**STATES OF JERSEY**

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**THURSDAY, 1st MARCH 2018**

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### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER

### 1. The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):

Well, ladies and gentlemen, welcome and, remnants of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, and I congratulate those of our colleagues who have managed to get away and hope that those of you who are going to be delayed will enjoy the pleasures of Jersey for another day or 2. As is this is the closing ceremony, as it were, we have a small number of speeches and I would firstly call upon Senator Sir Philip Bailhache, Minister for External Relations for Jersey.

### Senator P.M. Bailhache (The Minister for External Relations):

It is a great pleasure to be here among representatives of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament. I used to think I was something of a Commonwealth man because I am lawyer by profession and when I first qualified as a lawyer I became a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and later on I was elected as a Member of this Assembly in 1972 and I became a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Then I eventually progressed and sat in the seat, where the Chairman is sitting at the moment, as the Bailiff and Presiding Officer of this Assembly and I used to attend the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Association conferences. I remember very well one of those conferences which took place in Montebello in Canada and I was reminded of that this morning. I do not know if there are any Canadians and near Canadians present this morning but they will obviously be entirely happy in this frozen climate that we have here. When I was in Montebello the temperature dropped to minus 20 and all Canadians were extremely happy. Those who came from Africa spent their entire time huddled around the fire in the middle of the concourse and the proceedings were not easy to progress because those who were not accustomed to the climate tended to stick to the fire and not want to come in to the conference room. A whole lot of stuff has been prepared for me to say to you this morning about the constitutional history of Jersey but when I came through the door this morning the Greffier told me that you had already had a good dose of Jersey's constitutional history so perhaps I ought to think about something else to talk about. Perhaps I will just remind you, in case you have not been told this or you might have forgotten, that our constitutional history in this Island really starts in the year 1204, which was the year when King John lost continental Normandy to the French king. Jersey was then part of the Duchy of Normandy and Normandy and England, and a large part of France, became united in the Plantagenet Empire. A result of that over the years was that we built up the autonomy that was granted to us in 1204 because most of the people in Jersey in that year spoke French. They traded with the Normans. They had properties in Normandy. They had religious connections with the Norman mainland and why on earth would they not want to throw in their lot with the French king. They were essentially, one might have thought, French but the Jersey people of that time were very attached, I think, to 2 things. The first thing that they were attached to was their independence of thinking, all Islanders are independent of character, and the Jersey people were no exception to that. So they did not want to be merged into the country which had conquered Normandy. The second reason was that King John of England was very keen to secure a foothold close to France so that he could station troops here and he offered privileges to the Channel Islanders, which they were very glad to accept. One of those privileges, as you have been told, was the privilege of being governed by their own laws and of having their own government or administration. So that was how the autonomy of Jersey began and over the years it built up and our parliamentary Assembly emerged in the 16th century and over the next 200 or 300 years we became even more responsible for our own affairs as the time went by. So we come forward to the latter part of the 20th century and, as you will know, we were invaded and occupied by Germany during the Second World War and for 5 years the Jersey people were essentially on their own. That too, I think, led to a much greater sense of being responsible for yourself and for making decisions without being always told what to do. After the liberation in 1945 the Islanders had political parties for a short time but one political party was extremely successful and gradually party politics faded away until we reached the position that we have today where we have one small party, which has 3 Members of our parliament, but otherwise everyone is an independent apart from what those 3 individuals like to describe as the Establishment Party, which I am sure includes the Chief Minister and myself. It does not really exist but it is something which others like to attribute to us. One of the important things that has happened in the last 15 years, which I thought I might share with you, is the relationship of Jersey to the outside world and I think this relates to Jersey's relationship to the Commonwealth. In 2007 the Chief Minister of the day and the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain signed an agreement which acknowledged that Jersey and the U.K. (United Kingdom) had different aspirations from time to time. They had different political interests and that Jersey's political interests were entitled to be developed independently of the international interests of the United Kingdom. The result of that, a few years later, was that we started to set up offices overseas in those places where we had interests.

[9:45]

We opened up an office with Guernsey in Brussels. We opened an office in Normandy, which is our bridgehead to France, and we opened up an office in London. In 2010 the Justice Select Committee of the House of Commons decided to conduct an inquiry into the relationship between the U.K. and Jersey and in particular into the way in which the Ministry of Justice, which is the department to which we relate, was looking after the interests of Jersey. One of the important conclusions of the report of the Select Committee was that we should be entitled to entrustments to conduct foreign affairs on our own behalf. The general rule is that the United Kingdom is responsible for our international relationships and, therefore, we do not, in theory, conduct foreign affairs but the Select Committee sensibly recognised that we needed to protect our interests overseas to a certain extent and we have used an entrustment to negotiate tax agreements to a very great extent over the last few years. We have, I think, concluded 50 or 60 double taxation agreements and tax information exchange agreements. At the moment we are negotiating with the United Kingdom Government for an entrustment to negotiate and conclude bilateral investment treaties, investment protection treaties, so that people who have assets in Jersey, which they wish to invest overseas in particular markets in which we are interested, will able to have protection for the investments that they make. We have not quite got over the line in respect of that entrustment yet but I hope that that will happen very shortly. So we are not an independent state but we are exercising a much greater autonomy than we ever have done before. We realised that we were not an independent state completely in Bratislava this week where, very unfortunately, an application that had been made by the Jersey Football Association to join U.E.F.A. (Union of European Football Associations) and to develop football in this Island was refused because the authorities in U.E.F.A. took the view, I am afraid they were correct in this respect, that Jersey did not qualify under the U.E.F.A. statutes because we were not a country that was recognised as independent by the United Nations. The text of the relevant statute was very ambiguous and we thought that we had an argument that could be put on behalf of the Jersey Football Association but in the event the application was unsuccessful although we have made a mark. The president of the J.F.A. (Jersey Football Association) was, as I say, in Bratislava and addressed the congress and we hope that we will be able to join other places, like Gibraltar, the Faroe Islands and other countries, which are not independent but which have been admitted to U.E.F.A. So what about the Commonwealth? The Commonwealth is, I think, very important to Jersey. As we know, it is a group of countries which makes up 2.5 billion people I think and embraces the entire globe from Canada to India to Australia and, of course, a large number of very small countries and territories like Jersey. So the Commonwealth, I think, is of enormous benefit to us in a huge number of ways. It enables us to engage with the international community in a way which we would not otherwise be able to do. It enables our judges and magistrates to meet judges and magistrates from all over the Commonwealth and to share experiences and views with them. It enables our parliamentarians to cross the Commonwealth and to learn from other parliamentarians as to the difficulties that they have experienced and the excitements that they have had, the successes and failures, and to make contacts with other people in different countries and of different cultures and nations and races and so on and all that is hugely important to us because, as an Island, and I am sure many of you have come from islands and you will know this to be true, as an Island we like to look outwards. We do not like to be inward looking and narrow in our perspectives. We like to share our lives with those from other countries and the Commonwealth is, from my perspective, a wonderful institution in that respect. So with that I am going to hand over to the Chief Minister, I think. No, not yet.

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Shortly.

### Senator P.M. Bailhache:

Shortly, sorry. It is great pleasure to be with you. I hope that you have enjoyed your time in Jersey and I hope that you have learnt things both from each other and from those Islanders whom you have met while you have been here and that you will come back on another occasion. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

In the absence of the Chief Minister of Commonwealthland, who has, as I have mentioned, been able to escape this morning, I would call on the Minister for Finance, Mr. Talha Haroon, to address us.

### Mr. T. Haroon (Minister for Finance):

To those of you who do not know there was a coup last night and I have taken over. No, Mark had a flight to catch so I am filling in for him and I hope I will be able to convey the gratitude from the entire Government side towards everyone who has been able to make this wonderful event happen. I think on behalf of our own entire Government Party we believe that this event has gone wonderfully well. It was arranged very well and although the weather was horrible **[Laughter]** the warmth of Jersey people more than made up for it and **[Approbation]** thank you. I think the biggest thing that we can take from this event is what we have learnt from each other. For me, at a personal level, I never thought that a system like Jersey, where there is no opposition per se, can work in real life. I still do not think how it works but **[Laughter]** I really do not know but it does here. So that is a good thing to know. I would like to thank all the mentors. I think they were extremely helpful to us, especially in their caucus meetings. There was this time when a real coup was happening in Commonwealthland and the mentors were able to guide us through that. So their help in that situation was extremely helpful to us to navigate that process. I think I would also like to thank all the table officers, the ones who were in front of us and the ones who were behind, like the ones sitting up there and the ones behind us because everyone **[Approbation]** tirelessly worked very hard to make it real and because I work in National Assembly of Pakistan for me it felt like it was a real event because that is exactly how table officers are usually working there and this was great. I would also like to our Presiding Officer. I think **[Approbation]** usually the speakers are not liked by Members because, as Members, we want them to follow us. We want them to follow our desires and wishes but they usually follow rules but I think I can say on behalf of every one of us that we really liked you. You were wonderfully well. **[Laughter]** There was this leader of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, and his outer vikery was called "friend not master". That is another thing that he was a military dictator but still he said "friend not master" and I think I can say that you, you were like a friend to us, not a master. **[Approbation]** Last but not least, I would like to thank the people from C.P.A. (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association). I cannot name them all because I do not really remember the names of everyone that was here so I am simply going to club them together. I think they really took care of us from the day that we arrived from the airport until the day, I think, that we are going to leave because flights have been cancelled so I am hoping that they are also going to take care of us until we leave Jersey. I would really like to thank them. I think they did wonderfully well as has been the past practice; that they have arranged C.Y.P. (Commonwealth Youth Parliament) very well. Lastly, I do not know whether we will meet again because I think we come from very diverse places. We come from places where people in New South Wales have beards, I did not know that. **[Interruption]** To people from Falkland Islands, from Caribbean, from Pacific; these are so diverse places that I do not think I will ever be able to meet or see those places and those people again but if it is a goodbye I think I like to say that it was a pleasure meeting all of you and I hope, just like me, everyone had learned from each other and it has been a wonderful experience and it is something that can contribute towards our lives through whatever our future takes us. I hope that this event will be able to replicate that feeling of tolerance, of acceptance, of working with each other. That we have learnt from here and we can use that in real life. Thank you very much. **[Approbation]**

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Thank you, Mr. Haroon. I will now call upon the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Pierre de Garis, for his closing comments.

### Mr. P. de Garis (Leader of the Opposition):

I think this is probably one of the few cases where it does not help the Opposition to go second and at the risk of repeating a lot of what my honourable friend has said, I think the debt of gratitude that we all feel is monumental and significant to everyone here. I mean not only the fantastic job done by the Presiding Officers, the Greffe, the C.P.A. staff, the mentors, Jersey, Jersey people, the staff in the hotels and the people who hosted some fantastic dinners and some fantastic events over the past week. It has really been a very special occasion. But also, I think, very importantly my thanks go to every single Member here. Everyone has come a very long way and in particular I think I have travelled very far to be here and it has been a difficult one. Obviously jetlag is not pleasant for everyone and I am pleased that we have all been able to get over those challenges and come together and work in such a fantastic way. I think you cannot ignore the fact that an event like this, bringing together people from so many different places with different histories, cultures and all that goes along with that; it is undeniable that this event has had challenges and we have faced adversity among ourselves but I think it is testament to the Commonwealth and the demonstrable values that we all share in that that has allowed us to come together and work through those and find shared agreement, consensus and common ground among everyone here. I think that really has shown in the quality of the debate, the quality of the friendships that have been created because I know for a fact there have been many fantastic friendships made just over the course of the past 5 days and I think that goes hand in hand. It challenges obviously the learning and I think we have all learnt not only a lot about each other but a lot about ourselves and I think personally I can say this event has had a profound impact on myself and perhaps my outlook on leadership and what I need to perhaps work on for the future to improve myself. I would like to think everyone else has perhaps taken things from this and will help us grow not only as individuals and parliamentarians but as members of the Commonwealth and as people. I mean it has been great for me particularly being such a unified party and a strong party and while we have been in opposition I would like to think ... we all know who has been in control of this parliament. I think it has all come together in such a fantastic way. Everything that happens outside the Chamber has definitely reflected within the Chamber and I think for that reason alone we have got to be very grateful to everyone that has been here and everyone that brought us together and yet while it is a sad day in many regards because, as my honourable friend said, there are so many people here from so many different places it would be impossible to see everything and do everything in one lifetime but I mean I think I would like to speak for everyone when I say that I hope the memories that we have shared and created together will be very happy memories and fond memories and memories we will share with friends, family, from now and until the end. I would like to just, yes, say thank you everyone really. So thank you very much. [**Approbation]**

[10:00]

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

I call upon Arlene Bussette from the C.P.A.'s secretariat.

### Ms. A. Bussette (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat):

Senator Sir Philip Bailhache, Minister for External Relations; Senator Ian Gorst, Chief Minister, Connétable Len Norman, Chairman of the C.P.A. Jersey Branch; honourable Members of Parliament; Mr. Mark Egan, Greffier of the States of Jersey; Members of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament; distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning again to everyone. Let me begin by congratulating each of our youth parliamentarians for the role that you have played in the delivery of a successful 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament. Three days ago we began a journey. It was a journey which brought together 49 strangers from far flung corners of the Commonwealth. A journey which has facilitated the building of friendships across regions and which enabled, for example, a young person from one of the Commonwealth's tiniest jurisdictions, Niue, to build a friendship with a representative from the Commonwealth's largest and oldest democracy, India. I have heard conversations about ice cream in Montserrat; bananas, or the lack thereof, in Falkland Islands; beautiful shirts being crafted by grandmothers in Samoa and many more. As someone who has been fortunate to observe the delivery of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament over the past 8 years I know the significance of the friendships that you have formed in the last few days and I trust that that has not been lost on you. When you first met in this esteemed House some of the phrases and statements which were used to describe you included things like; already leaders in your community, leaders today and tomorrow. You are here as a statement of the commitment of the Commonwealth to young people; leaders now. In my humble opinion you have demonstrated that these words were not idly placed and in fact that you have confirmed that the future of the Commonwealth is indeed in good hands. I am certain that all of those who, like me, have observed your activities over the last 3 days will agree that you have demonstrated a clear understanding of the workings of a democratic government system which is the hallmark of how laws are made and changed in the Commonwealth in the interests of its people. Congratulations to all of you for your participation in the C.P.A.'s flagship programme. Looking back at the start, from my fortunate position of an observer, to the process of the 9th C.Y.P. it might be said that there was a shaky beginning. However, you took stock, you reflected, you regrouped and you came back as a stronger unit. It is my hope that if there is one thing you take away from this experience of the 9th C.Y.P. it will be that unity. That understanding of the importance of inclusivity, a word many of you by the end of day 2 were using all the time. The ability to recognise differences and to identify strengths within those differences, the understanding that the true grounding of a leader is his or her ... and I should really say her or his ability to carry others with you. Therefore, it is not about how many times you fall but the fact that you rise is the true mark of your success and I think you all demonstrated that. Over the last 3 days you demonstrated that world democracy is in safe hands. You had serious experience of plenary discussion, there was a lot humour, maybe too much at times, but you had fun and I think that was very important. So you listen. The Commonwealth Youth Parliament is about learning and I congratulate all of you for demonstrating maturity and a clear understanding of issues such as healthcare and education. We, at the C.P.A., need to encourage and maintain your interest in your branch's political development and you need to become the flagbearers for the high democratic standards that can be emulated. As you know, our world today is challenged by a number of realities, including failing economies, climate change and the world public continues to search for value in politics. Your interest in the process of democratic government demonstrates a commitment to finding workable solutions that can be applied to the Commonwealth family. I, therefore, wish to thank all those involved in making this activity a success, most importantly the States of Jersey. My thanks to Mr. Mark Egan and his team, to Mark for coming to London, to coming to the C.P.A. headquarters and discussing the 9th C.Y.P., for agreeing to host the event and for delivering a very successful programme. I also wish to thank all the Members of the Jersey States Assembly who gave their time to share their experience with you and to our mentors from the Commonwealth Diaspora. Honourable Jermaine Figueira from Guyana, Deputy Sam Mézec from Jersey, Honourable John Paul Mirigwi from Kenya and Honourable Temard Butterfield from Turks and Caicos, thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to assist the C.P.A. with this programme. I also wish to thank most sincerely Constable Len Norman, chairman of the C.P.A., Jersey Branch **[Approbation]** for his wisdom while in chair and for his full involvement and input into this programme. So thank you very much. I wish to congratulate my colleagues from the C.P.A. headquarters and the C.P.A. Jersey Branch as well as our colleague from the C.P.A. Mauritius Branch who is also here and has been assisting us. This project would not be what it was in the last 3 days if it was not for all of us working together. On a final note, I know if the secretary general was here he would say that these activities, such as the C.Y.P., continue to remind us at the C.P.A. headquarters that the youth of the Commonwealth are hungry to participate in the process of strengthening democracy. It is also for you to know that this week your experience of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament is just the beginning and it is about you going back and giving back to your communities what you have learned. In this regard, as I have mentioned yesterday, 2 of you will be selected to attend the next Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference where you will have the opportunity to participate in a youth roundtable with parliamentarians from around the Commonwealth. You will have an opportunity at that event to discuss and share your experience here. Again, I thank you for your participation and as you return to your respective branches I wish you safe travel and continued success and please remember my name. It is Arlene. Thank you very much. **[Approbation]**

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Finally, I call upon Jersey's Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst.

### Senator I.J. Gorst (The Chief Minister):

I hope that you have all enjoyed your warm welcome that you have received here in Jersey. Perhaps I could start by wishing a happy St. David's Day to our colleagues. Also I think it is appropriate that we put on record again that our thoughts and support remain with Premier Smith and our friends in the B.V.I. (British Virgin Islands) because we obviously would have had a truly warm welcome had we been meeting there this week rather than here. We should not, I think, underestimate the strength that they, in the B.V.I., draw from being connected to the Commonwealth and at times of such devastation how we can, from around the globe, support each other through events that some of us, in more temporal climates, cannot really begin to understand the effect that it can have and the devastation it can have on such a community. So I hope that you have enjoyed your time here in Commonwealthland. I think the Minister for Finance said: "He, having enjoyed it, still does not understand how it works." Well, perhaps he has been speaking to too many Islanders and they have said they are not quite sure how it works either but it does work and for me it has been absolutely fascinating following on social media the ups and downs of this parliamentary session over the last 3 days. I do not think it is an overstatement to say it has really mirrored the last 3 and a half years, the toing and froing, the agreement and then disagreement, the changing of minds, the winning of arguments. In our independent system, from time to time, it really is the case that oratory can change the course of history and can change the course of any given piece of legislation. Of course, from where I sit I do not like that. I would like to have come into this Assembly knowing whether the Government is going to be successful or not but I can never ever be sure and that is surely only good for democracy. So you have had votes of no confidence. You have had regrouping, setting up of new parties, the Opposition in the ascendancy, only for the Government in that instance to then win the day and the chess pieces all to have changed. But I am sure that you all are aware that in whatever community we live, wherever we are around the world and in an independent system where the government cannot be certain of getting its business approved, it truly is the case that to be a leader is an honour and to lead is to serve. We have heard a lot about the Commonwealth in these closing speeches, particularly the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and I make no apology for again returning to that theme because I think it is extremely important. We, here in Jersey, see that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is intrinsic to the success of the Commonwealth. I think we would all agree that there are changes of a global nature taking place before our very eyes. Of course we, here, close to the United Kingdom, recognise the changes of Brexit but we also, looking further afield, recognise the shifting, I think we can say, of the tectonic plates of trade, of wealth and how they are moving from what we would think of as Western European democratic states, right across the globe. I do not think that is something that we should be afraid of. I do not think it is something that we should seek to hinder. Rather I think it is something that we should support. We should seek to understand because that is happening. Therefore, for me and for us here in Jersey, never has the Commonwealth's time been as relevant as it is today because it brings countries, it brings people together for the global benefit as well as for local benefit. I think it is these global changes that are exciting and that the Commonwealth and the C.P.A. in particular helps all of us to be a part of. So, for me, it has been a pleasure to meet some of you and to speak with some of you. I am sorry that I have not got to speak to all of you. I said at your opening session that I already sensed that you were leaders today not just of tomorrow. We, in Jersey, I think, can be extremely proud, and I am extremely proud, of our young people. Whenever I meet and talk to young people I have an overwhelming sense that our future is bright and can be successful.

[10:15]

We, in Jersey, have just created a children's commissioner and as part of that recruitment process we set up a youth panel and they met the candidates for that particular position before the formal panel met and they have very much led that process of recruiting a children's commissioner for Jersey. I was, once again, impressed with the professionalism that they carried out that process; far more than I think would have been the case when I was their age. I suppose for me, personally, of course, I have also enjoyed speaking with some of you because I hope you do not take this in a derogatory way, but I felt absolutely at home among political geeks and those interested in politics and government because I think that also goes a long way to helping those of us in politics do what we do and it is an important part of being called to lead in this particular way. Understanding processes, understanding governments, understanding how the system works, but ultimately understanding that it is the privilege to serve the community in which one lives, to listen, to make informed decisions and to always endeavour to act in the best interest of that community. So, I will end by thanking, again, those who have already been thanked. We, in Jersey, know, do we not, the great work of the Greffe and of his department and I thank them again for the way that they have worked with the C.P.A. and I am grateful to all of those from C.P.A. headquarters who have helped put on this event and the Greffe as well. I hope that all members of this 9th Youth Parliament have enjoyed their time here and I am grateful for all the effort put in on behalf of Jersey and on behalf of this Assembly. I think with the world ever decreasing that you will leave this place ... hopefully you leave this Island in a not too distant future but I think that you will meet again. This connection with the C.P.A., this connection with the Commonwealth, will mean, I think, that you will meet each other again and I would encourage you to keep in contact; not just for your own personal benefit but it will give personal benefit because the relationships that you have started to form today in the future can help build a more peaceful, a more co-ordinated, a more connected world than the one that we have today. Despite all of those changes of trade there is more division, there is more populist politics that is trying to create division and divide peoples around the globe and therefore these relationships can really make an important and tangible difference to bringing community connectivity and overcoming the division. Therefore, it has been an absolute pleasure for me personally to be involved in this 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament and I thank everyone who has made it a success. **[Approbation]**

**The Connétable of St. Clement (in the Chair):**

Before we depart can I take advantage of my position as speaker to this Parliament just to say one or 2 words? Firstly, to thank you very much for your very kind words about my presiding; that really was very much appreciated. Mr. Haroon used a phrase "friend not master" and I can tell you honestly that I feel in the last few days I have made 49 new friends and I am going to miss all of you, some of you more than others. **[Laughter]** Mr. Haroon also said this parliament felt real and I share that feeling. It did feel real and it is going to take me many weeks to get over the nightmares of people standing every 5 minutes saying: "Point of order, Mr. Speaker." But as chairman of the Jersey Branch of the C.P.A. can I add my thanks to the Greffier, Mark Egan, and his deputy, Lisa-Marie Hart. This went so well, so seamlessly, but it could not have happened like that without a tremendous amount of work from those 2 and their staff. So I would ask you all, once again, to show you appreciation to the Greffier and his deputy. **[Approbation]** So it just remains for me to wish you all a safe journey home, to wish you well in whatever life throws at you in the future, I know you will all be successful, and to say that now, sadly, the 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament is closed. Thank you. **[Approbation]**

[10:21]