

ACT NO. 3913: THE "SUNSHINE" LAW

(Board of Trustees Meeting, January 30, 1977)

The Board turned to a consideration of Virgin Islands Act No. 3913, cited as the "Government in the Sunshine Act". With the consent of the Chairman, the President invited the Director of the Bureau of Public Administration to review the contents of the Act with the members of the Board of Trustees....

After a delineation of the various provisions of this Act, a discussion of its contents followed. It was noted that several of the important provisions of the Act were already being observed by the Board of Trustees in the conduct of its business, and the President indicated that the remaining provisions would be followed.

In making his presentation, the Director of the Bureau of Public Administration related the contents of this Act to the Freedom of Information Act and also to the Buckley Amendments to the Omnibus Higher Education Act of 1974.

Attention was also called to the fact that the Act specifically provides that "whenever disorder arises during a committee or agency meeting which is open to the public, the agency or committee may enforce order when necessary by clearing the room and may act in closed session for as long as there is doubt as to the assurance of order." In this connection, it was underlined that there is no provision in this Act for people coming into the meeting, unless individually invited, in any other capacity except that of passive listeners, which is in accordance with the existing position of the Board of Trustees on this subject, as set forth in the Board's Minutes of February 8, 1976.