

#81 – 21st December 2020 - 7th January 2021

Attendance: HIM Emperor Adam I (non-voting Chair), HG Lord Sir Charles Michael, Lord Billy Thompson, Lord James Green

Welcome, agenda reading (inc. State Opening of Council):

The agenda was not amended. The Emperor (Chair, LMP) gave a speech opening the term of IX Legislature.

Decree LXXII (Office of the Emperor):

The Emperor explained what the Decree did. There was no motion to overturn.

Decree LXXIII (Office of the Emperor):

The Emperor explained what the Decree did. There was no motion to overturn.

Decree LXXIV (Office of the Emperor):

The Emperor explained what the Decree did. There was no motion to overturn.

Decree LXXV (Office of the Emperor):

The Emperor explained what the Decree did. There was no motion to overturn.

Act 63b – Investigations Act 2020 (Lord Billy Thompson):

Lord Thompson (Deputy Prime Minister, RGA) introduced the bill. Lord Michael (Leader of the Opposition, LMP) expressed his view that policing reforms made during the previous parliament had been intended to make policing a more local matter, and expressed concern that the bill would give too much power to the Attorney General. Lord Thompson commented that he believed that the bill was of a higher standard than anything passed during Lord Michael's term as Prime Minister, and further commented that the Adammic Police Force had been politicised in an attempt to remove him from his post on the basis of little evidence, stating that he would have more confidence in the Attorney General than the APF. On a point of information, the Emperor asked whether Lord Thompson was referring to *I v. Thompson*. Lord Thompson affirmed this. The Emperor stated that the APF had no role in that case, which was prosecuted entirely by the Attorney General. Lord Thompson suggested that elements within the APF had pressured the Attorney General. The Emperor asked whom within the APF was being referred to. Lord Thompson stated that the government did not believe in transparency and as such they would not be naming the individual. Lord Michael noted that constables of the APF were locally elected, whereas the Attorney General was appointed by the Prime Minister, and asked whether the former system was more corrupt. Lord Thompson characterised local elections as an example of bourgeois democracy, and the Prime Minister as a devout revolutionary, and then repeated the claim that the Attorney General was pressured by the APF. The Emperor urged Lord Thompson to be careful not to mislead the Council, noting that His Imperial Majesty had been the person who had reported that particular crime to the Attorney General, and had not done so via the APF, which the Emperor had no involvement with. Lord Thompson suggested that the Attorney General was less likely to mislead the Emperor than the APF. The Emperor asked whether the Minister of Defence had considered replacing the APF Chief Constable. Lord Thompson stated that minor reforms would not go far enough. Lord Green (Opposition Chief Whip, LMP) suggested that there was absurdity in fighting corruption by handing all investigative power to a member of the government. The Council divided:

AYES: 5 (Lord Thompson, Lady Thornton (post-meeting), Lady Simpson (post-meeting), Lady Griffiths (post-meeting), Alexander Lloyd (post-meeting))

NOES: 5 (Lord Michael, Lord Green, Emperor Mother Jayne (post-meeting), Lord McKenna (post-meeting), Lord Hilton (post-meeting))

ABSTENTIONS: 0

With the division tied, the Emperor in his capacity as Lord Chancellor voted no in accordance with Speaker Denison's Rule. The noes had it, and the Act was rejected.

Act 63 – Government Ministries Act 2020 (Lord Billy Thompson):

Lord Thompson introduced the Act. The Emperor noted that Easter was not a public holiday in Adammia. Lord Thompson stated that Easter was too Christian and that the calendar was being changed such that Easter would not be represented. The Emperor reiterated that Easter is already not represented, and commented that most of Adammia's public holidays were in fact secular. Lord Thompson stated that there was a "growing creep of religious fanaticism" in the Empire. The Emperor noted that according to the demographics reports of the Imperial Statistics Office, the proportion of Christianity within the Adammic population had been going down year-on-year. Lord Thompson stated that he believed in "alternative statistics" and that he did not trust statistics from the "dark forces". The Emperor suggested that if Lord Thompson was unhappy with the ISO, he could ask the Minister of Citizenship and Information to replace its Director. Lord Thompson stated that the government intended to replace the ISO with an "alternative statistics agency". Lord Michael stated that he did not oppose the bill and that the government was within its rights to rebrand the Ministry of Memes since the previous Saunders government had created it in the first place. The Emperor asked what the government's plans were for the secular Christmas events, bearing in mind that there were four days to go. Lord Thompson stated that Lady Simpson would "make Christmas great again" as a "Christmas fanaticist". Lord Green asked whether Lord Thompson expected the Christmas celebrations would be ready in four days. Lord Thompson compared this to the fact that "Jesus created the world in seven days", and that in four days the government would create the "greatest Christmas festivals ever seen". Lord Green commented that despite this, after two months the government had failed to create a Budget. Lord Green asked when the proposed yearly report would be due. Lord Thompson stated that the government could be trusted to produce the report. Lord Green asked on a point of information how the Chair would interpret the required timing of the report. The Emperor stated that if there was a controversy on that matter after the bill had been passed, that would be for the courts to resolve, but that his interpretation would be that the report would have to be published within a year of the bill's passage. Lord Green pointed out that if there was a change of government in October 2021, this would leave the next minister very little time to deliver the report. The Emperor suggested that in practical terms it would make more sense for the current government to deliver the report prior to the dissolution of Parliament. Lord Thompson stated that the government's position was that it would not lose the next election so there was no cause for concern. Lord Thompson further stated that at a future point the government would seek to change the franchise rules so that "more people are able to enjoy Christmas". The Emperor asked who presently was unable to celebrate Christmas. Lord Thompson stated that there would be a full announcement after Christmas, but that the right to vote would be expanded within the Empire. The Emperor asked to whom, pointing out that all full citizens have the right to vote. Lord Thompson stated that everyone will have the right to vote. The Council divided:

AYES: 9 (Lord Michael, Lord Thompson, Lord Green, Lady Thornton (post-meeting), Lady Simpson (post-meeting), Lord McKenna (post-meeting), Lady Griffiths (post-meeting), Sir Edward Hilton (post-meeting), Sir Sebastian Bench (post-meeting), Alexander Lloyd (post-meeting))

NOES: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Emperor Mother Jayne (post-meeting))

The ayes had it, and the Act was passed.

Act 66 – Legislative Transparency (Register of Interests) Act 2020 (Lord James Green):

Lord Green introduced the bill. Lord Thompson suggested that the government would go further and introduce a process of recall resulting in a by-election for non-compliance. The Emperor stated that this would require a referendum amending the Supreme Directive, and noting that whilst there were no amendments tabled before Council, there would be further opportunities to amend the

bill if it went before the House of Citizens. Lord Thompson stated that the government would also be seeking to ensure that the bill is GDPR-compliant. Lord Green stated that he was happy to ensure the bill was GDPR-compliant and that in terms of recall he would not be immediately opposed but that he would have to see the detail. Lord Thompson suggested that a suspension amounted to nothing more than a slap on the wrist. Lord Green stated that he was happy that the government was supporting Liberal-Moderate priorities for a more transparent legislative process. Lord Thompson suggested that the bill would be effective against the “notoriously corrupt” Liberal-Moderates. The Emperor suggested that any allegations of corruption with the LMP would have shown up during the last Storm-Labour-Dank coalition government which pledged to investigate corruption within the LMP but never found any evidence. Lord Thompson suggested that “dark forces of the establishment were at play”. Lord Green suggested that describing Liberal-Moderate members of the Council as “corrupt” might be unparliamentary. The Emperor stated that Lord Thompson was only referring to the LMP in general and not to a specific person. Lord Thompson stated that he was considering proposals for online leadership debates during future general elections. The Emperor stated that whilst he was not necessarily opposed to that, it was not relevant to the bill. The Emperor further stated that with regards to concerns around GDPR, any related amendment would not be necessary as the implementation of the bill, as with all government business, would be covered by the pre-existing GDPR Compliance Act. The Council divided:

AYES: 4 (Lord Michael, Lord Green, Emperor Mother Jayne (post-meeting), Sir Edward Hilton (post-meeting))

NOES: 3 (Lord Thompson, Lady Griffiths (post-meeting), Alexander Lloyd (post-meeting))

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The ayes had it, and the Act was referred to the House of Citizens.

Any Other Business:

Lord Thompson reiterated his proposal of TV-style election debates, suggesting that there would be a fine for party leaders who failed to attend. The Emperor noted that the Prime Minister had made history in 2018 by refusing to take part in the Adammic Express election interviews and went on to win that election, so refusing to take part might not necessarily hurt a candidate’s chances. Lord Thompson stated that the Adammic Express would be renamed to the Adammic Guardian in order to stop the influence of the right-wing Daily Express. The Emperor stated that the Adammic Express had nothing to do with the Daily Express. Lord Thompson claimed that Richard Desmond had been funding the Adammic Express. The Emperor stated that the Adammic Express has no money. Lord Thompson said that he had seen documents that suggested otherwise. The Emperor pointed out that he was the sole employee of the Adammic Express and that he would have thus seen every document it had ever produced. Lord Thompson claimed that “dark forces” funded by Richard Desmond were trying to usurp the Emperor. The Emperor asked whether Lord Thompson was suggesting that the Adammic Express, of which the Emperor was the editor and sole writer for, was attempting to usurp the Emperor. Lord Green suggested that any concerns of usurpation should be dealt with in a court of law. Lord Thompson suggested that there issues with the courts which meant they needed to be “tightened” and possibly renamed to the “Revolutionary Courts”. The Emperor asked whether the policies Lord Thompson was announcing had the support of the rest of the Cabinet. Lord Thompson stated that this was the case.

Lord Thompson announced that the government would also be looking at making the writing of bills more accessible. Lord Thompson further suggested that any party which failed to back the government’s proposals would face an electoral cost.

Lord Green condemned the “inaction” of the government in bringing forward a Budget. Lord Thompson stated that the Minister of Finance had been preoccupied but that a Budget would be put forward on Christmas Eve, and that preparations for a voluntary taxation system had also contributed to the delay. The Emperor asked whether it was the policy of the Red Green Alliance at the last election to oppose a taxation system. Lord Thompson stated that the RGA had only been against voluntary taxation designed by people who were not themselves. The Emperor pointed out

that the Minister of Finance is a member of the Independent Party, and further questioned whether his desire to introduce a taxation system and Lord Thompson's opposition to it might have been a reason why he left the RGA. Lord Thompson suggested that the RGA and the Independents have always been close as they are both revolutionary parties.