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PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1979

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Ottenheimer): Order, please!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Lands and Forests.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report of the C.A. Pippy Park Commission and the Annual Report of the Public Service Commission.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice on tomorrow I will ask leave to move the following, "An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act." (Bill No. 27)

MR. HICKMAN: What is going on? We are going to abolish it.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if the taping which was admittedly done by members of the CID in connection with enquiries when they have been talking to witnesses or possible witnesses before enquiries or trials or anything like that, if that was done with the knowledge of, or the approval of the minister or to his knowledge anyone in the Department of Justice?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, it was not. I had not heard of it until it was raised in this House or I saw it in the paper that morning and raised in this hon. House by a member opposite.

MR. NEARY: But you condoned it. You said you condoned it.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Ottenheimer): Order, please!

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. W. ROWE: Would the hon. Minister of Justice indicate to the House whether he or anyone in the department, a predecessor of his, at any time - or any official of the department has ever issued instructions to the CID, or any police agency for that matter, not to involve themselves in that kind of activity, namely the taping of conversations with people when they are interviewing possible or perspective witnesses?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge no instructions were ever issued for a very simple reason; the police in carrying out their investigations are obliged to comply with the law and with the provisions of the Criminal Code. But to my knowledge instructions were never issued. Now I cannot speak for any instructions that may have been issued down the line but certainly not by me and I suspect not by my predecessor in office.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. W. ROWE: Is the hon. minister telling us that when he read or heard of the taping of conversations by police officers or any police agency that this is the first time that he or any member to his knowledge of his administration in the Department of Justice knew that taping was going on in this regard or in this way?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: That is correct, Mr. Speaker, and there would be no reason for anyone to know because, you know, we have the right to assume that any recording or interceptions carried out pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Code and there the law is laid down very clearly indeed and consequently I would have no reason to know and -

POWER FAILURE

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I suggest we take a short recess.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands recessed indeterminately.

(Recess)

MR. SPEAKER: It is my understanding that the House adjourn until 3:00 P.M.

Those in favour 'aye',
contrary 'nay', carried.

This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, at 3:00 P.M.