought he has.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: He did not, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: He did not withdraw.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: He did not withdraw.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: He has not withdrawn, Mr. Speaker.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I said I am gratified.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: That is! That is!

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: I am gratified, I am grateful...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Gratification is not a withdrawal, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: What does that mean?

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking of Gavel on the desk].

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, If it would make

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Member.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: the Honourable Representative for Central Kingstown

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Oh I love that!

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: feel better;

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Yes.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: if it would help him with whatever load is on his shoulder I...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Just ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Na! Na! Na! Na! Na!

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: I...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: No! No! No! No! No! No!

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking of Gavel on the desk] [Interjections] wait just a minute, Honourable Prime Minister. [Interjections] Just a minute, Honourable Prime Minister.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Total ignorance.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the suggestion. [Interjections]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Knocking on the desk with the Gavel.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: I thought he made [inaudible]

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Total ignorance [inaudible]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I needed an unqualified ...

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: All the rules.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: But it [inaudible] all the rules

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes, he has done that.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: He has done [Inaudible] Mr. Speaker, I have been asked repeatedly in this House, on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, to withdraw statement and when I qualified it, Mr. Speaker, you ordered me out of the House. I am stating that the Honourable Prime Minister has not unconditionally withdrawn the statement made to my colleague the Representative for Central Kingstown and I ask you in your powers to request of the Prime Minister

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Stop your shouting. Stop your shouting

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: to request of the Prime Minister

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Stop your shouting.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: that he withdraws the statement unconditionally.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Stop your shouting. Honourable Prime Minister, it would appear that your unqualified ...

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Is not sufficiently unqualified. Mr. Speaker, I make an unqualified withdrawal in relation to the suggestion that the Honourable Member for Central Kingstown was perhaps going to take up the Mace in view of the fact that I have seen prior instances of disorder and disrespect to the Chair. So, Mr. Speaker, I unqualified and I stated the manner in which I have issued that unqualified withdrawal.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you see all this discussion is going on ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: And we do not need that, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Wait! Wait! Just a minute,

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Let me sit.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with any further discussion on any matter, let me deal with this matter in relation to the Leader of the Opposition. And he is not moving I am therefore going to ask a Member to move a Motion that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition withdraws from the Chamber.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, at your request and to maintain order in this House and for the proceedings of the people to go on, I move ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: At the time when the Honourable Prime Minister himself is a cause for disorder how he is going to move a Motion for disorder, he needs to take the mote out of his eyes before he proceeds to [inaudible]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable! Honourable Senator, I am sorry, I do not want to be direct. I am calling on a Member.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: I am an Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Listen.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Not Senator, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable [pauses] [Laughs]

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: I am assisting you, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: For Central Kingstown.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: For Central Kingstown.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Right.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: I will sit while you address the [inaudible]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: I have asked a Member and the Honourable Member, Honourable Prime Minister, Member for North Central Windward is a Member of this House ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Of course.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: And I did not qualify which Member should move the Motion. I said a Member: anyone who is a Member should move the Motion. If you want you could move it too you know. [Interjections] So, I am asking for a Member to move the Motion. I am not entertaining any further discussion on this matter, [knocking the Gavel on the desk] let me deal with this issue right now.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Kindly take you seat Sir.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker...

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Kindly take your seat Senator Leacock.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: You are not addressing my point of order.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member of Central Kingstown, I am saying I have asked a Member and a Member has moved and I do not need any further discussion on the issue.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: But I am raising the point of order that I addressed, Mr. Speaker, for the disrespect to me; and all I am asking is for you to dispense with that. That is not an unreasonable request, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: What other disrespect?

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: That he imputed improper motives to me as an Honourable Member to disrespect this House and I think that is a strong disrespect and he should withdraw it that he never so intended to disrespect me.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: What is that?

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: He said that I came here for the purpose of removing the Mace which is a symbol of authority of the House.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: But I thought he ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: He did not, Mr. Speaker, he played around with words...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: [Inaudible]

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: And all I am asking is that he withdraws that aspersion on me as an Honourable Member.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: The Honourable Prime Minister [inaudible]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Nothing more, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Absolutely [inaudible]

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for West Kingstown, I think I understand the entire Motion and I am saying...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Mr. Speaker...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: I am also naming you as referring to me as being biased.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Prime Minister remains standing while the Representative ...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: I said ...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Mr. Speaker, may I make my point?

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes! But the Leader of...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: While the Honourable Member for West Kingstown...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: But the Leader of the Opposition is also standing.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: I agree and I would want to make my point.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: While the Honourable Member for Central Kingstown has the floor the Honourable Prime Minister remains standing.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: I am asking you...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Mr. Speaker, please allow me to finish my point.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: No! I am not going to allow you; I am asking you to kindly ...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: And you have not asked the Honourable Prime Minister to sit while you are requesting that the Leader of the Opposition sit down. [Interjections]

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: But Mr. Speaker...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Because the Honourable Prime Minister is standing.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking of Gavel on the desk] Honourable Senator...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: And I am saying, Mr. Speaker, it must be applied on both sides of the House.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Well, I am on my feet now.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Good

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition could you kindly sit.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: He is not sitting down.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: If you are not sitting kindly leave the Chamber.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: He is not sitting down!

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: And I am asking a Member to move the Motion: the Honourable Prime Minister is moving the Motion for the Member to leave the House.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: I was standing at your request, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Exactly.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker, I really want to be within the [inaudible]

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Here is a policeman standing guarding me, why is he put there to guard me, Mr. Speaker? That is what the Prime Minister asked you know, and he has since then taken this position in front of me, in this Honourable House [Interjections] [Knocking of Gavel on desk] and I am offended, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Watch the policeman dey.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: And he should be removed.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking of Gavel on desk] Sit, kindly sit.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: But the policeman should be removed.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Remove the policeman.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: I am going to ask...

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: Get him removed from there.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: the policeman to come on this side.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: But that is fine, but not standing in front of me.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Speaking to the policeman] Come on this side.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Why should the police be placed in front of me?

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Policeman took up his position left of the Mace as directed by the Speaker] Right, stand on that side.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, at your request...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: And I hope no other Member of the Chamber makes the [Interjection] allegation that he is being guarded.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Now we are going to redéc... he was placed there because it was suggested that [inaudible] against me.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: [Knocking the Gavel on the desk] Thank you. I am dealing with an [Interjection] issue. Honourable Prime Minister [inaudible]

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, as requested in light of the failure of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and Member for East Kingstown to obey your order to sit, and that you have requested a motion upon which you would act as regards his removal from this House; I beg to move that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for the misconduct of not obeying the order of the Speaker to sit, and at your request that he removes himself voluntarily that he has failed to do: I move the Motion for the Honourable Speaker, to take whatever appropriate action the Honourable Speaker feels ought to occur in the circumstances.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second the Motion.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Motion having been moved and seconded, there is no debate on this Motion; I am therefore asking, well the Motion have been moved that Honourable Leader withdraws himself or be withdrawn from this Chamber and therefore, I am moving that he be suspended from this House for the next two sittings of this House. And that is my order and I am asking the Sergeant at Arms to so escort the Honourable...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the disciplinary measure, Mr. Speaker, I understand you to say that the Honourable Member for East Kingstown suspended for the next two sittings. The Rules of the House I think refers to a suspension for the existing sitting.

HONOURABLE ARNHIM EUSTACE: For the rest of the sitting.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: The rest of the sitting. So I am inviting your attention to go to the Rules of the House, Mr. Speaker. I am inviting you, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you are quite correct in that one, I am sorry.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR SPEAKER: I am very sorry. For the rest of the sitting and any further disruption he would [inaudible]

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Thank you and you are quite correct. And; therefore, Sergeant at Arms, I am asking you to kindly escort the Honourable Leader of the Opposition out of the House, or failing to do so you can request any officer in the House assistance to move him out of the House.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Mr. Speaker, do I ask whether the presence of the Black Squad in the Special Services Unit, are there expressly for those purposes or this is the regular meeting of the House?

HONOURABLE DR. DOUGLAS SLATER: [Inaudible] thing happens.

HONOURABLE ST CLLAIR LEACOCK: You are the Speaker?

HONOURABLE ANESIA BAPTISTE: Yes.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable...

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: You could tell the Speaker what to say and what not to say.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: I am addressing the Speaker.

HONOURABLE VYNETTE FREDERICK: Because he is your puppet.

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Because I feel uncomfortable with this heavy presence of the police in the Parliament today, Mr. Speaker. Why are these Tactical Units present in the House?

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: We are not [inaudible]

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: There are Tactical Units of the Security Forces.

HONOURABLE DANIEL CUMMINGS: [Inaudible]

HONOURABLE MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members this ...

HONOURABLE ST CLAIR LEACOCK: Why are they present in the House?

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable House stands suspended until the order for the withdrawal of the Leader of the Opposition is completed. [Knocking of Gavel on desk] House stands suspended.

House suspended at 10:45

House resumed at 10:57

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Please sit. Honourable Members of the Opposition those of you except the Leader of the Opposition who has been asked to withdraw from the Chamber take your seat. Honourable Members of the Opposition, excluding the Leader of the Opposition, could you kindly take your seat?

Honourable Members, it appears to me that the Members of the Opposition seek to display an attitude of disrespect for the Chair and therefore under Rule 43(5) I am ruling that all Members of the Opposition be withdrawn from this Honourable House. That is my ruling, and I am asking again the Sergeant at Arms to seek the assistance of the other officers who are here, police officers who are here in the House to have them removed from this House. And again Honourable Members I will suspend this session until such is done. I am calling on the Sergeant at Arms with the assistance of the police to have these Members be forcibly removed from this Honourable House. [Knocking of Gavel on Desk] Session suspended.

House suspended at 11:00

House resumed at 11:13

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Pray be seated. Honourable Members, I must comment that in all my years and it is seventeen years be it that I had some broken times but all told seventeen years I have been a Member of this Parliament, and I have never witnessed such disrespect for this Honourable House as I have witnessed now. And I must say that as long as I remain Speaker of the Honourable House and some of you may be critical of me because of my patience, but this is one area of my life which I try to develop very well: patience. I never try to do anything rashly or harshly unless the situation demands it. And for those of you who in this Honourable House and throughout the community witnessing you would have noticed the kind of patience that I exercised in trying to get a peaceable removal of the Leader of the Opposition in the first case from the House, and secondly when that failed the Honourable Member for Central Kingstown came and we had a conversation and I asked him to kindly ask his Leader to leave the House. He gave me the assurance that he was going to do that but obviously, instead he himself went and joined the group of them: band themselves together and refused to leave the House. And of course, I had no other reason but to ask the entire membership of the Opposition to leave this Honourable House. And I will insist at all times that law and order be prevailed here in this parliament and the Constitution must be respected at all times.

We will resume at this time, the meeting. Honourable Prime Minister you were moving.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, as Leader of this House may I crave your indulgence to make a brief comment.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: You may Honourable.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this parliament for seventeen years continuously and currently the longest serving Member in this Honourable House. I have been a student of Parliamentary Democracy in St Vincent and the Grenadines; I have been a student of Parliamentary Democracy in the Commonwealth Caribbean and in other parts of the world. And what we have witnessed today by the Opposition has never occurred in this parliament. The Universal Adult Suffrage became the Law in 1951 – one man one vote; one person one vote, once you are an adult 21 years and over and subsequently amended to eighteen years and over. And the reason why we have never seen something like this is like every elected member hitherto always respected the dignity of this House. Every member hitherto more importantly respected the dignity and the rights of every individual citizen, because we have a representative democracy. And the people put us here, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it is their right to vote, their freedom and their dignity why we are here. We encapsulate in an integrated and in a holistic manner these noble attributes. We have seen today a subversion of them by the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, this country's constitution at Section 37 says very simply:-

“Subject to the provisions of this constitution, parliament may make laws for peace, order and good government of St Vincent and the Grenadines”.

That is what we are about today. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, made a request under Standing Order

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Fifty nine.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Fifty nine. Mr. Speaker, the truth is this, there was no necessity for you to entertain the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on that but you did. That Standing Order says:-

“The member in charge of the Bill

That is me.

may make a Motion without notice for its withdrawal either before the commencement of public business or when any stage of the Bill is reached in the order of the business”.

I am the mover of the Bill I have the carriage of the Bill and Mr. Speaker; I am the mover in my capacity as Prime Minister and Minister of Legal Affairs. You permitted him to make his statement he never gave an opportunity...

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Exactly.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: ...for me to reply, to say whether or not I was going to accede to his request to shelve the Bill; to put it for some other day or to withdraw it permanently. He awaited no response; he simply took his ground in contumelious disregard of the authority of the Speaker, and of the House. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, they came here collectively as we would say on the streets *“to mek a bad”*. They realized that the people do not support their protest and one can gauge that from what is happening outside. This is the third time, third failure, so they want, as again the boys would say on the block, *“they came here to ramajé”*. But that is not the business of parliament. We come here to make laws as Section 37 of the Constitution says:

“To make laws for the peace, order and good governance”.

And Mr. Speaker, the basis on which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked that the Bill be withdrawn. He said that this Bill in addition to another Bill, the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill. Well that Bill has now become the Law of the land, it was passed here, it has been assented to by His Excellency, it has been published in the Gazette and from the 1st March that Bill is a Law; it is No. 2 of 2011 it is the Law of the land. He said that that and this one infringe rights, freedom and democracy presumably the rights of individuals. But Mr. Speaker, Section 16 of the Constitution addresses how any infringement of any right ought to be dealt with or any allegation of any infringement. Section 16:1:-

“If any person alleges that any of the provisions of sections 2-15 inclusive of this constitution

That is the Bill of Rights, the whole bundle of Rights.

has been, is being or is likely to be contravened in relation to him or in the case of a person who is detained. If any other person alleges such a contravention in relation to detained person, then without prejudice to any other action with respect to the same matter that is lawfully available that person or that other person may apply to the High Court for redress”.

So, that if he is alleging that the rights and freedoms of individuals in relation to the first Bill which is now an Act has been or is likely or is being contravened in relation to him, he can go to the High Court for redress. And the Constitution goes on as to the procedure, and the Constitution goes on further to show how you can appeal to the Court of Appeal and then to the Privy Council. So, you do not try to mash up the House, the very place which is making laws for good order and good government.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the nature of competitive politics that parliamentarians from one time or another may wish to leave the House, they may have clashes with the Speaker but they will go voluntarily, either before the Speaker names them, before a motion or before any order and will go. Instead of that what we had today was really a terrible display of undemocratic conduct, disrespect to the House and an undermining of people's rights and the dignity of individuals and the dignity of the House. This is what took place here today. It is very significant, Mr. Speaker, that there was one Member who stayed behind, and did not get involved in the protection of the Leader of the Opposition. I am talking about the circle, the Honourable Member for Central Kingstown stayed back and he left – he said to the police, I heard him say: “Do not touch me, I am leaving voluntarily”. Or words to that effect; so, I must say that in his favour. I do not know whether he had sought to be part of a cordon to protect the Leader of the Opposition but I know what I saw in relation to him, he was not part of the general melee and he himself left of his own volition. This is what, Mr. Speaker, I observed.

Mr. Speaker, to answer specifically the matter which the Leader of the Opposition raised to withdraw this Bill, to shelve it, I inform this Honourable House it is not the intention of the Government to withdraw or to shelve this Bill. It is our intention to put it in a Select Committee and to have civil society and the Opposition, if they wish to participate, in a detailed discussion at the Select Committee. It is a very straight forward Bill. Mr. Speaker, I want to say also I have asked that the Honourable Attorney General circulate to all Members of the House an article which I have seen written by Mr. Parnell Campbell QC; and I have also seen an article written by a Lawyer Kay Bacchus Gill to have them circulate it to the Members of this Honourable House and also of the Select Committee, so that they can in their study of this Bill, they can see how they ought to proceed to make laws for the good order and good governance of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Representation of the People Act be read a first time. The object and reason of the Bill is to amend Section 51 of the Representation of the People Act by repealing Subsection 3 and 4.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second it.

Question put and agreed to

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Select Committee on the side of the Government as follows - The Representation of the People. Mr. Speaker, let me begin:-

- Honourable Saboto Caesar
Minister for Tourism

- Honourable Douglas Slater
Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Honourable Elvis Charles
Parliamentary Secretary Office of the Prime Minister
- Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister
- Honourable Judith Jones-Morgan
Attorney General

Four plus the Attorney General, we expect the Opposition to name three persons.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: All right.

4. GOVERNOR GENERAL'S EMOLUMENTS AND PENSION AMENDMENT BILL

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Governor General's Emoluments and Pension Amendment Act be read a first time. The Purpose of the this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is simply to add a small figure to the salary of the Governor General to bring it in line with what increase the Public Servants received last year.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second it.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute.

Question put and agreed to

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move under Standing Order 48(2) that the Bill be taken through all its stages at today's sitting and passed.

Question put and agreed to

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSLAVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Governor General's Emolument and Pension Act be read a second time.

HONOURABLE GIRLYN MIGUEL: I second it.

Question put and agreed to

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Debate on the Bill.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, this Bill ought to have come on the day when we had passed the Appropriation Bill and as it says, it is really increasing the Governor General's Emoluments from \$115,824.00 a year to \$121,615.00 a year. Mr. Speaker, the Governor General's emoluments do not form part, normally, Mr. Speaker, of the Appropriation Bill, it is dealt with separately, and this is why we have this Bill come in this form. We do this from year to year, Mr. Speaker. I am obliged.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. No further debate?

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, as I said this is a straight forward matter. I beg to move that this Honourable House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**House resolved into a committee
House resumed**

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have the honour to report that a Bill to amend the Governor General's Emoluments and Pension Act has passed the Committee stage without amendment.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Governor General's Emolument and Pension Act be read a third time by title and passed.

Question put and agreed to

5. STATUS OF CHILDREN BILL 2010

HONOURABLE FREDERICK STEPHENSON: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move the introduction and the first reading of the Status of Children Bill 2011. The purpose of this Bill is clearly enunciated in its long title: that is to provide for the equal status of children.

Question put and agreed to

HONOURABLE FREDERICK STEPHENSON: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, and I beg to nominate the Committee Members on this side of the House.

- Honourable Girlyn Miguel
Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Education
- Honourable Maxwell Charles
Minister of National Reconciliation
- Honourable Senator David Browne
Deputy Speaker
- Honourable Judith Jones-Morgan
The Attorney General
- Honourable Frederick Stephenson
Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development (et cetera)

6. RECOVERY OF POSSESSION AMENDMENT BILL 2011

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move a Bill for an Act to amend the Recovery of Possession Amendment Act and that it be read a first time. The purpose of the Bill is simply to increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrate Court in addressing recovery of possession matters from \$1200 a year that is to say \$100 per month to \$18,000 or \$1500 per month.

Question put and agreed to

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move under Standing Order 48(2) that this Bill be taken through all its stages at today's sitting and passed.

Question put and agreed to

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move that a Bill for an act to amend the Recovery of Possession Amendment Act be read a second time.

Question put and agreed to

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Debate on the Bill.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, the impulse for the Recovery of Possession Amendment Act which is before us came from the distinguished Chief Magistrate. On the 27th January this year, she wrote the Honourable Attorney General in the following terms which letter was drawn to my attention by the Honourable Attorney General and that is why we are where we are now. She wrote:-

“Dear Attorney General

Re: Recovery of Possession Act

Grateful if consideration could be given to the amendment of Section (3) of the Act at captioned to increase the summary jurisdiction.”

That is to say the jurisdiction at the Magistrate Court.

At present possession of premises with rents above \$100 per month can only be recovered in the High Court. Kindly note that this Act is a 1926 piece of legislation, last amended in 1979; it puts undue financial pressure on landlords and tenants alike and in some cases is a complete deterrent.

Your usual kindness is solicited.

Yours Faithfully

*Sonya Young
Chief Magistrate”*

Mr. Speaker, this eminently sensible piece of legislation, in the same way that the Director of Public Prosecution had written regarding the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, which is now the law of the land. And we are very pleased that judicial officers and legal personnel write to us. There is just one matter, Mr. Speaker, it is true that the Chief Magistrate says a 1926 piece of legislation: it is in the 1926 volume because the Laws of St Vincent and the Grenadines were bounded put together in 1926, and that was the Law which was quoted and any law subsequently was put in an individual volume. And then in 1990 there was a generalized revision of the Laws and then of course, under the distinguished Attorney General currently, there is now revised laws 2009 and those would be proclaimed very shortly. But though the Chief Magistrate said 1926, the Law actually came into being on 3rd August, 1839 one year after the abolition of slavery. And we have had several amendments since 1945, 1961, 1976 and 1978, and from time to time this particular section they increased the amount, and when one reads the Law, one sees there are many things which perhaps today we

require to be further amended. It is a practical piece of law the real drawback is this limitation on the Magistrate jurisdiction.

So that is it Mr. Speaker, it is very sensible and I am sure that landlords and tenants would be very pleased to have the jurisdiction at the Magistrate increase.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Further debate? There seems to be no further debate, Honourable Prime Minister.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: I beg to move that this Honourable House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**Question put and agreed to
House resolved into a committee
House resumed**

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have the honour to report that a Bill for an act to amend the Recovery of Possession Act has passed the Committee stage without amendment.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Recovery of Possession Act be read a third time by title and passed.

Question put and agreed to

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, may I as Leader of this Honourable House remind Mr. Speaker of one matter which was raised earlier on which there was no determination. I am not asking for any determination, I am just reminding the Honourable Speaker that I had raised it in relation to the Honourable Senator Frederick who without permission was taking photographs with her cell phone inside of this House and that she herself said “Well, I have already sent it on the face book”. So, I bring that to the Speaker’s attention for whatever that is worth. I know it was not dealt with at the time, I said I am not asking that it be dealt with here, the Honourable Senator is absent and it is never a good thing, Mr. Speaker, to address a matter in someone’s absence since it may touch upon an issue of discipline. A person has a right to be heard. That is the matter which I simply wish to remind the Honourable Speaker about before I move the adjournment.

HONOURABLE MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Let me just respond to that because as Honourable Members would be aware I did mention the issue and told her that she had no right and we had a short discussion where I said to her ... where she raised the question that other persons were taking pictures and I indicated to her that those

persons are doing so with the permission of the Speaker. I think at one point she indicated that she had already removed the picture from her cell phone. The question also arose as to whether the picture been sent to Facebook but of course that is one area now that I will have to monitor, because she had indicated to me and when she said she had removed the picture from her cell phone I do not expect then that she meant having sent it to Facebook that she would have removed it. I thought she would have entirely removed the picture from her cell phone. So, the question of the picture going to Facebook is something that I would have to monitor and of course would deal with sometime in the future.

DR. THE HONOURABLE RALPH GONSALVES: Mr. Speaker, I just want to also in the circumstances to recall myself that you had indicated on more than one occasion that Honourable Members must either put their cell phones on silence or switch them off. The indication is that they may not use but clearly no one had anticipated that someone would actually want to go beyond the bounds to become a journalist and a photo net worker from inside of the Parliament. So, that is another matter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker I beg to move that this Honourable House do stand adjourned to Tuesday March 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

**Question put and agreed to
House adjourned at 11:40 a.m.**