

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd April, 1947.

Pursuant to adjournment the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock noon to-day.

Present:

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. J. T. C. RAMSAY (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. J. A. LE V. WILSON, Messrs. L. E. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, H. W. SPRINGER, M.A., G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., and V. C. GALE.

After prayers, Messrs. S. A. WALCOTT and MAPP enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 15th April, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of St. James for the half year ended 31st March, 1947.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to lay on the table of the House the following Papers:—

Message No. 14/1947 from His Excellency the Governor informing the House that the Comptroller for Development and Welfare is prepared to arrange for the services of an instructress in handicrafts to be made available to run a six-month course in handicraft training in Barbados out of funds to be made available by the Comptroller, and inviting the views of the House on the proposal.

Message No. 15/1947 from His Excellency the Governor informing the House with reference to the Address dated the 11th February, 1947, that a resolution will be placed before them to provide a cost of

living allowance for the Official Reporter of the Legislative Council and the two Official Reporters of the House.

Message No. 16/1947 from His Excellency the Governor informing the House with reference to the Address dated the 11th February, 1947, that provision for the erection of fish sheds and sanitary conveniences at various points around the coast has been included in a scheme for the development of fisheries in the Sketch Plan, the details of which will be worked out in consultation with the Fisheries Officer and the fishermen.

Message No. 17/1945 relating to the recruiting of workers in Barbados to the U.S.A.

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1947-48.

Quarterly return of transactions in Rum to the 31st of March, 1947.

Messrs. WILKINSON, WARD, and CRAWFORD enter the House while the abovementioned Papers are being laid and take their seats.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £385 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay from the 31st April, 1946, to the 31st March, 1948, a cost of living allowance for the Official Reporter of the Legislative Council and the two Official Reporters of the House of Assembly.

Mr. SPRINGER: Bill to amend the Education (Amendment) Act, 1943 (1943-3).

Mr. BLACKMAN: Bill to establish a Department of Medical Services for this Island.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Bill to make provision in relation to the Barbados General Hospital.

Mr. ADAMS: To move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. BRANCKER: A Bill to amend the Settlement of the Poor and Bastardy Act, 1897 (1897-6).

A Bill to amend the Married Woman's Act, 1896 (1896-5).

A Bill to amend the Petty Debt Act, 1899 (1899-3).

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, a Bill to amend the Education (Amendment) Act is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. BLACKMAN, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, a Bill to establish a Department of Medical Services for this Island is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. BLACKMAN, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, a Bill to make provision in relation to the Barbados General Hospital is read a first time.

Mr. LEWIS enters the House and takes his seat.

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed, Mr. SPEAKER, to draft a reply to His Excellency's Message No. 17/1947.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 17/1947 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following members the Select Committee for the purpose:— The senior member for the City (Mr. COX), the senior member for St. Philip (Mr. CRAWFORD), the junior member for St. James (Mr. WILKINSON), the junior member for St. Peter (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT), the junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER), and the junior member for St. Michael (Mr. GALE).

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I ask to be excused from serving on this Committee. I am serving on several Committees already.

Mr. ADAMS: I would just like to point out to the honourable member that this Committee hopes to meet during the luncheon interval and submit its Report on resumption. There is nothing controversial about the subject contained in this Address of His Excellency.

Mr. WILKINSON: That being so, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my request to be excused from serving on this Committee.

EXCUSE FOR ABSENT MEMBER

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg, Mr. Speaker, to offer an excuse for the absence of the junior member for St. George who unfortunately is unable to attend.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move the appointment of a Select Committee to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 14/1947.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 14/1947 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following members the Select Committee for the purpose:— The senior member for St. George (Mr. SPRINGER), the junior member for St. John (Mr. BLACKMAN), the junior member for St. Michael (Mr. GALE), the senior member for St. Peter (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT), the senior member for St. John (Dr. WILSON), and the senior member for St. Andrew (Mr. Haynes).

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

SUBSIDISATION OF COMMODITIES.

The CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply on the last occasion we were considering the Resolution for £50,160 to subsidize certain commodities and the junior member for St. Philip was speaking but the honourable member is not in his place.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: On the last occasion when this House met I was accused of nodding my head at the junior member for St. Philip and it was implied that I, by nodding my head, did so to influence the honourable member's vote. Well, Sir, I think that my head is my own and if I choose to nod it, that is my business. I do not think it concerns anyone, although if I was asleep snoring while the debates were going on objection might be taken to that. Now all of us know the junior member for St. Philip. I think he is one of the most independent men in this House; that is my opinion. He came here and said "I made a mistake on a previous occasion" and he gave us the reason, not an excuse, why he on the last occasion was going to support the subsidization of rice. That reason was that his constituents, the persons who elected him to this House, have told him that he had made a mistake on a previous occasion and that they wanted rice at a cheaper price. Well, Sir, you cannot find any fault with that; it is a reason, not an excuse. Now, Sir, the senior member for St. Joseph has been accustomed to dealing with yes-men.

The CHAIRMAN: I want to draw to the honourable member's attention that the Resolution before the Committee deals with subsidization. I also want to counsel the honourable member not to introduce anything into the debate which will lead to a repetition of the behaviour which was displayed on the last occasion. I would be glad if the honourable member would try to oblige us by letting us get on with the business before the House.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: But certain things were said in this House and they have been printed. I have read them in the newspaper.

The CHAIRMAN: The newspaper is not the official record of the proceedings of this House. Wait until you see the official record and then you will be able to refer to that.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: That will be too late.

The CHAIRMAN: You cannot refer to the newspaper report in the course of this debate.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: Well, Sir, I will have to please the Chair but I could understand your ruling if I were not here and heard the remarks myself.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not a case of pleasing the Chair—

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: If you rule me out of order I will have to keep my mouth shut.

The CHAIRMAN: I will not do that.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: Whenever the senior member for St. Joseph finds himself in a difficult position in this House he blows off steam.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the honourable member is not sticking to the Resolution. I crave your indulgence. Stop this bickering which does not help us and let us get on with the Resolution for subsidization. I do not flatter the honourable member when I say that I am looking to him for help.

MR. S. A. WALCOTT: The senior member for St. Joseph has accused me of shaking and nodding my head at the junior member for St. Philip in order to influence his vote and I am asking the Chair to grant me the indulgence of answering his remark.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the Resolution.

MR. S. A. WALCOTT: I will bow to your ruling. I take it, Sir, that subsidization means trying to reduce the price of an essential article so that the poorest man in the community will be able to purchase that article. That is my idea of subsidization and in this schedule before us, rice is not included. I consider that rice is the most essential food of the poor man to-day and that it should be included in this schedule. Flour is not as necessary or as essential an article of food for the poor man as rice is and that is a statement which, I do not think, can be disputed. I hear the argument that flour is just as essential as rice. Well, Sir, of the quantity of flour which is used at least 50 per cent.—so I have been led to understand—is used in making cakes and other luxurious articles of food. (A Voice: 50 per cent. bread and 50 per cent. of everything else). When you subsidize flour to the extent of 7 cents per lb. I suggest that you are subsidizing cakes which are not the poor man's food. We are not here to take the taxpayers' money and benefit one particular class and that is what we are doing when we subsidize flour for the man who is able to buy it. I take it that we should subsidize an article which a person is not able to buy. Again, rice and flour are two carbohydrates and how can you subsidize one carbohydrate at 7 cents per lb. and do not subsidize the other at all? The reason given is that you are trying to equalize the price of the two articles but in my opinion that is a very wrong policy. Subsidize rice and let the people's food be cheaper.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to draw to the attention of the honourable members that while they are not in school I can hear distinctly remarks which I, as Chairman, feel are likely to interrupt the honourable member who is speaking. If it goes on like this, the House will have to get another Chairman. I will not sit here and allow remarks which are audible to interrupt an honourable member who is speaking.

MR. S. A. WALCOTT: We subsidize pickled meats which come from the same animal but I do not think that any member of this House would think of subsidizing ham that fetches \$1.00 per lb. or use the argument about equalizing the price of two proteins. Why, therefore, should that argument be used in the case of rice and flour? I do not see what difficulty there can be in subsidizing rice and allow the price of flour to remain at 7 cents per lb. The idea of this Government is to keep flour at 7 cents per lb. no matter what the subsidy would be. Three months ago, we were asked to subsidize flour. At that time we were told that there was no money to subsidize rice. To-day, three months later, with Georgetown full of flour—I think that is the reason for this subsidy to be kept on flour—we are asked to find an extra 2 cents per lb. in order to continue the subsidization of flour. Those extra cents could be

better spent on subsidizing rice. I should now like to make a few remarks on what the junior member for the City said. He said "Let it be clearly understood that the people have to pay for this subsidization." That is perfectly correct but he is missing the point. When you subsidize flour, the people who are better off get the benefit of that subsidy and when you subsidize rice only the small man gets the benefit. The senior member for St. Joseph said on a previous occasion that the rich man does not eat rice. That was a true remark he made on that occasion; it is tantamount to saying that the people of the island have to pay the subsidy but only one class of persons will be receiving the benefit from the subsidization of rice. I do not think that it is the intention of this House to subsidize an article that people are able to buy. If that is so, you will soon be asking us to subsidize whiskey. Before I sit down I would like to know how much rice we have received in the island, so far, in respect of the quota which we are able to get it from British Guiana during this year. I would also like to know if my information is correct that we have about five week's supply of flour in the island now and when the next shipment will be coming. Flour is a thing that spoils. My argument is that if the Government continues to let the outside market know that flour will be kept at 7 cents per lb., they will send it here at any price and that, in my opinion, will be doing them a great deal of good.

MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—I do not want to delay the passing of this Resolution any longer but I have been all along dissatisfied with the subsidization scheme of this Government; it has never appealed to me as the proper method for reducing the cost of living. To me, it has always been a piecemeal carpet, nothing else. I have never been able to appreciate any advantage deriving from it although I would be the last person in this House who would not like to see a reduction in the cost of living and I feel too that there are other members of this House who have the same feeling as I have, namely, that the community is not benefiting from this subsidization. As regards this Resolution I see fully well that it has to go through but I am counselling the members of the Government to really consider, before sending another down, whether they cannot formulate a much better scheme. I am always advocating a reduction in the cost of workingmen's clothing; you do not reduce the cost of living to the workingman when the prices of his working clothes remain what they are. If the finances of the colony do not permit these things to be done, why go on to camouflage and make a farce of this thing? I do not see where we are helping anybody by this present scheme and I am hoping that before another Resolution for this purpose comes before this House, there will be a proper reorganization of this subsidization business or a cutting out of it entirely from the policy of the Government.

MR. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—First of all, I would like to thank the senior member for St. Joseph for sending around particulars of this subsidization which I asked for on last Tuesday. I feel that if these particulars had been given to members at an early stage, some of this discussion might have been saved. I received these particulars yesterday and I have endeavoured to examine them and I am not even now convinced that the Government is doing the right thing to exclude rice from this schedule. It is well known that if you are subsidizing articles, the only fair and proper way to do so is to have a

ration system as well, otherwise you are helping to create a black market. I was a member of the Executive Committee and I regretted that we ever gave up the coupon system in connection with rice and really to carry this thing to its proper conclusion we should have the coupon system as long as subsidization goes on. Like members of the Government and other honourable members who have spoken I am hoping that the time is not far distant when we shall not have to subsidize foodstuffs. From the figures which have been supplied by the senior member for St. Joseph, it will be seen that the large amount of £43,500 is to be spent on the subsidization of flour. Now, Sir, that is for a period of three months and that is a large amount of money. As I have said, I am not convinced that we are doing right to subsidize flour and not subsidize rice. Since last Tuesday many people, whom I do not know but they are people from the poorer class in the community, have been to me and told me that they consider rice a much more important item in their diet than flour.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to make a few remarks on this subject. On the last occasion when we met I advocated that before we commit ourselves in this matter we should get facts and figures about the subsidization of flour and not rice or the subsidization of rice and not flour or the subsidization of both rice and flour. I have taken the trouble to interview certain people who have to do with the importation into this colony of flour and other commodities. I have gone into the matter very carefully and have given it a great deal of study and I find that even if we subsidize rice it would be impossible at present to take anything off flour because if we did that we would not be able to get a loaf of bread for a penny. The smallest loaf of bread would have to be sold at three cents and if it were not sold at three cents, the penny loaf would be so small that people would not buy it. I was very eager to agree with what the senior member for St. James has said but I find that in the present circumstances it would be quite impractical to do that. I understand that in the near future, there is likely to be a reduction in the price of flour as soon as the new wheat crop is reaped and also as the result of negotiations which are going on between the producers of wheat and the British Government. For those reasons I do not think it would be wise to hold up the passing of this Resolution any longer.

Mr. WARD: I was always in favour of subsidizing rice because I felt that it was a commodity which the poor class of people uses but still other things must be taken into consideration. What is worrying me is whether we shall be able to get sufficient rice in this island so as to be able to fulfil the needs of the people. If we are not going to get sufficient rice I feel that we should subsidize another commodity which is utilized more than others. But Sir, there is a limit to which we must go because, you know this is a very funny world and everybody is out to make money. If it is known that this Government will subsidize flour there is nothing to prevent a racket from going on between the merchants and the people on the other side. It is a very serious proposition to consider and I think we should try to get a ceiling price fixed on flour, so that when we are subsidizing it we will know what we are subsidizing. At present there is a ceiling price fixed on rice but it is unobtainable in the quantities we would like in this island; so that although I am very much in favour of subsidizing rice; if it will be impossible to get sufficient rice to meet the needs of the community, we must look after the people and give them

something else cheaper with which they can carry on. Personally I do not agree at all with subsidization. I feel that we have increased wages in all sections of the community to meet the increased cost of living and I feel that the Government by continuing to subsidize foodstuffs is encouraging the reckless spending of money which could be spent, in my opinion, to a better advantage on behalf of the people of this island. We did not increase wages for sport; we increased wages because the people said that living conditions were beyond their reaches. We increased the wages of agricultural labourers because we knew that the cost of living has increased and that the prices of commodities which they have to buy are much higher than they were formerly; so I feel that this Government should consider carefully whether it should go on spending this money in subsidization and think of ways and means whereby it would benefit the community much more under present conditions. We are supposed to be subsidizing these articles for the benefit of people who cannot afford to buy them if they were not subsidized but when we subsidize these goods we subsidize them for everybody's benefit and what I feel about the matter is that we should spend this money in helping the people who cannot help themselves. The Government has very big schemes before it and I am warning its members that they should go very cautiously as far as the expenditure of the colony is concerned, otherwise they might find themselves in a very chaotic state financially. It must be remembered that the estate owners and other businessmen have advanced wages considerably and it must be borne in mind that their profits in future will not be what they were in former years; consequently the Government will not be getting the amount of income tax which it has been accustomed to get and we are dependent to a great extent on income tax to carry on this Government; so unless this Government is very cautious in spending the money which has been collected by way of taxes it will find that the greater part of the reserve which it has in hand will have been spent and it will not have carried out the schemes which it has in mind for the benefit of the people of this country. I feel that every man in this community would be glad to see everybody happy. We know that clothes are as essential as food but we never hear anybody talk about subsidizing clothes. We have tried to give the people better wages and we must teach them that they should learn to balance their budget like other people do. I repeat that if it is impossible to get sufficient rice to be subsidized, we should subsidize something else for the time being and the next best article of food is flour but, as I said, we must be cautious and must try to get a ceiling price for flour because you may be subsidizing it at 16c. or 14c. per lb. soon and in that case you would not be doing any justice to the people of this country. At present there is no competition in the flour market. We have to buy from one particular source; that source knows that flour is subsidized in this island and they will endeavour to make hay while the sun shines.

Mr. LEWIS: I am in favour to-day of passing this Resolution as it is and taking the word of the Government that it is going to give serious consideration to this subsidization scheme from every angle. I am in sympathy with the expressions of opinion about rice being in the schedule and I have said so on a previous occasion. My opinion to-day is that the Government, based on previous policy, must have made certain arrangements about taking

deliveries of flour, so I am prepared to leave that alone. One month in the quarter has nearly gone and I have no desire to embarrass the Government. But I do hope it will pay great attention to what it has heard. I am stressing the point that the whole subsidization scheme be considered from every angle, particularly from the angle whether it is time for us to stop this subsidization. Let us see whether we can get our foodstuffs and other things at the cheapest prices; let us see to it that wages are commensurate with the cost of living and that we do our best to get things as cheaply as possible for the people. Now, one of the best schemes I can imagine for helping people would be to help them to help themselves and I would counsel the Government and others who are giving the matter any consideration that whereas it would be a good thing to include rice in the schedule, if you have had it in mind that you are going to stop subsidization, it will come as a greater hardship if you take off even a cent and in the course of a few months have to put it back on. I would like to say this for the benefit of the senior member for St. Lucy. He said that there is no ceiling price for rice—

Mr. WARD: On a point of explanation. I did say that there is a ceiling price for rice.

Mr. LEWIS: I am sorry that I did not hear the honourable member well; but at any rate the Agreement with British Guiana only guarantees a delivery of 80 per cent. and consideration will be given afterwards to the remaining 20 per cent. I was talking, Sir, about helping people to help themselves. If we do everything in our power to get cheap rice in an abundant quantity, if we subsidize or do not subsidize flour and it comes to us in abundance, the people of this country—and I believe the people of any country—would cease to assist themselves by the planting of more of their own foodstuffs when it is easier to buy these goods and the best thing for our economy is to get the people into the habit of helping themselves, not that I agree that the prices should be so high as to prevent them from reaping the fullest benefit. Accepting the assurance of the Government that it is going to give this scheme the serious attention which it deserves I am going to support this Resolution.

Mr. BRANCKER: The honourable member who has just spoken hinted at the possibility that there is, under contemplation, the cessation of subsidization altogether but I would suggest to the Government that it does not give any serious consideration, unless conditions change very rapidly within the next few months, to the stopping of subsidization after the 30th June, 1947. As honourable members can see from the Resolution, this money is to subsidize these commodities during the months of the year when the majority of the people in this country are working and as soon as the reaping season is completed, that principal source of income will be cut off as from the 1st July. To envisage the prospect of no remuneration without subsidization is a most fearful thing indeed. There is no question, to my mind, that rice is the most important item of food, and flour takes second place. Rice is a greater necessity than flour and the only reason why people are not using more rice, so long as the price is within their reach, is because they cannot obtain it. If the price of flour and the price of rice were at pre-war figures we would find that very much more rice is used than flour. Once again I will refer, as I have done on practically every occasion when this schedule comes before this House, to the necessity of subsidizing cows' milk. I have been told that the best way to deal with that is to subsidize stockfeed, and I

must remind the Government that the price of cows' milk deserves its very careful consideration. If the best means of dealing with it is to subsidize stockfeed, then something should be done to keep the price of stockfeed what it is; although I appreciate that you cannot differentiate between the stockfeed which is purchased by the owners of racehorses and the idle rich and the fodder which is purchased by the poor man. If, as the honourable senior member for St. Lucy has said, there are people who have been given a cost of living bonus and so are in a better position to pay the increased prices of certain commodities, let us not overlook the fact that we have a lot of people who are out of work and those people also have to live. I again commend the Government to do something about the price of cows' milk; adopt whichever method is the most effective means of keeping cows' milk at a price which the poor people can afford to pay.

Mr. ADAMS: I will deal with the last point first. I wish to assure the junior member for St. Lucy that to this question of cows' milk the Government has for some time paid much attention. As a result of some enquiries which I have made of the Livestock Officer I can say that the scheme which the Government has accepted in principle and for which we are making provision to the extent of £50,000 in the ten-year Development Plan—a Central Milk Distribution Scheme—is such that it will gladden the hearts of all of us to know that cheap milk will be put at the disposal of persons in every parish by a system of distribution much less haphazard than the present system whereby milk may be sent from one parish to another. I assure the honourable member that this question of milk distribution is receiving much attention; that the proposed scheme is a good one and that as soon as the Secretary of State for the Colonies gives his approval to the suggestion made in the ten-year plan it is proposed to start with the scheme almost immediately after. I wish to congratulate the junior member for St. Michael and the senior member for St. Lucy on the moderation and the reasonableness of their contributions to the debate. It is really heartening to see that some members of the Opposition will lay aside at some times the mere desire to score a debating point and will contribute to a debate in a way that you cannot help admiring. I do not make that statement merely because they foreshadow the fact that they will be voting for the Resolution but because they have been able to realize that there is a lack of sufficient rice to be subsidised. We have had information that there is a drought in British Guiana and owing to that drought it is far from likely that they will be able to increase the 80 per cent. of the 9,200 which they promised to give us. The point made by the senior member for St. Lucy is a useful point, apart from that information, that is, if we cannot provide sufficient rice we should subsidize what the junior member for St. Lucy describes as the second thing to rice—flour. I am sure that the House would be indignant if I took any notice of the second-hand palavers of the senior member for St. James. As regards the remarks of the senior member for St. Andrew I would like to point out to him again that it is the feeling of the Government that clothing should be cheaper but that can be better attended to by a decrease in the mark-ups than by putting khaki pants, let us say, in this schedule. I assure him of this: that the Government intends almost immediately—that is the latest possible information I can give him—to appoint a Commission to go into the whole question of subsidization, cost of living, and mark-ups (Cheers). Honourable members will see that the Government will keep to that

assurance. I rise primarily, Mr. Chairman, to reply briefly to one or two misleading statements which have been made in the Committee, which have naturally be reproduced in the Press and which have in some cases, as all of us know, been accepted as a sound foundation for arguments against the Government's proposed subsidization plea. The first point to which I should like to make reference is the suggestion that the importation of large quantities of flour is a racket; that honourable members who are members of the Executive Committee are puppets in the hands of merchants and other businessmen and that we cannot see when we are being fooled or made use of as tools. I hope that I shall not appear offensive if I say "I thank God I am not a businessman." I am not defending businessmen but I will say this: whatever their outlook maybe, whatever their attitude maybe towards the question of subsidization or the question of importation, that attitude, if inimical to the interests of the community, has nothing whatever to do with the large importation of flour that took place earlier this year. It has been said in this House and reproduced in print that the dearer flour is the more flour merchants will import because their commission will be higher. Every honourable member will remember that in 1941 commissions on all important imported food-stuffs were fixed by Dr. Saint per unit and my recollection is that they were fixed on the same amount of profit which used to be made before the war. Whether a bag of flour costs \$5 or \$50, the importer is allowed so much per bag; therefore, it is utterly untrue to say that a merchant is going to import thousands and thousands more bags than he would otherwise import because he gets commission on the price of the flour. It makes no difference, as far as a merchant's commission is concerned, whether the price of flour is \$5 or \$50 per bag. The other allegation that as soon as flour was subsidized increased quantities were imported also has no foundation in fact. We have as our good fortune Dr. Saint back with us and at a meeting of the Control Board on Monday he was present. I was glad for my sake and for the sake of the Government that Dr. Saint wholeheartedly approves of the present policy of the Government and attributes the attacks that have been made on the Government's policy in this House to a lack of a real knowledge of the facts. He added that if there was one commodity in the world that gave more trouble than any other, it was flour; there was always too much flour or too little. Parenthetically, stocks of flour at Christmas-time were so low that if flour did not come during Christmas week, there would have been no bread in this country. After the stocks were not coming in sufficient quantities during the months of November and December last year the Controller cabled to Mr. Stollmeyer in Montreal to ascertain the cause of the delay in shipments and he was told that the St. Lawrence floes were on in mid-November and that cargoes had to be sent to **Halifax** for shipment, instead of coming forward from Montreal; that there was a lot of congestion on the railroads going to Halifax, brought about by heavy snow and the movement of very large quantities of goods. As a result of that, it was decided by the Control Board that for the month of January, instead of importing the usual 15,200 bags of flour, we should get 24,800 bags—an excess of 9,600 bags—which is about three weeks' supply, so as to build up stocks in case this congestion on the railroads continued and there was difficulty in respect of importations during the winter months.

Those are the points with which honourable members should have been fortified before they made those allegations about merchants bringing in these vast quantities of flour because of the increased price and subsidization. Well, in view of the larger quantity which was ordered in January, the quantities ordered subsequently went down from 15,200 bags per month to 7,200 bags in February—8,000 bags less—the same quantity in March—7,200 bags—and 12,000 bags in April—3,200 bags less,—again nothing to do with what the merchants wanted but because the Control Board felt that, quantities coming in the way in which they were coming, it was advisable to have at least such stocks that we should not completely run out of flour. But fortunately for the island, the calculations of the Control Board were somewhat thrown out by the fact that the shipping position in January and February improved considerably and the flour which was late in arriving in November and December came to hand in addition to the supply for January. That is why the public heard that so much flour was in the warehouse in Bridgetown. But at no time did these stocks exceed 54 days' supply in the island. Honourable members can, therefore, see that this talk about the piling up of huge stocks of flour because of the rapacity of local merchants, who are sometimes rapacious, I admit, is mere propaganda. Owing to reduced quantities ordered in February and March the stocks went down considerably and last week the stocks in the island amounted to only 38 days' supply which is practically the normal quantity we keep in stock from time to time. It is only fair to the Government and myself—I regret to say to the merchants too—to give the Committee those facts. I have no brief for the merchants. I repeat "Thank God I am not a businessman." If I give honourable members the prices from month to month they will see how the island benefited from this foresight in accumulating stocks in January when in November and December the quantities were not forthcoming. In December the price of flour was \$11.90 per bag; in January it went up 25 cents per bag; in February it went up 20 cents per bag; in March it went to \$12.90 per bag and in April to \$14.35 per bag, so that comparatively the vast quantity bought in January was really cheaper by more than \$2.00 per bag than the quantity bought in April. I think those figures and the reasons I have given should satisfy every member of this Committee that the allegations which were made as to the cause of these huge stocks were not based on accurate knowledge and the junior member for St. James has said that we have reason to believe that the price of flour may go down, as a result of the Wheat Conference which is sure to operate in favour of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

My last point is in reply to some remarks that were made about cornmeal. An allegation was made in the Press that the price of cornmeal fell 2 cents per lb. after subsidization was removed. Honourable members will remember that we put cornmeal in the schedule because cornmeal was not obtainable at the time and we put it in as an alternative to flour; but the price of flour compelled us to stick to flour. Cornmeal came along and luckily one of these maligned merchants, not a member of the Control Board, had a brain wave which he passed on to the Control Board. Cornmeal is obtained largely from the United States of America and it is only a by-product; after the Quaker Oats Company and firms like that extract other cereal foods from the corn they then send the cornmeal to the West Indies,

one of the few markets that buy it. A merchant who has his finger on these things, seeing that the cornmeal crop in the United States was going to be a huge one, suggested to the Control Board not to buy at the time of his suggestion but to wait and his forecast turned out to be accurate. The price fell heavily. I may say, and as the result of waiting for this very heavy fall in price, as it has been described, the Controller was able to buy cornmeal at such a low price that he could afford to recommend the discontinuance of the subsidization of cornmeal. The allegation that the price fell because subsidization was removed is so much nonsense; it fell because the original cost fell considerably and it was because the cost fell considerably — the accusers put the cart before the horse in this particular instance — that it was no longer necessary to subsidize cornmeal. I have made these points because, as I say, when incorrect statements are made on the floor of the House and are not contradicted and when they are reproduced in the Press the public can be easily misled — even honourable members can be misled — by them. I believe in the reasonableness of human beings; tell them the truth, tell them all the facts you have in your possession, let them examine them for themselves and you can depend upon their sound judgment of a matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: The senior member for St. James made an enquiry about the quantity of rice to hand.

Mr. ADAMS: I have not the exact figures but I can say that just as we have been building up reserve stocks of flour we have been building up reserve stocks of rice and, so far, we have about 40% of our entire 1947 allocation by Demerara already in the island. I do not think there are any further figures I can give the honourable member. I wish to apologize to honourable members for having given them, at so late a time after the last meeting, the figures appearing in the documents "A" and "B". I am stating the palpable truth when I say that honourable members not in the Government must realize what an almost superhuman task it is to do the Government's work thoroughly. At the same time, I am not appealing for sympathy. The members of the Government like hard work and I am only giving what is an explanation and not an excuse.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The senior member for St. Joseph made the point that merchants are allowed Commission on units. The point I am making is this: The more subsidy the more units and, Sir, if there are more units, the merchants must get more commission. I quite agree with the junior member for St. Lucy that this is not the time to interfere with subsidization because our cost of living is much too high. But what I am suggesting is to allocate some of this money towards rice and that will not in any way affect the amount of money which the Government is spending for subsidization. The junior member for the City said that if the price of rice was fixed at 5 cents per pint and later on it goes back to 6 cents per pint, that will cause a heartburn but he seems to forget that rice was 4 cents per pint before it went to 6 cents per pint. I think that that is causing a heartburn.

Mr. LEWIS: There is just one very particular point that was made by the senior member for St. Joseph which, I think, he should be called upon to clarify and say whether he has information exactly as I am going to ask him now. I am not aware of the fact that Dr. Saint or any man in Barbados can fix the commission that an agent of a supplier of flour

in Canada should be paid. I am going to confess to the honourable member that I know nothing about it but does his information cover the commission that is paid to an agent in Barbados acting for a flour mill in Canada? He stated that there are statements made on the floor of the House that can be very damaging but Dr. Saint would be placed in a peculiar position to tell shippers of flour in Canada or anywhere else what commission they must pay their agents in Barbados. I would like to know if that is so. Do you mean to tell me that Dr. Saint controls as well the profit that is derived from the business done on behalf of the flour mills or shippers in Canada? I will risk to bet that the honourable member might find that it is done on a percentage basis. He made a statement about cornmeal that was not made on the floor of this House and I think he is aware of it. He said that luckily somebody had a brain wave as the result of which cornmeal was purchased at a much cheaper price and it would seem as though the honourable member is willing to accept all these things. I would like him, in fairness to the members of this House, to state whether the big profit that he alluded to on flour or anything else is regulated by Dr. Saint as between the shipper in Canada and his importing agent in Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS: It is difficult to follow the honourable member's question. I said plainly that the commission is allowed on each unit, whether it be a bag or a box. Naturally it was fixed on the basis of the profit which was made before the war and that was done also in England and in other places too. I remember the "Recorder" specifically making much point of it in quoting what was done abroad and suggesting that we should do the same. The merchant is allowed so much on each package and, therefore, it is immaterial what the price of the article is. I do not think it is necessary to say anything more about that. If the honourable member so desires I would like to discuss it with him privately. Six or seven years ago Dr. Saint made this alteration from a percentage on profits to a fixed commission per unit.

Mr. WARD: With regard to what the junior member for the City has said, there is an agent representing Canadian flour mills in Barbados and we do not know whether the increased stocks of flour is due to negotiations between the mills and that particular agent. We are not talking now about merchants at all. A merchant's profit might be so much per bag but that agent representing the flour mills may be getting so much on the price of the flour. I believe it is very difficult for this Government to even think about questioning the agent of the flour mills in Canada about what he is getting. I knew that the senior member for St. Joseph could not answer the question of the junior member for the City because I know he would know nothing about it. There may be something going wrong in the price of flour between the mills and that particular agent.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—I presume that this Resolution will be passed to-day for two main reasons. The first is that we have the pledge of the Government that the entire question of subsidization will be reviewed in the very near future and the second is that we are getting our rice now under the terms of a five-year Agreement with British Guiana and were we to start subsidizing rice now it necessarily means that we will have to continue subsidizing rice or we should continue subsidizing it throughout the period of the Agreement; so that if we began to peg rice at 4 cents per pint to-day and later on in July

when the position of the flour market improves and we stop spending money on the subsidization of flour we may have to go on taking out money from the Treasury to subsidize rice. For these reasons I believe honourable members will agree to the passing of the Resolution and expect, as has been promised, a proper revision of the whole policy within the next three months. If to-day, Sir, among other honourable members I support the passing of this Resolution I want to assure people both in this Chamber and outside of it that in so doing I am not in any way flouting the large section of the public in this country who would like to see rice included in the schedule; neither am I being so gullible as to decide that suddenly in Barbados the standard of commercial morality has become so high that we can without question accept what we are told by the big merchants who dominate the Control Board. If we are going to be told that we can sit blindly and accept what we are told by them as gospel truth, well, Sir, we might as well come in here and ask the honourable members on my left to dictate the policy of the Government. The position is this. We all know that never in the history of this country has there been much morality practised among the merchants of this island and we all know that even in this question of pegging the prices of foodstuffs, even in the matter of price control these merchants are out in every way possible, whenever they can and if they can, to put something over the public. As a matter of fact it is only because of the misunderstandings which occur from time to time between the big commercial magnates in Bridgetown that outsiders like ourselves get an inkling of what is going on. Take this question of flour, for instance. I know two importers who have been wickedly excluded, who have not been granted allocations of flour and in the fixing of the allocations a time limit was used which specifically excluded them. The junior member for the City stated a case in point last Tuesday and it is because of this wickedness, so to speak, in high places or to use another apposite comparison or even better still to quote a familiar proverb "when rogues fall out honest men get what they deserve"—it is because some of these importers have suffered at the hands of others that we know all is not well with the Control Board and, therefore, to-day if I sit here and agree to the passing of this Resolution I want to make it perfectly plain that I am doing so not because I am being taken in by what I am told by these people. There is no wonder that the junior member for St. Philip who is not so well to-day—he may be here later—took strong exception on Tuesday last to the allegation that the stand he took was the result of a nod from the senior member for St. James. After all, if you look at the matter squarely, the senior member for St. James is actually a member of this Chamber, elected among a Party. We were conveniently told a few weeks ago by the senior member for St. Joseph that we—all 24 members—were elected to this House on the Party system and if we were elected in such large numbers by our respective Parties it does appear to me that the members of the Party to which the senior member for St. James belongs should not be regarded as political untouchables or as being so politically leprous as the senior member for St. Joseph wanted to intimate. As a matter of fact I look at it this way: if we are going to take nods, it is far better to take them from people elected like ourselves than from the merchants who dominate the Control Board. Many of them could not get in this Chamber if they spent their whole fortunes; they could not get in if they dyed themselves the complex-

ion of the senior member for St. Joseph and myself. I think the senior member for St. Joseph will admit that neither in his organization nor in mine will be found the political repository of all the desires and aspirations of the people of this country. If that was so, one of us would have had a majority in the last election. In so far as the junior member for St. Philip is concerned I know that neither he nor any other person who belongs to the organization with which he is connected is under any obligation, either morally or otherwise, to any member of the Control Board; and, therefore, he is perfectly in order and perfectly able to get up in this House and express his opinion, even when that opinion happens to coincide with that of members of the Electors' Association. Now, Sir, I go even a little further. Some day last week, some of the working classes in Bridgetown got the fairly reliable information that we are to have emigration to Curacao. To whom did they go? They found themselves at the office of the junior member for St. James and asked him to go immediately and discuss the matter with the Governor which, I understand from some of them, he did. Obviously even the masses in this country seem to think that something good can come out of the Association to which the junior member for St. James belongs. And, Sir, I repeat that if it is even true to say that the senior member for St. James or the junior member for St. James is drawn from the same section of the community to which the people who dominate the Control Board belong, it is also true to say that at least they have the excuse of saying that they had to identify themselves with the working classes of this country, at least to the extent of enlisting their suffrage to get in this Chamber and, therefore, they may have had better means of acquiring a knowledge of what the masses think and need. They may be in sympathy to-day with the people by compulsion but not by conviction but there are a lot of other people who are labourites to-day but who were not always labourites. People who attacked the late Dr. O'Neale are labourites to-day; they have learnt to know better and there is some little hope that honourable members on my left may, in process of time, also advance the claim that they are the only representatives of labour in this country. I was surprised at the way in which people almost contradict themselves on this question of the situation about stocks of rice in the island. On the one hand we are told that we cannot afford to expect the people on the other side to give us greater supplies of rice, therefore, as it is not available we will do what we can with flour. On the other hand we are told that here we are only at the beginning of the fourth month of the year and that we already have 45 per cent. of the allocation of rice to us. Within two months we have almost our complete quota for this year. Even if it is true that we are building up a reserve—by all means we should—as a result of what we have heard of the unfortunate position in British Guiana, it is not true to say that we are not getting our supply of rice—a statement which the figures do not support. The senior member for St. Lucy in his remarks did say that he had been told that we must go on subsidizing flour because if we subsidize rice, the people cannot get it. That is not true. The position as regards rice is satisfactory and so long as the Agreement lasts I believe it will remain satisfactory. Now, Sir, I think I have made it perfectly plain why I am supporting this Resolution to-day and, in conclusion, I want to make it just as plain, before I sit down, that either the junior member for St. Philip or the organization to which he belongs is quite prepared on any occa-

sion to ally himself or themselves with any individual in this Chamber who in his or their opinion is willing and anxious to do something for the people of this country. I remember that Churchill during the war when the very existence of Great Britain was threatened declared that he was willing to make a pact with the devil in order to save Britain and we are also willing to do anything in this country, if by so doing we are convinced we will be advancing the interests of the working classes of this country.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I am very surprised at the argument that the senior member for St. Philip used in saying that he will not subsidize rice. His argument is that if we subsidize rice to-day we will have to subsidize it for five years, the period of the Rice Agreement. Well, Sir, I do not see how the honourable member could be so gullible or expects us to be so gullible as to accept an argument like that. He could just as well say that we could not stop subsidizing flour or any other article. Why select rice alone? I cannot see anything in that argument at all. I quite agree with the junior member for St. Lucy. We should subsidize rice so as to give the people a cheaper commodity.

Mr. WARD: I am saying that sufficient rice cannot be had to be subsidized; why then should it be subsidized? Let us subsidize something else which will help the people tide over the situation.

The question that the schedule be amended by adding rice to the list is put and resolved in the negative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: DR. WILSON, MESSRS. BRANCKER, S. A. WALCOTT, and WILKINSON—4.

Noes: MESSRS. LEWIS, F. L. WALCOTT, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, HAYNES, GALE, WARD, DR. CUMMINS, and MR. SPEAKER—15.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do hope that the senior member for St. Joseph will not think that I am trying to delay the passing of the Resolution but, Sir, before you put the question I should like to say that I have a little experience in these matters and I do not think that this Resolution in its present form carries out the intention of the Government. In the first place it should be stated in this Resolution that it is to supplement Resolution No. So and So and, secondly, the Resolution states that this amount of money is to meet the cost of subsidising the commodities mentioned in the schedule to the 30th June, 1947, but it does not state from what date. It seems to me that this Resolution only comes into force on the date that it is signed by His Excellency the Governor but there may be a lapse somewhere. I draw these points to the notice of the honourable member, not with the idea of postponing the Resolution but with the idea of trying to help.

The question that the Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. SPRINGER, the Chairman reports the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and asks leave to sit again.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case, the two Resolutions are read a first and a second time and are agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: It being after 2 o'clock, this House stands adjourned until a quarter to 3 o'clock in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to ques-

tions No. 1, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to make the motion.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended order to resume Government Business.

Mr. SPRINGER seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the adjournment for lunch took place, the House was in Committee of Supply.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION RE PURCHASE OF BUILDINGS AT SEAWELL AND CHARLES FORT.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—The next Resolution is for the sum of £62. 8s. to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the amount granted by resolution No. 2/1947 dated the 15th January, 1947, to purchase from the War Office certain buildings at Seawell and Charles Fort.

The addendum explains the position. By Resolution No. 2/1947, the sum of £6,134. 5s. was provided earlier in this session to purchase from the War Office certain buildings at Seawell and Charles Fort. Owing to a clerical error the total cost of the Charles Fort buildings was shown as £1,534.16.0. while the figures should have been £1,597.4.0. The total amount required under the Resolution should, therefore, be £6,196. 13. 0. This Resolution is to provide the additional sum of £62. 8. 0. I think that I should add that, as far as I know, the fault is not that of any member of the Executive Committee, and I doubt whether this Committee will object to granting this additional amount. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: I can quite see the reason for this Resolution, but at the same time I would like to know if any decision has been made as to the use of these buildings. On the last occasion we only got a nebulous view of what would be done with these buildings. I am hoping that one of the members of the Government will be able to give me some enlightenment now as to what they intend to do with these buildings.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Unfortunately the position is still nebulous.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Resolution was passed.

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS EMPLOYED UNDER COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Sir, is one to place the sum of £4,351 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay with

effect from the 1st April, 1946, and until the 31st March, 1948, a cost of living allowance to officers employed under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. The rates, terms, conditions and exceptions are all set out in the Schedule attached to this Resolution, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that. I am asking the Committee to deal with this matter as expeditiously as possible because the people for whom this money is being asked are very much in need of it.

Mr. LEWIS: This, I believe, is the second Resolution which has come before us for money to pay cost of living allowances or salaries in connection with Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. On the last occasion I do not think that any statement was made as to whether the money which is being paid out in connection with these Schemes will be recovered or not. I would like to know exactly how this thing is being done, whether the money is coming out of the allocation to the colony or whether we are now, out of the Treasury, augmenting Schemes which were adopted under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act sometime previously. I am hoping that the honourable member who is in charge of the Resolution will say something about this matter. I am wondering whether the Colonial Development and Welfare Department will give us an increased amount or not. I would like to know if we are now taking over some of these Schemes at least to the extent of the payment of this cost of living allowance. I am not objecting to it, but I should like a statement to be made for record in this House.

Mr. BLACKMAN: This money will not be re-funded; it is coming out of the Treasury. I do not think that it is possible for us to make any exceptions; all the officers will have to be treated in the same way. They will receive a cost of living allowance according to the rates set out in the Schedule to the Resolution.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Resolution was passed.

EXPENSES RE RUNNING OF THE COTTON SPINNING PLANT

Mr. SPRINGER: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £9,550 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the purchase and installation of machinery for the Cotton Spinning Plant and to provide a revolving fund for the purchase of cotton lint.

The Addendum explains briefly the history of this Plant and the reasons why it is necessary to ask for this additional vote. This House authorised the expenditure of £13,200 in 1945, being an advance to be recovered from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for the purchase and installation of machinery and to meet operational expenses. The position now is that owing to the delay primarily and to a number of other causes which I will briefly mention, that money has been found to be insufficient. The actual experience of operation shows that by the addition of some machinery which was not in the original estimate, the output should be doubled and the operational profits made much greater in relation to the outlay. In any event, more money has to be found to meet the operational costs. Honourable members will remember that when this plant came down, it

came down in advance of anyone either to erect or to operate it. It was hoped optimistically that the local engineers would have been able to make a job of it, but unfortunately, no drawings accompanied the machinery and as none of the engineers had any experience or had seen any plant of this nature, they had to do some guess work and when the Operator came down he found that some of the things which should have been there were not there. Some of the parts were badly connected. I will quote from the Report of the first Operator who came down if honourable members so desire. I have no desire to delay the Committee by going into extensive details. There were no drawings and there was no engineer who had any experience in the handling of the machinery. It was badly packed, there was no grease in the middle parts which rusted and some parts were missing. The first engine sent down was too weak and another one was ordered. The first Operator who came down some months after the plant came down was ill and we had to await the arrival of his successor, and he came nine months after the first one had left. All these circumstances have caused the delay and the wasting, so to speak, of some of the original money which was provided. If there is any further information which honourable members desire to have and I can give it, I shall be happy to do so. I have seen the plant myself and I am convinced that it is a very hopeful thing as far as a small method of industrialisation is concerned. I say small, because as seen from the addendum to the Resolution, it will not employ a large number of people directly in the machinery; but there are four males and a manager employed in the actual spinning operation, and it will mean keeping a certain amount of money in the colony because we can supply for ourselves certain items which we used to import. That has been proved by the cost of actual production. We can, with additional machinery, produce line for making fishing nets, cord used in the shops, yarn for weaving cotton goods which can be made in looms and which can be made by such weaving plants as exist in the West Indies. There is a plant in Jamaica which it was agreed with Sir Frank Stockdale that they would take such requirements as we could supply provided that the prices of the yarn supplied compare favourably with what they get from America. At present, we import cotton from the Grenadines because the grade of cotton they produce there is of a better quality for making yarn than we are at present producing. If the scheme develops, there is no reason why we should not be able to use our own sea island cotton if that is proved more profitable than exporting it. As far as I see, the scheme is successful at present, and it can be made more successful if the money is provided. With the addition of some machinery to that which we have at present, we can make a profit of £250 on the working month without increasing our overhead costs. This estimate has been based on the present conservative rate of production. Obviously it is worth while spending money so as to increase the usefulness of the plant. I hope that honourable members will see their way to vote for this Resolution.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: First of all, I would like to congratulate those who are responsible for having this plant working as well as it is now working. It is something which is to be highly commended, and I hope that it will redound to greater benefit to the community than that which has been envisaged by

the honourable senior member for St. George. There has been some bungling, however, on the part of the Colonial Development and Welfare people. They sent down machinery and sent down a master spinner to use the machinery before they sent down someone to put it up! Instead of sending down an engineer, they sent down a master spinner and he did not like Barbados. He had to assist in putting up the machinery. This machinery has cost a considerable sum of money to put it up and that is why I have asked that figures be supplied as to the cost of putting up this machinery. This plant has been given a bad start. A contract is made that if this project fails you can only dispose of it in one way; if you do not make a success of it, you cannot remove it from there and carry it somewhere else. You have leased the land and put up buildings and that is why I have been getting behind the Government to see that this project is a success. I commend the project to honourable members and I ask them to go and see that there is a first-class industry in the making. I do not think that it would be right for me to say to this Government: "I will give you this amount of money and you can come back for an additional amount." This is a buying and selling business, and you must have some capital with which to work it. The name "revolving fund" has been used; well, I think that this is a "revolver fund" as far as this Government is concerned. (Laughter). They had a revolving fund of £10,000 for the purpose of distributing locally-produced vegetables—cassava, yams and potatoes—all over the island. They agreed to it and they did not see how stupid the scheme was until they brought it up here. That fund was created and sanctioned by the House, and I do not believe that very much of it was used. No statement has ever been laid on the Table of this House as to what was actually done about that fund. The next fund which they had was in connection with the processing Factory at Lancaster, and that was a project involving £30,000. This House agreed to a revolving fund of £10,000 to work that Factory, and after it was working for over a year I asked the Government to supply me with the first lot of figures. I think that they ought to have laid some statement of the accounts on the Table of the House. It is not good enough for them to send the accounts to the Auditor General. I cannot remember to ask the Government for those accounts to the 30th of June every year. The first account had to be recast in June, 1944, and they showed a good profit on the working of the project. I think that on every occasion when the accounts in respect of this revolving fund are audited, these accounts should be laid on the Table of this House. The Vestries have to account in respect of the various parishes, the Baby Welfare Leagues let honourable members know how they are spending their money and in the case of this processing Factory which has a revolving fund of £10,000, the accounts are not laid unless you have asked for them! I have seen a Head and an Acting Head of the Administration on two occasions and told them that I consider that such a thing lends itself to suspicion and may be, a charge of dishonesty. I consider that it is wrong for these accounts to be withheld from this House. It is wrong for this Government to create a revolving fund and then not furnish any accounts. There is another fund for which they have not accounted; as regards the Schooner Pool Authority—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has made the point and I do not think that he should carry it any further.

Mr. LEWIS: I feel that it is incumbent upon me to say this. The Schooner Owners' Association—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has already mentioned the Schooner Pool and I have said that I am not allowing anything about that.

Mr. LEWIS: I am not allowing the Government to create another revolving fund. They have not yet accounted for those which they have created and the Schooner Owners' Association—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is quite enough; the honourable member cannot elaborate on it.

Mr. LEWIS: I think that this is unfair not only to me but to the Government against whom I have laid a charge.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair says that you cannot elaborate either on the Cassava Factory or the Schooner Owners' Association. We have taken the hint and that is enough.

Mr. LEWIS: The funds in connection with the Colonial Development and Welfare Department and those in connection with the Colony are so mixed up that you cannot tell one from the other; you cannot tell where this Colony starts from where the Colonial Development and Welfare Department starts. I want the honourable member who is in charge of this Resolution to assure me that the accounts in connection with these revolving funds and the Schooner Owners' Association will be laid on the table of this House. One is actually a request from the House, and the other is a matter of accounting by persons who are spending the taxpayers' money. I would like the honourable member to say that he will transmit this request to the Government, namely, that the accounts in connection with the cotton spinning plant will be laid on the Table of the House periodically when they are audited. That is a correct thing to do. If anybody withheld my change and would not give it to me until I asked for it, I would think that that person had a criminal intent. That is the way in which I look at the matter.

Mr. SPRINGER: I do not feel that we are in order today to discuss previous votes in this House either in these circumstances or in any other circumstances. The honourable member has referred to some bungling, but that is a matter of opinion. I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable member that these negotiations were conducted during the War, and I do not think that it is fair to attach any blame to the people who telegraphed to England and asked that this plant be sent down in these circumstances. If it came down without any grease, that is a war-time condition, something that does not happen ordinarily. The people in England assumed that we, as a progressive people, would have been able to put up a plant like this. However, I will give the honourable member this assurance. I will pass on the request which he has made.

Mr. WARD: I would like to know what is the productive capacity of this plant and whether we will get sufficient raw cotton to keep the plant working. These are things which any hard-headed business people would go into before they start spending any money on any particular plant. If we are spending a certain amount of money on a plant. I think that it is unwise to do so before we know exactly how much material we can get so as to keep the plant working, and whether the production will be a paying concern or not. We may experiment with a loss and then turn over to somebody else.

Mr. SPRINGER: This is a paying concern now. We are making 4,000 pounds of yarn a month and when we get the additional machinery for which we

are asking, we will be able to make 8,000 pounds a month. It is expected that this plant will always make a profit. It is further expected that we will be able to produce other valuable items, and then of course, a profit or a loss may accrue. On the present basis, however, the plant is a paying proposition. The cotton is imported from the Grenadines, and we have not attempted to use any of our local material for the reasons which I have already given. If it is necessary to increase the importation of cotton from the Grenadines, they will be able to find an additional market for their cotton.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Resolution was passed.

ASSISTANCE TO MR. F. C. RAMSAY.

Mr. SPRINGER: The next Resolution is one to place the sum of £150 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to assist in the cost of the medical scholarship awarded to Mr. F. C. Ramsay under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 693.

This is an unusual Resolution and the addendum sets out clearly what the position is. Mr. Ramsay was awarded a medical scholarship tenable in the United Kingdom under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme on the payment of a certain sum of money per year. This was because the people who were administering the Scheme decided that as their funds were limited and the demands were increasing they would reduce the value of the scholarship. They have just notified us to the effect that it would be a question either of the gentlemen concerned or his parents finding this £150 or the Government assisting him in this regard. It is entirely a matter for the Committee whether they think that this is a deserving case, and whether the Government should accept the responsibility for assisting Mr. Ramsay to complete his course. It is not altogether a satisfactory case; although the Government is being asked to supplement the amount of the award, the Government is not satisfied as to the method of the award. However, in my view, it is a question now of making the best of a bad job. I want to make the position quite clear. I am not making any suggestion against the particular holder of this scholarship. I think that it is our feeling that this is a very deserving case, but the method by which the award was made was not satisfactory. I may add that this Government was asked whether it would agree to such a scheme; the Government was not in favour of it, but before the reply was transmitted, we were told that this decision has been taken. Therefore it was a question of asking the House to provide the funds or leaving the gentlemen entirely on his own reserves. The Executive Committee have made enquiries and are satisfied that neither the gentleman nor his parent has got the means to supplement the amount required, and I can assure honourable members that that is the case. Some of us will know the parents of this gentleman and can satisfy ourselves as to the truth of that statement. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that. I should like to point out—this was not mentioned by the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution—that the Comptroller for Development and Welfare has pointed out that the course which we are now pursuing is being pursued by other West Indian Governments. The Government pays the money if the holder of the scholarship is unable to do so.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am wondering if this is the normal course which the Colonial Development and Welfare Department have been pursuing since they have been awarding scholarships. This is a peculiar thing to do. Expenses for education are going up in England, and the Colonial Development and Welfare Department said at the beginning that they were going to assist these various scholarships. I do not like people to be placed in this invidious position of deciding this matter, because the House may not always be lenient towards the individual. I do not feel that we will vote against the person concerned; if a man is working for £400 a year and he is asked to provide £150 a year out of that for this purpose, to my mind, that is asking him to do something other than being honest. I feel that some statement should be made as to the question of awarding these scholarships. It is no use awarding people scholarship based upon their educational qualification and their ability and then ask them to find the money. I feel that scholars should not be placed in this position; if the Colonial Development and Welfare Department are awarding scholarships to boys and girls—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the honourable member to read the addendum to this Resolution. This is not the proper place to quarrel with the Colonial Development and Welfare Department.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Colonial Development and Welfare Department have sent down this matter to the Government, and if we do not deal with it here, where are we going to deal with it? (A MEMBER: We ought to be thankful). I do not like these side remarks which I am hearing; after all, this is a British colony, and under the terms of reference of the Royal Commission, they were sent here **for this purpose. There is no idea of being thankful; there is nothing to be thankful about.** A policy has been laid down, and I do not feel that we should be thankful to these people. I feel that the Colonial Development and Welfare Department should review their policy with regard to these Scholarships and see what they can do to increase them.

Mr. LEWIS: If I am voting the taxpayers' money under a scheme of this sort, the scheme must be carried out on a competitive basis as in the case of the Barbados Scholarship so that everybody can have a chance at getting the award. No individual who could not raise £150 a year from private sources would have applied for this scholarship no matter how good a scholar he might have been. Therefore, you would have ruled out a certain number of people including the very individual to whom you gave the scholarship. We are now being asked to provide this £150, and although this is a very deserving cause we have robbed certain people out of this scholarship by the conditions of the award. The sum of £150 a year was to be contributed towards the cost of the scholarship. Anybody who found that he could not afford to pay that amount needed not to have applied for the scholarship. The addendum to the Resolution says this: "A condition of the award was that £150 a year would be contributed from private sources on Mr. Ramsay's behalf." That is set out in the addendum which has been sent to me by the Government; therefore it was a condition in the award of this scholarship that in case anybody was able to provide this money from private sources, his son or daughter would have been awarded this scholarship. This is a very deserving case: it is worthy of the Government's assistance, and I am wondering if this money could be regarded as a loan to Mr. Ramsay's

parents. I speak under correction, but I believe that Mr. Ramsay's father is employed in the service of the Government, and I am suggesting that this money be advanced to him as a loan until his son has qualified, just as the Government have made grants to persons who became ill while in their employ and who needed medical attention outside the island. That might be done so as to assist this deserving case, but with all the sympathy in the world that I can show in this case, I am compelled to vote against this Resolution as it is.

Mr. SPRINGER : I would like to add that these scholars are required to return and work for a certain number of years in the West Indies. I do not know if that will assist the hon. member on his last point.

Mr. WILKINSON : I feel very much like the hon. junior member for the City. As the hon. member has said, a large number of people were excluded because they could not afford to pay this £150. This exhibition was given last year, because it is stated in the addendum to the Resolution that : "This condition was accepted by Mr. Ramsay and he proceeded to the United Kingdom in August, 1946." I think that it is bad to award a scholarship under certain conditions and then within nine months to break those conditions. As the hon. junior member for the City has said, probably if it had been an open scholarship—

At this point, it being now 3.30 p.m. of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and stated that it was now time for the consideration of Private Members' Business.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B)

Mr. ADAMS : I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) in order to continue Government Business.

There being no objection, the hon. member was granted leave.

Mr. ADAMS : I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended in order to continue Government Business.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER : When Government Business was being considered, the House was in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

ASSISTANCE TO MR. F. C. RAMSAY.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : When the House was last in Committee of Supply, we were considering a Resolution to place the sum of £150 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to assist in the cost of the medical scholarship awarded to Mr. F. C. Ramsay under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 693. The hon. junior member for St. James was speaking.

Mr. WILKINSON : If it had been known at the time when this scholarship was awarded that the Government was going to provide this £150 every year, there would have been a very different lot of applicants. Clause 5 of the addendum says : "This Resolution is to provide the funds to meet the contribution in respect of the University year 1947—48. Future provision will be made in the Annual Estimates of Expenditure." I think that this is a deserving case, but we cannot allow our hearts to carry away our heads. I am sorry, but I cannot vote for this Resolution.

Mr. GALE : I have every sympathy for Mr. Ramsay, and it is unfortunate that his parents are

not able to keep to the arrangements which were set out in connection with the award of the scholarship. The hon. senior member for St. George has said that one of the conditions in the award of these scholarships is that the people who get them will serve in the West Indies on their return. As the hon. junior member for the City has appointed out however, this would be unfair to other people who would have applied for the scholarship, and who did not know that the Government would pay the money. That makes a big difference.

Dr. CUMMINS : I did not anticipate that there would have been all this argument in connection with this Resolution. In the first place, the hon. junior member for the City criticizes the method of the award of this scholarship, and thinks that the Government had no voice in the award. I do not think that that is correct. The method of award was that the scholarship would be advertised and the applications would go to the Director of Education who made his recommendation. I am saying what I know; this Government had a voice in the method of the award of this scholarship. I have been saying for many years now that the number of Barbados Scholarships should be increased. That noise has been bruited for a quite a while now, and if it had fructified, Mr. Ramsay would not have been in this position to-day. Mr. Ramsay was a bright science scholar at Harrison College and it was only due to the fact that there is no special award for science here as there is in other countries that he did not win the Barbados Scholarship. Mr. Ramsay was runner-up on more than one occasion, and consequently, I consider that he well deserves this scholarship. As I said just now, the number of Barbados Scholarships should be increased, and if former Governments had paid attention to this matter, we would not be in this position now. I feel, therefore, that we should support this Resolution. I do not think that there is anything underhand being done. I understood the honourable junior member for the City to say—I may not use his very words—that people who are not in a position to apply for these scholarships should not do so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The honourable junior member for the City did not say that; it is unkind for the honourable member to impute those remarks to him.

Dr. CUMMINS : That is a matter for him, not for you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I say that it is unkind to impute those remarks to the honourable member.

Dr. CUMMINS : I believe that the Committee are in sympathy with the Resolution and will support it.

Mr. MAPP : I am voting for this Resolution for two reasons. In the first place I feel that if we refuse to vote this money, the youngster will suffer, and secondly, I have been assured that the Government has been very strong in the matter. I feel that this Committee should express themselves very strongly in regard to the system of awarding scholarships. It is a very bad system. I do not believe in any half-way measures; either do a thing properly or do not do it at all. Obviously, when the Colonial Development and Welfare Department awarded a scholarship like this, they had one type of scholar in mind. If they meant to help Colonial scholars—

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I should like to draw to the attention of the honourable member that this is not the time to criticize the donor of the scholarship: the question is whether this Committee will pass the necessary funds or not.

Mr. MAPP: I am only saying that the Government has been very strong in the matter and that this is a bad method of awarding scholarships. I feel, however, that if we do not pass this Resolution, this youngster will suffer, and I do not want to see him suffer. As the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has pointed out, this is due in great measure to there not being any increase in the number of Scholarships.

Mr. BRANCKER: I do not think that this is so much a case of the individual but a question of the principle involved; I am looking at the matter from the standpoint of the community. Of course, the principle is appalling. There is a shortage of medical men at present, and that is why it is said that medical fees are as they are to-day. (Mr. CHAIRMAN: Very nominal). Inasmuch as this gentleman is required to come back here to practice his profession, I think that we would be doing something for the community if we add another man to the roll of the medical profession in the Caribbean area. It is from that standpoint that I am voting for this Resolution—not from the standpoint of the individual. Mr. Ramsay seems to be a very bright young man, and I am tempted to say that he was done out of a scholarship because the personality test did not show him up as favourable as some other candidate who was awarded a previous scholarship. It is indeed a fact that we want to assist in increasing the number of medical men so as to meet the demands of the local situation, and I do not see anything wrong with the Resolution on that ground. One is surprised to see that so soon after the award of this scholarship the parents of this individual should discover that they were unable to meet the contribution towards the cost of the scholarship. I do not share the view that something went wrong with the financial position of the parents of this gentleman which caused them to find that they could not meet this expenditure. I am voting for the Resolution for the reason which I have given, but I say that it has very little to commend it to honourable members.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. BRANCKER, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS and BLACKMAN—(11).

Noes: Messrs. LEWIS, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD and Mr. SPEAKER—(7).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye", and seven honourable members voting "No". The Resolution has been passed.

INCREASED SALARIES AND WAR BONUS TO STAFFS OF CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION SCHOOLS.

Mr. SPRINGER: The next Resolution with which I propose to deal is Resolution No. 8. I am sorry that the honourable senior member for Christ Church is not in his place. This Resolution is to place the sum of £2,731. 5. 10. at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for several purposes, namely, to make a grant to the Governing Body of the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School of £1,310. 8. 4; to make a grant to the Governing Body of the Christ Church Girls' Foundation School of £920. 17. 6; to enable the Governing Body of each school to pay salaries and war bonus to the Staff from the 1st of April, 1944, to the 31st of March, 1947, and a special allowance to certain members of the staff from the 1st of October, 1945, to the 31st of

March, 1947, in accordance with the rates fixed under the Schemes of Government of Second Grade Schools; and to refund to the Governing Body of the Christ Church Girls' Foundation School the sum of £500 expended on the reconstruction of that School. The reason why, and the public knows, these gentlemen and ladies are not in receipt of the new scale of salaries which were passed under the Schemes of Government for Secondary Schools, is that the Governing Bodies of these schools had not consented to these Schemes of Government. Strictly speaking, this money ought not to be forthcoming until these Schemes of Government have been passed, but the Government felt that in view of the fact that the Staffs of these Schools were not in any way responsible for the delay, as soon as the Governing Bodies had consented to the Schemes of Government, the teachers should be relieved of their misery as soon as possible. That is the main purpose of the Resolution. With regard to the £500, there is evidence that this money was spent on the Girls' Foundation School. As a matter of fact, there is a debt of £500 outstanding for that purpose. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. LEWIS. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution. It is long overdue and I am glad that the Government has at least seen the wisdom of sending down the Resolution even before they have altered the constitution of the Governing Bodies of these Schools. I would like to make a suggestion to the Government—I am wondering if it could be done by an amendment to the Resolution or by agreement by the honourable member in charge of the Resolution to be put before the Governor-in-Executive Committee. This is the point; the payment of these teachers has been delayed for some time and it will mean that in some respect, you will be giving them with one hand and taking it back with the other. The increase in salary which has been hanging over a number of years is now being given in a lumpsum, and as I understand the position, if the teachers receive the money this year, it may be regarded as income for this year alone, and they will pay income tax in a higher bracket and so pay out some of this money which would not have been taken to be taxable if it were spread over a number of years. I do not know if the Government would have been able to take the previous income tax payments and calculate the increased amount each time. I feel that these teachers will be receiving money with one hand and paying it back with the other. I am glad that the Government has seen fit to send down this Resolution even before they introduce legislation to carry out the agreement. I would like to know if it is possible now to do what I have suggested.

have to be dealt with separately. The question of

Mr. SPRINGER: That is a matter which will income tax is settled by the Act. I am asking the Committee to agree to pay this money. If the honourable member has any point, it applies to other people as well. I do not think that that can be discussed this afternoon.

Mr. LEWIS: I know that this hardship has come about to the majority of people who have been given back pay and the period has not been for any longer than a year. In this case, the period will be for four years. That is why I mention the point. I have already expressed an opinion so that the Government can see their way to instruct the Income Tax Commissioner in this matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would not like the honourable junior member for the City to be singular

in this matter. I, too, feel that these people can be put in a bracket and be taxed on £500 or £600. I would like the Government to know how the Committee feel about this matter and of the sentiments which have been expressed. We must see that if these people had received their salaries at the normal period they would not have had to pay any income tax in this bracket. I feel that some consideration should be given to these teachers: they should not have to pay income tax on something which has not been received. It is not the fault of the teachers that they have not received their salaries on the new scale.

Mr. SPRINGER: I doubt if there is any decision for honourable members to make in this matter. This is not the time to discuss it anyhow.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Resolution was passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION FOR THE SERVICE OF
THE COLONY.

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for £10,135 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the service of the colony as set out in the Schedule to the Resolution. As honourable members will see, this is the usual supplementary Resolution which has to be brought before the House from time to time. Following the practice which has been adopted in recent years, a number of items have been put together and brought under a single Resolution. The notes to the various items are as full as it is possible to have them from the Heads of the various Departments, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: As regards Item 6 dealing with the General Hospital, we hear a good deal about the Hospital; we hear that doctors and nurses are leaving, and that seems to me to be borne out by this Resolution. If you look at the note to Item E, Miscellaneous, you will see that some of the additional provision is due to an increase in the number of Burials. (Laughter).

Mr. SPRINGER: The rate of deaths has been reduced. What is evident is that the Hospital is being used more and more by the people. The rate of deaths at the Hospital per head of the population is less than before. That of course may be due to the shortage of doctors!

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. SPRINGER, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of six Resolutions in Committee, the postponement of one and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

The House resumed.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. SPRINGER in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Mr. BRANCKER: I ask leave to present the Report of the Select Committee which was appointed to-day to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to His

Excellency's Message No. 17/1947 which was presented to the House to-day.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to present the Report.

Mr. BRANCKER: I now ask leave to proceed with the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor as a result of this Report.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to proceed.

ADDRESS *Re* RECRUITMENT OF BARBADIAN
WORKERS FOR U.S.A.

Mr. BRANCKER: Little need be said about this matter. A Message was received to-day from His Excellency the Governor in connection with the recruitment of Barbadian workers for emigration to the United States of America. A Committee was appointed to prepare a Draft Reply to the Message and that Committee met during the adjournment for lunch and prepared the Reply. The Committee recommended the passing of the following Address in reply to His Excellency's Message:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor.*

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 17/1947 on the subject of the recruitment of Barbadian workers for emigration to the United States of America.

The House agree that arrangements should be made for the recruitment of up to 1,500 workers on the conditions contained in Your Excellency's Message.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that. I would like to say that that is all that we can do at the present moment. We do not know what the expenses will be, and we cannot take that into consideration because the American Government has more or less told us that we must pay if we must have a quota of workers sent to the United States of America.

The question that this Address do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Address was passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable junior member for St. Lucy to present this Address.

Mr. BRANCKER: As Your Honour pleases.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that it is a rather dangerous precedent to have a Message presented one day, it not being circulated and no one knowing the contents of that Message except by hearing them read; have a Select Committee appointed to prepare a Draft Reply to the Message, the Committee present their Report the same day and have the Report dealt with in the afternoon. It may be all right in this case, but I think that it is rather out of order.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 29th day of April, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 29th day of April, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.