

8 March, 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION

The Hon R M Clinton has given notice on 8th March 2018 that he proposes to move the following motion at the next meeting of Parliament:

"This House notes that the last Finance Bill presented to this house was in March 1987 by an AACR Government more than 30 years ago and that the practice of presenting a Bill specifically for tax altering measures was discontinued by the 1988 GSLP Government.

This House further notes the reason given by the Hon. Sir Joe Bossano in April 1988 for the change in practice was to introduce a "more flexible fiscal system...where tariffs, duties or whatever charges are made are capable of quick adjustments rather than a requirement to come to the House and change the law" and that not presenting a Finance Bill has been the continued practice of successive Governments since.

Notes that there are recent examples of bills to amend tax legislation that require backdating in order to give effect to Budget measures announced in previous years and that this is unsatisfactory.

Resolves that for the sake of improving financial administration, Parliamentary debate and legal certainty to taxpayers that either:

- (a) the practice of presenting a Finance Bill at Budget time together with the Appropriation Bill be reintroduced with immediate effect; or
- (b) (to preserve any desired fiscal flexibility) that the House consider and pass individual resolutions on any measure requiring legislative change at the time it considers the Appropriation Bill and that all such measures requiring legislative change that are so approved by resolution be encompassed in a Finance Bill to be presented to the House within three months of the passage of the Appropriation Bill."



Simon C Galliano
(Acting) Clerk to the Parliament