

SAINT LUCIA

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 4 of 1983

BETWEEN:

(1) David England
 (2) Joan England - Petitioner/Appellants
 and
 The Honourable Attorney General - Respondent

Before: The Honourable Mr. Justice Robotham - Chief Justice
 The Honourable Mr. Justice Bishop
 The Honourable Mr. Justice Williams (Acting)

Appearances: Mr. A. Alexander Q.C., and Mr. H. Deterville for the Appellants
 Mr. V. Cooper and Ms. J. Slack for the Respondent

1984: Oct. 22, 23,
 1985: Feb. 4.

JUDGMENT

BISHOP, J.A.

David England who was born at Kings Lynn England on the 17 August, 1942 and his wife Jean who was born in Denbigh Wales on the 9 January, 1945 began living in St. Lucia in 1968 with their two children born on 16 December, 1964 and on 18 April, 1966. David and Jean England each held a passport of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and these passports described them each as having the national status of a British subject and citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. At the time that they took up residence, St. Lucia was one of the Associated States of the West Indies, with its own written Constitution.

About 15 years later, they were both removed from St. Lucia and as a consequence thereof they brought individual motions (which were later consolidated) challenging in the High Court the procedure that was adopted as well as the constitutionality of the Orders under which they were removed. Among other things, each asked for orders declaring that each was entitled, upon application, to be registered as a citizen of St. Lucia, and for damages to be assessed.

/The trial.....

The trial Judge refused all the orders sought in the motions and dismissed them with costs to be taxed fit for two counsel.

FROM 1968 TO 21ST FEBRUARY, 1979

When David and Jean England took up residence in 1968 each of them became a director and shareholder of a company which carried on the business of buying and selling handicraft and souvenirs. David England built a house in which he and his family lived as they became part of the community in St. Lucia.

Among the laws then in force in St. Lucia were, for the purposes of this matter, the Immigration Ordinance Cap 76 and the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance Cap. 79. They had, by 1968, been in operation for about 14 and 15 years respectively.

On the 8 November, 1976 David and Jean England (also referred to sometimes as 'the Englands') were given permission by the Government of the day to reside permanently in St. Lucia, which from 1st March, 1967, had its own Constitution. A number of things were dealt with in the Constitution but we are here concerned with citizenship, and there was never any contention that either of them was a citizen of St. Lucia by virtue of that Constitution.

The Immigration Ordinance to which I alluded earlier concerned immigration into St. Lucia and the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance, also mentioned already, regulated the deportation of undesirable British Subjects.

By Section 2(2) of the Immigration Ordinance, and solely for the purposes of immigration, a person was deemed to belong to St. Lucia if he was a British subject and inter alia (a) had been ordinarily resident in St. Lucia continuously for a period of 7 years or more, and since the completion of such period of residence had not been ordinarily resident in any place outside of St. Lucia continuously for a period of 7 years

/or more,

or more, and (b) was a dependent of a person to whom (a) above applied.

Section 4 of the same Ordinance prohibited immigration into St. Lucia of anyone who was not a British subject and who entered for the purpose of trading as a pedlar.

Section 5 of the Ordinance stipulated that any person who within the meaning of Section 2(2) was deemed to belong to St. Lucia should not be a prohibited immigrant for the purposes of the Immigration Ordinance.

'The Englands' reached the position where, for immigration purposes only, they qualified to be deemed as persons who belong to St. Lucia and who ought not to be prohibited immigrants. They attained this position in 1975 or 1976 prior to being informed that they would be permitted to reside permanently.

The Deportation (British subjects) Ordinance also provided for persons to be deemed to belong to St. Lucia in circumstances like those mentioned in relation to the Immigration Ordinance; and the former also empowered the Governor in Council to make deportation, restriction and security orders in certain stated circumstances.

'The Englands' qualified to be deemed as persons who belonged to St. Lucia, for deportation purposes only; and it will suffice to say that for the period now under review no orders were made relative to them.

Under Cap 76 and Cap 79 the statutory class of persons "deemed to belong to St. Lucia" was created and limited to immigration and deportation purposes. Being permitted "permanent residence", without more, was a privilege - not a right - with no statutory support, though it probably served to avoid the tedium of applying at intervals for a permit to live and work in St. Lucia. In the instant case there was no quarrel with the statement of Mitchell J - with which I agree - that

/"the permission....."

"the permission to reside permanently in Saint Lucia did not by itself confer or create relationship between the person to whom such permission was granted, and the State, in the exercise of its lawful authority".

David and Jean England at this stage had been granted permission to reside permanently but neither was a citizen. The permission given them carried no legally enforceable rights or immunities under the Constitution then in operation.

FROM 22ND FEBRUARY, 1979 TO 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1983.

On the 22 February, 1979 the St. Lucia Constitution Order 1978 came into operation and the St. Lucia Constitution Order of 1967 which had provided for the Constitution of the Associated State of St. Lucia was revoked. The First Schedule of the Order of 1978 set out the St. Lucia Constitution, the supreme law of St. Lucia from 22 February, 1979.

On the 15 June, 1979 the Citizenship of St. Lucia Act 1979 became law. It provided for the acquisition of citizenship, the renunciation of citizenship, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. There were also in force from that date Citizenship of St. Lucia (Application by Commonwealth Citizens) Regulations 1979. By Section 3 of these Regulations a Commonwealth citizen resident in St. Lucia for 7 years prior to the appointed date, who was desirous of becoming a citizen of St. Lucia was required to apply for registration to the appropriate Minister in a form prescribed and set out in the Regulations. A certificate of registration as a citizen, in the form shown in the said Regulations, was issued where necessary.

Affidavits sworn to by David and Jean England show that sometime in the first part of the year 1980 - (the precise date was not given or known) - application for registration as citizens was made on behalf of each member of the family through a solicitor. The affidavits differed as to the time of the application but subsequent synchronisation was

/stated in....

stated in a further affidavit. It appeared that there was no claim that individual applications were made for each member, but that a single application was submitted for all. The existence of an application was challenged and so made a vital issue. Nevertheless there was a conspicuous absence of assistance from the solicitor who, to this day, has remained anonymous and has not stated a single word on the issue. In my view this must be analysed in the light of the facts that the Attorney General was summoned to attend for cross examination by counsel for the appellants, that the Attorney General stated on oath that he searched his office as well as the offices of the Prime Minister (to which all applications were sent) and the Immigration Office without success for the alleged application, and that the Register of persons registered under the Citizenship of St. Lucia Act 1979 was produced in evidence and showed that none of 'the Englands' had been registered as a citizen of St. Lucia.

Counsel for the appellants when dealing with the issue of the application submitted that the respondents had not adduced any cogent evidence, but relied mainly, if not exclusively, on the Register of Citizen. It is but fair to state that counsel readily conceded that the burden of proving that 'the Englands' had made application for registration rested on 'the Englands' and that they would have to establish the fact by the strength of their own case and not through any weakness of their opponent's case.

The trial Judge considered all of the evidence pertinent to the point and stressed, inter alia, that the facts and circumstances connected with the alleged application for registration must have been peculiarly within the knowledge of the appellant's solicitor, who played no part whatever in the matter. Mitchell J stated in his judgment:

"Having regard to all the evidence revealed in the case, I cannot say that the applicants have discharged the evidential burden and the burden of proof which were placed on them to prove that

/they in.....

they in fact made an application through a solicitor for registration as citizens of St. Lucia in terms of the requirements of such an application and that it was effective for the purpose for which it was intended."

The trial Judge explained his evaluation of the evidence such as was put before him and he quoted extracts from judgments in cases, to show how he regarded the failure to "call" the solicitor who submitted the application. I shall refer to one such extract:

"Where a party without explanation fails to call as a witness a person whom he might reasonably be expected to call if that person's evidence would be favourable to him, then, although the jury may not treat as evidence what they may as a matter of speculation think that that person would have said if he had been called as a witness, nevertheless it is open to the jury to infer that that person's evidence would not have helped the party's case." (Australian case O'DONNELL V REICHARD (1975) v R. 916 at 929).

Then the trial Judge, in his own judgment said this:

"I could not..... find on the state of the evidence submitted for my consideration in favour of the applicants on the issue of fact of the application for registration as a citizen, and on the balance of probability would hold that they had made no such application."

It was clear that the trial Judge applied the proper standard of proof in reaching his finding, and it is not accurate, in my view, to say that he used the standard of proof applicable in criminal cases instead of that in civil cases.

It was open to the trial Judge to find, as he did, that on the balance of probabilities no application for registration of the applicants and their children as citizens of St. Lucia, was made. For my part I would have come to the same conclusion from the evidence.

Now entitlement to be registered as a citizen of St. Lucia is governed by the provisions contained in section 102 of the Constitution
/of St. Lucia.....

of St. Lucia 1979. The making of an application is a sine qua non for registration. If there be no application then there can be no registration. Consequently, in the light of the finding by the trial Judge, neither David England nor his wife nor either of their children could be or was registered as a citizen of St. Lucia.

By mid 1980 'the Englands' were British subjects who were allowed to reside permanently in the island. They were not citizens of St. Lucia but by virtue of Cap. 76 and Cap. 79 they fell within the class of persons whom those Ordinances defined, for immigration and deportation purposes respectively, as deemed to belong to St. Lucia.

Now it would seem that David England was regarded, in 1981, as a person suitable to be on the St. Lucia Tourist Board; indeed he was, at one time Deputy Chairman of that Board. However subsequent events, including his conduct, led to the orders for his removal and that of his wife from St. Lucia.

On the 9 August, 1983, in a letter from the Prime Minister to the person who seemed to him from a previous conversation to be the solicitor for David England, it was indicated that during the previous year David England had come to the attention of the St. Lucia Special Branch, because of his involvement in the activities of certain political extremists, and that in May, 1983, his name was mentioned in connection with activities of the same extremists, in Libya. Then in July, 1983, his name was again mentioned in connection with a clandestine attempt by the political extremists "to recruit St. Lucians for terrorist training in Libya". According to the letter:

"This development and Mr. England's involvement..... is considered as a matter of utmost gravity by Government, and Mr. England's presence in St. Lucia is considered a threat to the security of the State and as such is no longer welcomed."

Thus 'the Englands' were made aware of the Government's feelings

/based.....

based on stated facts and circumstances. That person to whom the letter was addressed did not continue to act as solicitor for 'the Englands' for on the 16 August a firm of solicitors in Barbados acting in association with the solicitors now on record, replied to the Prime Minister. The allegations were denied and an opportunity was sought to put David England's side of the matter before action was taken by Government. Of course in the same way that the charges were made in a letter perhaps the answers thereto could have been submitted if David England so wished.

On 1 September, 1983 the Immigration Ordinance (Amendment) Act became law in St. Lucia. As a result the Immigration Ordinance and Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance were significantly affected. For the purposes of the instant case, in the former Ordinance there was no longer the section that created a class of persons who shall be "deemed to belong" to St. Lucia and the immigration of persons or of any person specified in an Order made by the Governor General in Council was prohibited unless there was some statutory barrier to such prohibition. Put another way, Section 2(2) and that part of Section 5 to which I alluded earlier were both deleted. The whole of the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance was repealed. The result was that the England family were without the description or classification of persons who could be deemed to belong to St. Lucia for immigration and for deportation purposes. Further, they could be deemed prohibited immigrants under the Immigration Ordinance, as amended.

In my view, from the date when St. Lucia became an independent sovereign country, there were those persons who became citizens without more, there were persons who became citizens upon registration, and there were those persons who were not citizens, some of whom could apply for citizenship. It is clear and undisputed that on 22 February, 1979, and after, 'the Englands' were not registered as citizens and were not
/citizens....

citizens. It does not arise for determination in this appeal whether 'the Englands' could or should be registered as citizens on making application in the proper form. If and when application is made, that decision or a declaration from this Court may become necessary. For the moment it is sufficient, in my opinion, to say that there was no application made for registration as citizens.

'The Englands' did not have a right, in law, to reside in St. Lucia. They did not have a right, in law, not to be deported from St. Lucia. They did not have a right in law, not to be declared prohibited immigrants.

On the 2 September, 1983, around 3.30 p.m. two Orders - David England (Prohibited Immigrant) Order and the Jean England (Prohibited Immigrant) Order - were served on the parties therein named. They were similar in substance and in their terms, the sole difference being the names, and so I shall quote only one of them.

"David England (Prohibited Immigrant) Order

SAINT LUCIA
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 1983 No. 57

(2nd September, 1983)

WHEREAS by paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of Section 76 of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 76 it is provided that where the Governor General in Council is satisfied on information or advice that any person is undesirable as an inhabitant of, or a visitor to Saint Lucia, he may by ~~order~~ declare such a person to be a prohibited immigrant and direct that such person be removed from Saint Lucia forthwith or by such time as shall be stipulated

AND WHEREAS the Governor General in Council is satisfied on information received that David England is undesirable as an inhabitant of, or a visitor to Saint Lucia

NOW THEREFORE the Governor General in Council in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him as aforesaid orders and declares and it is hereby Ordered and Declared as follows:

1. Short Title. This Order may be cited as the David England (Prohibited Immigrant) Order 1983.
2. Declaration of Prohibited Immigrant. David England is declared to be a prohibited immigrant as an inhabitant of, or a visitor to Saint Lucia.

/3. Removal of....

3. Removal of Prohibited Immigrant. The Chief Immigration Officer is hereby authorised to remove David England from Saint Lucia by Sunday the 4th day of September, 1983.

Made by the Cabinet under the authority of subsection (3) of Section 4 of the Immigration Ordinance Chapter 76, this 2nd Day of September, 1983.

Secretary to the Cabinet."

On the 3 September, 1983, David and Jean England through their solicitor, prepared and signed notices of motions and supporting affidavits, as a direct consequence of the service of the above Orders. These notices were filed on 5 September, 1983 after the applicants had been removed from Saint Lucia.

Upon completion of the hearing of the Motion the trial Judge reserved his decision for delivery on 23 November, 1983 and as I have already indicated, he refused all the relief and prayers sought by the applicants in their Motions.

The applicants appealed against the whole decision of the trial Judge and in keeping with the leave of this Court filed some sixteen grounds of appeal. In this judgment I will only deal with such of the grounds as were possessed of merit.

I have already explained why I am of the opinion that it does not at this stage fall for the decision of this Court whether or not there ought to be a declaration made that the applicants are entitled upon application to be registered as citizens of Saint Lucia. If an application is submitted and it is not granted then it may arise for this Court to make a decision. At this stage it is premature and to that extent a matter of academic interest only.

It was submitted by counsel for the appellants that the Governor
/General in....

General in Council acting under Section 4(3) of Cap 76 as amended, was an authority prescribed by law for the determination of the existence or extent of the civil right of persons falling in the category created by Section 102(1)(b) of the Constitution of Saint Lucia and that if that were so, then the Rules of Natural Justice ought to have been observed in arriving at the decision to remove 'the Englands' from Saint Lucia as the Governor General in Council was made a quasi-judicial body.

Counsel for the Honourable Attorney General submitted that the Governor General in Council was not a tribunal nor was there any exercise of a judicial or quasi-judicial function required under Section 4(3) of Cap 76. He submitted further that it could not be reasonable to expect when the Governor General in Council was satisfied, that the person to be removed should then be called and told of the information or advice given, as well as its source, so that that person would be afforded an opportunity to be heard. According to counsel, there were certain areas included in governing which were reserved for the State - for example, security, and deportation - and "the Courts could not substitute themselves for the State".

Although the section relied on was clearly identified and expressed in the body of the Order, I wish to quote the relevant part of the Immigration Ordinance Cap 76. I have already indicated that the Immigration Ordinance (Amendment) Act No. 15 of 1983 came into operation on 1 September, 1983 and that by Section 2 thereof, it deleted subsection 2 of Section 2 of the principal Act - Cap 76 - by which there had been created the legal class of persons who were deemed to belong to St. Lucia. This meant that 'the Englands', for immigration purposes could no longer lay claim to belong to St. Lucia. So too the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance Cap 79 under which 'the Englands' were deemed to belong to St. Lucia, for deportation purposes, was repealed in its entirety by Section 11 of the Act No. 15 of 1983. Section 4 subsection 3(b) of the Immigration Ordinance Cap 76 was unaffected. The relevant part of it read thus:

/"Where the.....

"Where the Governor General in Council is satisfied on information or advice that any person is undesirable as an inhabitant of, or a visitor to the State he may, by Order, declare such person to be a prohibited immigrant and may direct that such person be removed from the island by such time as shall be stipulated."

Subsection 5 of the same section indicated that

"No appeal shall lie against the decision of the Governor General in Council in regard to any person mentioned in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of this section."

By subsection 3(b) the Governor General in Council was required to consider "information or advice". It was necessary then to state in the Order that there was satisfaction based upon "information" or, alternatively, based upon "advice". In the Order under review the paragraph was quoted and the satisfaction was based upon "information" received. The Governor General in Council then acted as empowered, and declared David England "a prohibited immigrant" and directed his removal from Saint Lucia by a specified date.

The question which this Court is invited to answer is whether the Governor General in Council, acting under subsection 3(b) was functioning as a quasi-judicial body (as counsel for the appellants contended) or as an executive body (as counsel for the respondent argued)? The answer to the question will be pertinent also, to the issue of the application or otherwise of the rules of natural justice.

In my opinion the Governor General in Council was not acting as a judicial tribunal nor was the function required by the section one of a quasi-judicial nature. When it is borne in mind that the Governor General is Her Majesty the Queen's representative in St. Lucia (Section 10 of the St. Lucia Constitution), and when the Immigration Ordinance Cap 76 as amended in 1983, is considered, it becomes clear that under Section 4(3) (b) the Governor General in Council was, in September, 1983 acting solely under executive powers and in no sense as a Court (*ESHUGBAYI ELLIHO v OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA and ANOTHER* (1931), /A.C. 662).

A.C. 662). As I perceive it the Governor General in Council was not called upon or empowered by the section to adjudicate in any matter of contention between parties, nor was any procedure laid down or any provision made for anyone to be heard or for the person who would be affected by an Order to make representation, oral or written. The section did not state, either expressly or by implication, that the Governor General in Council should conduct an inquiry. If Parliament had so intended or wished it would have been simple to state in the section that the Governor General in Council shall be satisfied "after holding due inquiry", and not "on information or advice". So that there was no statutory requirement that there be evidence or that the source of the information or advice on which the Governor General in Council acted be disclosed or be controlled in accordance with any law. Indeed it must be obvious that disclosure of the source, or of the information or advice, to the person who may be affected by the Order of the Governor General in Council, would not only be highly undesirable but could involve disclosure of confidential national matters including defence policy, security, and the internal safety of the public. Again, as was indicated in *R. v LEMAN STREET POLICE STATION INSPECTOR & SECRETARY OF STATE for HOME AFFAIRS ex parte VENICOFF* (1920) All E.R. Rep. 157 (the judgment of EARL of READING C.J.):

"It might well be that a person against whom it was proposed to make such an order would take care, if he had notice of such an inquiry, not to present himself, and, as soon as he knew that an inquiry would be held, would take steps to prevent his apprehension."

There was no claim that the Governor General in Council acted other than in good faith. Of course had there been any assertion of bad faith it would have had to be specifically alleged, with particulars, and the burden of proof would have been on the appellants. Nor could it have been asserted that the Governor General in Council was not satisfied on information received that David England and Jean England were undesirable as inhabitants of, or visitors to St. Lucia.

/I have....

I have already indicated what was 'the Englands' position immediately before the Governor General in Council made the Order on 2 September, 1983. When, therefore, the Governor in Council acted under Section 4(3)(b) of Cap 76, there was no interference with any legal right that they had at the time. There was merely a withdrawal or revocation of their permission to reside given in November, 1976.

Since the Governor General in Council was acting solely under executive powers entrusted by Parliament, there was no presumption that compliance with the principles of natural justice was required (*PEARLBERG v VANEY* (INSPECTOR OF TAXES) 1972, 2 All E.R. 6 per Lord Pearson at p 17), and for my part I agree with Mitchell J, that

"in the circumstances of this case having due regard to statutory effect of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 76, as amended, neither natural justice nor any other concept of fairness required that the Governor General in Council, under that Ordinance, should have given the applicants an opportunity of being heard or of making written representations when the Governor General was making the Orders in question. The whole scheme and scope of Section 4(3) of the Immigration Ordinance precluded his doing so."

Perhaps it should have read "before the Governor General made the Order" instead of "when the Governor General was making the Orders"; but I have interpreted what Mitchell J said there, to mean that neither natural justice nor the audi alteram partem rule applied to 'the Englands' case when considered under Section 4(3)(b).

I am fortified in my conclusions by findings made in two cases to which I wish to make but brief reference. In *MUSSON and ANOTHELL v RODRIGUEZ* (1953) A.C. 530 an appeal from a judgment of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago (April 25, 1952), the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was invited to consider Section 4 (as amended) of the Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance c. 20 No. 2 - which as will be seen, was expressed in terms not dissimilar from those of Section 4(3)(b) of the Immigration Ordinance Cap 76, as amended. The former read:

/"(1) The following,.....

"(1) The following persons...are prohibited immigrants...

(h) any person who from information or advice which in the opinion of the Governor-in-Council is reliable information or advice is deemed by the Governor-in-Council to be an undesirable inhabitant of, or visitor to the Colony.....

(3) No appeal shall lie against the decision of the Governor-in-Council in regard to any person mentioned in paragraphs.....

(h)unless such appeal be directed to identify only of the person affected by the decision."

I have already quoted Section 4(3)(b) and (5) of Cap 76.

In Musson's case, after stating that the basis for the whole proceedings was Section 4 (as amended) Lord Normand, who delivered the judgment of their Lordships quoted the section and said:

"The drastic power given to the Governor-in-Council by Section 4(1)(h) to interfere with personal liberty may be exercised without any antecedent judicial inquiry, and without the persons who are affected having had any opportunity of making representations. It is not subject to any appeal to a Court of law or to any form of review at the instance of the affected persons".

Then Lord Normand went on to explain that in such a situation there must be the strictest compliance with the provisions by which such a power is given.

The other case - ROLF BRANDT v A.G. of Guyana & C.A. AUSTIN (1971) 17 W.I.R. 448 - was decided in the Court of Appeal of Guyana. There, the President of Guyana, acting under Section 4 of the Expulsion of Undesirables Ordinance, Cap 99, made an expulsion order against an alien of the Federal Republic of Germany who was at all relevant times lawfully resident in Guyana. It was held that Brandt had no right to having representations by him heard before a deportation order was made, and that the rules of natural justice were of no avail to him. LUCKOO, C.J. in his judgment adhered to the principle that had been established by the VENICOFF case, and he further stressed that the purpose of the Ordinance would be defeated and the necessity for promptitude without previous /warning....

warning would be frustrated. Boller C.J., also followed the authority of the VENICOFF case and expressed the opinion that any hearing before the Order was made would have the effect of defeating the purpose of the legislation. Persaud J.A., was of the view that the President was not performing a judicial or quasi-judicial function when he acted under Section 4 Cap 99. Cummings J.A. dealt with the purpose of the relevant Ordinance and pointed out that there was no express provision or necessary implication that there be a hearing at the pre-order stage since that could very well have defeated the purpose of the Ordinance and afford opportunity for the person affected to go into hiding or abscond. CRANE J.A., stressed that executive authority in Guyana was vested solely in the President and when he made the expulsion order it was an act of prerogative power neither curtailed nor abridged by any expressed or implied obligation to afford a hearing before making the order.

At the time of the Order which affected 'the Englands', the immigrant was a person who entered St. Lucia from a place outside of St. Lucia and the immigration into St. Lucia of any person specified in an Order made by the Governor General in Council under Section 4(3) of Cap 76 was prohibited. 'The Englands' (who were not citizens of St. Lucia) were such persons. They may have been desirous of becoming registered as citizens of St. Lucia but they had not applied for registration nor been granted registration or citizenship. They were declared to be prohibited immigrants and directed to be removed from the island.

I have found no cause to disturb the decision of the trial Judge and would therefore dismiss the appeal.

E.H.A. BISHOP,
Justice of Appeal

I agree.

L.L. ROBERTHAM,
Chief Justice.

I also agree.

L. WILLIAMS
Justice of Appeal (Acting).