

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 26th August, 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*), Messrs. L. E. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, H. W. SPRINGER, M.A., G. H. ADAMS, B.A., E. D. MOTTLEY, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., V. C. GALE, and E. L. WARD.

PRAYERS AND MINUTES.

Prayers are read and the Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 19th August, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to present the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—
Message No. 26/1947.

His Excellency The Governor

To

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that he considers that the present time is opportune to prorogue the Legislature and proposes to do so on Friday, the 5th of September, at the hour of 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

PAPERS LAID.

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

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Colonial Treasurer by the Commissioner of Police during the quarter ended 30th June.

Post Office advances for payment of Money Orders to 31st of July.

PETITION.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Vestry of the parish of St.

George praying the House to pass a Bill to authorize them to raise a loan of £6,000 to repair St. George's Church, St. George's Rectory, and St. Jude's Chapel. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

Messrs. S. A. WALCOTT and BLACKMAN enter the House and take their seats.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of an enquiry into the salaries and conditions of service of Government servants and matters incidental thereto.

Mr. SPRINGER: Resolution that the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee as a grant to Mr. H. W. Clarke to enable him to take a course at the London Institute of Education.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution that the sum of eighteen thousand five hundred pounds be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to provide for the subsidisation of flour, salt fish and salt pork from the 1st to the 31st of October, 1947, in order that the prices of these commodities may be fixed by the Competent Authority.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the money Resolutions of which I have just given notice.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. SPRINGER gives notice of a Bill to authorize the Vestry of St. George to raise a loan of £6,000 to repair St. George's Church, St. George's Rectory and St. Jude's Chapel.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Mr. MAIR, a Bill to authorize the Vestry of the parish of St. George to raise a loan of £6,000 to repair St. George's Church, St. George's Rectory and St. Jude's Chapel is read a first time.

MESSRS. CRAWFORD, GARNER and Dr. WILSON enter the House and take their seats.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER) is appointed Chairman of Committees for the first part of the day's sitting.

Mr. TALMA enters the House and takes his seat.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to take Order No. 4 as the first Order of the Day and then I shall ask leave later in the day to suspend Rules 88 and 89 in order to take Order No. 16 next. I am craving the indulgence of honourable members to-day in view of the prorogation which will take place early next month. There are certain government measures that ought to be got through before the end of this month and I am hoping that honourable members will find it convenient to come back on Thursday of this week in order to get rid of those measures that are essential. I, therefore, ask honourable members to bear with me if I appear to be jumping about the Order Paper and taking those measures which are essential and which should be got through before the House is prorogued. That is why I am asking leave to take Order No. 4 first and Order No. 16 next.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903 (1903-5).

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I think that all honourable members will agree that the time has long gone by when this Bill should have been brought before the House. From time to time persons like the junior member for St. James, the senior member for St. Andrew, the late junior member for St. George—he was always very keen about it—the late Mr. T. B. Peirce, the late Mr. Henry Arthur and Mr. Gerald Mahon, both of which last mentioned two formerly represented the parish of St. Thomas in this House, have pointed out how necessary it is, for the proper and efficient working of the Government of this country, to fall into line with other colonies and have a Financial Adviser. I think that the senior member for St. Andrew went so far as to move an Address which was passed to the Governor asking that some expert be sent out here to enquire into our finances and to advise on methods of taxation. I make that preface because I feel sure that we are all agreed that the effective working of the financial side of the Government can best be done if the Government is advised and briefed by someone who has special training in dealing with colonial finances. Nearly every colony has a Financial Adviser; certainly what you may call Crown Colonies have Financial Advisers who are generally members of the Legislative Councils of those colonies. Honourable members will remember that both Dr. Benham and Professor Beasley had been asked by the Government for advice on this matter and Professor Beasley in his interim report on the fiscal survey of the colony drew attention to the lack of any adequate provision for the co-ordination of financial and economic activities of the Government and for that day to day contact with financial matters, both local and external, on the basis of which expert advice would always

be available to the Government. He points out what all of us know and what everybody in the colony should know, that is, that the scale of government revenues and expenditures has increased tremendously. Whereas in my schoolboy days, the Government used to budget for £150,000, to-day we are budgeting for over £1,000,000. Professor Beasley goes on to state that the Government should safeguard its interests and the interests of the people by providing itself with expert financial advice and he recommends that it should do so by appointing a Financial Secretary. Even apart from his recommendation I have no doubt that we all feel that that is necessary. In consequence, the Government has proposed that a Financial Secretary should be appointed under the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903, and this Bill is to provide for that appointment by remodelling the provisions of section 2 of that Act which deals with the appointment of staff, along the lines of present day legislation, that is to say, to authorise the Governor to appoint such staff as may be necessary at such salaries as shall be provided by special Resolution, just as we have done recently in connection with a few other Acts. There are certain sub-sections of Section 2 of the Act which are of no practical use and the opportunity is seized to delete them. Clause 4 of the Bill provides that "this Act shall come into operation on such day as the Governor shall appoint by Proclamation in the *Official Gazette* and that is inserted to allow for the passing of the necessary Resolution appointing the staff before the Act comes into operation. Honourable members will see from the Resolution—Order No. 16—that it is proposed that the salary of the Financial Secretary shall be £1,250 a year—£50 a year less than the salary of the Colonial Secretary and equal to the salary of the Attorney General. Honourable members will observe from that that he is to be considered—as he is considered in every colony—a most important officer and I should like to anticipate any questions that may be asked by replying to some observations that have been made in the columns of the *Advocate* newspaper. With the present set-up the Colonial Secretary is Head of the Civil Establishment of this colony. He is not the "head" of the Chief Justice because the Judiciary is always kept apart from the Executive and the Legislature. Therefore, as long as this practice obtains the Colonial Secretary will be, nominally at any rate, above the Financial Secretary but the practice that obtains in other colonies of giving the Financial Secretary the right of direct access to the Governor will also obtain in Barbados. It is proposed that he shall have the right to submit his minutes, recommendations and advice to the Governor directly and not have such suggestions as he may put forward turned down by the Colonial Secretary if the latter likes. So honourable members need not have any fear that the Financial Secretary is going to be a real underling and not the highly important officer that the House, I feel sure, would like to know he is. As time goes on he will doubtless be the most important official in the island, from the point of view of advising the Government. It is too early, obviously, to say exactly what his relationship will be with the Colonial Treasurer and the Auditor General. I think that honourable members will appreciate the point that when a new office such as this is started with our peculiar set up—and I use the word "peculiar" in every sense of that word—which exists nowhere else in the British Empire, that is, having the Colonial Treasurer a servant of the House of Assembly, it is obvious that we must wait until the

Financial Secretary arrives and see the working of our financial arrangements before we can say with absolute certainty what will happen. Obviously, eventually we will not have a Financial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer at the head of a Department at the same time. We may have, as exists in some colonies, a person in the position of the Colonial Treasurer or the Auditor General who would be, on the accounting side, head of that part of the financial business of the colony but the Financial Secretary will be in the position of a person like the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Great Britain or the Government's mouthpiece in other Colonies and the Dominions. I think there is one other point which is practically covered by what I have said,—the point as to whether he should be Head of a separate Department. Eventually he may have a separate Department but I repeat that it is too early to say absolutely precisely at what time and in what way his functions will be interlinked with or separated from the functions of the Auditor General and the Colonial Treasurer. I should perhaps correct the impression that my last sentence may have given. Obviously you will have to have somebody in the position of the Auditor General, whether you call him Auditor General, Accountant General or otherwise, in any set-up but the Financial Secretary will be the over-all adviser on all financial matters. That is the reply to the point which the *Advocate* made in this respect. The Financial Secretary will prepare the Estimates, not the Colonial Secretary, and he will advise the Government as to how the Estimates should be prepared; so that there is no fear that the Government will be appointing, as Financial Secretary, someone who will be a mere figurehead and merely another Assistant Secretary in the Colonial Secretary's Office. The Government proposes, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has already approved if the Legislature passes this Bill and the Resolution in connection with it, to get a very experienced man who has been doing work of this nature in some part of the Colonial Empire in order that we may make a good beginning with somebody who will bring the benefit of his experience to bear on our financial problems. I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in moving that this Bill be now read a second time and if there is any point which I have not covered I shall be glad, as far as I am able, to cover it.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—I welcome the suggestion that is contained in this Bill, namely, that somebody should be appointed to advise members of the Legislature and the Government as to how much this colony is in a position to spend annually on improvements and in other ways. At the same time I do not like the statement of the senior member for St. Joseph to the effect that he cannot give us some idea of what this officer's duties will be. We are in this position to-day: our present Colonial Treasurer is on the eve of his retirement and I feel, Sir, that amongst the duties of this officer should be the control of the Treasury. It is all very well for us to sit here and say that we are always trying to keep old-time customs and traditions going, such as the Colonial Treasurer being our servant and so on, but we should remember that the idea of the Colonial Treasurer being our servant has been changed. Years ago the Colonial Treasurer, I am told, was appointed each session and was the servant of each individual House; to-day he is a pensionable officer, that is to say, he occupies that office permanently whether we like it or not. He cannot be got rid of as long as he performs his duties properly and,

therefore, I consider that the idea of his being entirely the servant of the House of Assembly is old-fashioned and belongs to an age which has passed. I am perfectly willing to support this Bill but I must get the assurance that when the present holder of the office of Colonial Treasurer retires—which, I believe, is soon—the Government will abolish that office and the office of Financial Secretary will be welded in that of Colonial Treasurer. Now, Sir, who will be more capable of filling a position like that than the Financial Secretary? He will be there to see how our finances stand and will also be able to advise, from his experience as an economist, whether we should spend money or not in certain directions. To my mind, the two offices must be combined and I hope that when the senior member for St. Joseph replies he will give us some assurance along that line.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—It is hardly necessary for me to say that I am in agreement with this Bill because it will be remembered that when we were dealing with the last Bill for the appointment of another Assistant Colonial Secretary and an Assistant Secretary I pointed out then that we should have been discussing at the time the appointment of a Financial Secretary. But I should like to say that I am agreeing to this Bill with some sort of regret. I say "regret" because a post of the importance of Financial Secretary of any colony merits, in broad outline, someone to guide us. Professor Beasley was asked by this Government to make a fiscal survey of the colony's finances. It has become fashionable today, Mr. Speaker, for experts to make interim reports, that is to say, to give you a little piece and while you are chewing that, then give you the balance. I do not have Professor Beasley's interim report with me but I find, from the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, that he recommends that there should be a Financial Secretary; he does not state what the duties of the Financial Secretary should be but in vague language writes about co-ordinating the financial business of this colony. I feel that in making such a step like this we should know what are the finances that are to be co-ordinated and there should not be vague generalizations. Apart from the Colonial Treasury and the Audit Office, we do not know if the Income Tax and Death Duties Department will come under his administration as well. Why I make this point is that I do not want this colony to be in the invidious position of being so saddled with officers that it becomes top heavy because a Financial Secretary alone cannot do all the work of co-ordinating the finances eventually. We have been told previously that the Colonial Secretariat was so overcrowded with work that it was impossible to carry on efficiently and another Assistant Colonial Secretary and an Assistant Secretary were appointed to that office. Taking that as an argument, you cannot expect an already heavily burdened Secretariat to take on the duties of a fresh office and you might find that the Financial Secretary might not find it easy to perform his duties in this already burdened office. I do not want to vote for this measure and then in the next six months find myself being forced, through necessity, to have to vote for the appointment, perhaps, of another Assistant Colonial Secretary to assist in these duties. So I must echo the sentiment expressed by the senior member for St. Andrew and express regret that in this Bill we do not have a broad outline of the duties the Financial Secretary will have to perform. I do not think that any honourable member should disagree with that view. I feel that we should have a broad outline of what the Government

proposes to do when the Financial Secretary arrives. From this Bill, I gather that the Government is waiting until the Financial Secretary is appointed and comes here and makes his recommendations. That is not a satisfactory situation because we may find ourselves with an officer who is calling for things that we may not be easily able to give him and he will frankly tell us that he cannot carry on because we refuse to give him the implements to enable him to do his job efficiently. I feel somewhat diffident about voting for this Bill for the appointment of a Financial Secretary as it stands and I say so frankly because when the second Assistant Colonial Secretary was voted for I felt at the time that the method of dealing with the finances of the colony could not continue as it was then. This is an important issue and this House should be given a much more definite statement as to what the duties of a Financial Secretary in Barbados will be than the vague statement that he will co-ordinate the financial business of the colony. I hope that the senior member for St. Joseph will satisfy this House as to the nature of this officer's work, so that we can be sure about this high office and that it will not conflict with any of the existing offices in this colony.

Mr. GALE: I have listened very carefully to the Leader of this House who introduced this Bill and the other honourable members who have spoken and I think the government will welcome the passing of the Bill for the appointment of a Financial Secretary. I consider that such an appointment is long overdue because the set-up in this colony, as the senior member for St. Joseph explained, is very different from the set-up in the other colonies. The Treasurers of those colonies are members of their respective Executive Councils and, as such, are high officials who give advice on financial matters to their Executive Councils; they are also, in most of the other colonies, members of the Legislative Councils as the Financial Advisers of their respective governments. In this colony the set-up is different. We have a Treasurer who is appointed by the House of Assembly and who gives no financial advice to the government; he is only what I would call a cashier or a book-keeper. He has nothing to do with the policy of the government and makes no recommendation whatsoever as to how money should be levied. We also have an Auditor General. We have the pre-audit system, a different system altogether from that in the other colonies.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point at issue is the appointment of a Financial Secretary.

Mr. GALE: All right, Sir, I am coming to that. If we appoint a Financial Secretary I take it that he will have to advise the Executive Committee on finance. At present there is no financial adviser to the Government; the Colonial Secretary has to do all that and it is quite impossible for him to do it along with his other duties. That is why I feel sure that the Government in proposing the appointment of a Financial Secretary to-day is doing the right thing. I do not see how we can talk about defining his duties specifically to-day. We would have to paint a very wide picture showing what his duties are to be and I agree with the senior member for St. Joseph on that score. When he comes here, perhaps he may be asked to do other things but as this Bill stands he is to be Financial Secretary. He is not to be the Treasurer; he is not to be the Auditor General; he is to be the Financial Secretary and, therefore, I do not see how it is possible for the Government to explain what his other duties will be.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—I rise to compliment the present Coalition Labour Government on having acted as promptly as it has acted in this particular issue. This formed the subject of a message from His Excellency the Governor a few months ago when the Financial Estimates were being considered. In the past, the House of Assembly, constituted as it was with money magnates and probably having a policy whereby as little as possible would be spent locally and seeking for means of conserving whatever interests there were, did not see fit or did not see the necessity for appointing a Financial Secretary; to-day the present Labour Government is merely adopting a policy which is being adopted in England, namely, seeking the assistance of a financial expert who will guide the destiny of this country from the financial point of view. I listened very carefully to the Leader of the House when he said that he could not very well say what the duties of the Financial Secretary will be or whether he will have a separate office and, Sir, I think it my duty to say that I am in agreement with the suggestion of the senior member for St. Andrew, especially in view of the fact that all money matters are settled in the Treasury and the Audit Office. If a Financial Secretary is coming here as a financial expert, the proper place for him to be associated with is definitely the Treasury where matters financial are dealt with from day to day and not the Colonial Secretary's office where the Estimates are copied by a junior clerk year after year with no new programme and suggestions. We all know that there is no competent financial expert in the colony to-day; there are very few competent accountants for that matter and there is no economist apart from Professor Beasley and probably Mr. Cameron Tudor and this Financial Secretary should be a trained and properly qualified economist, an expert in economics and a properly trained accountant, otherwise the chances are that he himself may not be of very much assistance after he has settled here for six months. So I must say that we all appreciate the action taken in respect of this appointment because if the Coalition Labour Government is to have a successful tenure of office, it must necessarily have a financial expert to advise it in the expenditure of over £1,000,000, which, at present, is still lying fairly idle and which should be spent to help the ones who are out of employment.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—We all realize the necessity of having a financial expert in this country and we welcome the Government's idea of bringing out one but like the senior member for St. Andrew I feel that we should have been told more about this appointment. We should have more particulars about the work to be done by this financial expert. Sub-paragraph (2) of Clause 2 of this Bill says that in addition to the Colonial Secretary the Governor shall appoint such other officers from time to time by special resolution of the Legislature. Well we all know that it is the intention to have a financial expert but according to the wording of this Bill this gentleman, whoever he is, will be attached to the Colonial Secretary's office and will be added to the numerous appointments which have been made to that office. We have a Colonial Secretary; we shall have this Financial Secretary and we have two Assistant Colonial Secretaries and an Assistant Secretary. At present, the Colonial Secretary is away on leave and it is well known that the Acting Colonial Secretary who is one of the Assistant Colonial Secretaries is going to Jamaica to attend the Closer Union Conference. That will leave the other Assistant Colonial Secretary in charge of the office and if the Governor happens by any chance to leave the island in the meantime, this Assistant Colonial

Secretary would be appointed Acting Governor. If we had the Financial Secretary attached to the Colonial Secretary's office I do not think there is any doubt, Mr. Speaker, that in those circumstances he would be appointed to one of these acting appointments and I am sure that honourable members around this table do not wish that; they wish the financial expert to do financial work only. As regards the Colonial Treasurer, we all know that under our system he is really a qualified cashier and a book-keeper, as the senior member for St. Andrew says; he is not expected to have under our present system any financial experience and I do think there is something in the suggestion by the senior member for St. Andrew that we should have considered amalgamating the offices of Financial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer. Under normal conditions we would have appointed a Select Committee to consider those points and I am sure that the senior member for St. Andrew would have suggested that that should be done, if it were not for the fact that this House is likely to be prorogued shortly for three or four weeks. It seems to me that the Government is asking too much of us to-day; it is asking us to give it a blank cheque; that is what this Bill amounts to. The senior member for St. Joseph will probably remind me of the Resolution that is before this House in connection with this appointment but we will be giving another official to the Colonial Secretary's Office and that is what I do not like about this matter. This Financial Secretary is going to be asked to do work other than that which the members of this House desire that he should do. Economics today is a very complicated subject. I do not know if there is anybody who really understands Economics. I was reading the remarks of the Chairman of a Company the other day and he is reported to have said that "Economics to-day is what you can get for what you give." I think that that is as good a definition of Economics as anyone could possibly give. We want somebody who can give us advice in respect of our financial undertakings. We just simply muddle along, passing Resolution after Resolution for purposes without having any knowledge of their relationship to the revenue of the colony. I venture to say that not an honourable member around this table, when these Resolutions come down for £21,000, £40,000—

Mr. SPEAKER: We are dealing with the proposal for the appointment of a Financial Secretary. I think the honourable member is going a little bit too far.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think, Mr. Speaker, that we should have some knowledge of the relationship between Resolutions which are sent down to us and the revenue of the colony. I regret that we have to pass this Bill so hurriedly. I do think that we should have been given a little time to thresh out this Bill in Select Committee, so that this Financial Secretary would not be asked to do work which, I am sure, the honourable members around this table do not wish him to do.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am in favour of the principle of the appointment of a Financial Secretary and as I shall probably be in the Chair when the discussion on the various Clauses takes place I might perhaps be afforded the opportunity of making my observations now. The honourable introducer of this Bill said, if I understood him correctly, that the Government has in mind for this appointment some person in some other part of the Colonial Empire who has much experience in dealing with finance. Or course, on principle one can offer no objection on that score if the Government can

find someone in the Colonial Empire with the necessary experience, even if it has to go to Africa or Asia or any Continent like those in search of him. I do not know if it has any particular individual or individuals in mind from whom it proposes to make its choice if this Resolution is passed—

Mr. SPEAKER: What Resolution?

Mr. BRANCKER: If this Bill is passed and if the subsequent Resolution which will make provision for the appointment by the Governor to this office is passed. I am supporting this Bill and as I quite naturally want to ensure that the best available man is secured, I suggest to the Government to take steps to discover, before bringing in an outsider, whether it can get a suitable person from either within this colony or in the other West Indian colonies—a West Indian in preference to a United Kingdom man. Honourable members may recently have read a circular which was addressed to Heads of Government Departments in the colony of Trinidad and Tobago by the Governor of that colony, His Excellency Sir John Shaw,—

Mr. SPEAKER: Has that anything to do with this Bill?

Mr. BRANCKER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it has this bearing on it. We have been told that the Government has in mind the appointment of somebody who has practical experience in this type of work. I am counselling, if this Bill is passed, the Government to make a proper search to see whether or not it can get a suitable West Indian for the post before a man from the United Kingdom is selected. I was giving an example reminding it of what is going on in Trinidad where the Governor of that colony a few weeks ago addressed a circular to the Heads of Government Departments directing that whenever a vacancy for first appointment or promotion occurred they should hesitate long and search their consciences hard before they recommend that it is essential to import a United Kingdom officer to fill it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member not to carry that point any further. It has nothing to do with the principle of the Bill.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would suggest that that is a matter of opinion. Perhaps Your Honour does not share my enthusiasm for giving preference to a West Indian.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again the honourable member is entirely out of order.

Mr. BRANCKER: Anyhow, Sir, I have made my point and it must appear in the *Official Gazette*.

Mr. SPEAKER: I rule that the honourable member is out of order. The honourable member is the Deputy Speaker of this House and as such I do think that you should render the Speaker every assistance in maintaining the dignity of the House. I ask the honourable member not to proceed further with that point.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am not going on with it. It is proposed that the Financial Secretary should be appointed under the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903, and this Bill provides for the remodelling of the provisions of Section 2 of the Act; it also contains a suspending Clause. I do not believe that if he is appointed there will be any attempt made by the Government to give him other duties than those which have been very loosely defined. I do not think that the Government will let him deal with other than financial matters. It would, no doubt, be impossible to set out his duties minutely in detail—what he is expected to do and what he is not expected to do—and if, when he comes, it is discovered that he is given other duties to perform,—duties not contemplated by the Legislature,—then it will be

open to the legislature to see that he performs the duties for which he is appointed and no other. I am in favour of this Bill and I hope it will be passed with the reservation which I have already made.

Mr. RAMSAY enters the House while Mr. BRANCKER is speaking and takes his seat.

Mr. WARD: We all welcome a Bill of this sort owing to the present financial condition of the island but there is one thing that is worrying me very much. It is proposed that a Financial Secretary should be appointed under the Colonial Secretary's Office Act. I feel that as the Financial Adviser to the Government he should be Head of his own Department because, Sir, it must be borne in mind that during the years to come we must have some guidance in finance since we have passed the million pound mark. I feel that if this office is bound up with the Colonial Secretary's Office, we may have complications in respect of the duties to be performed by the Financial Secretary; in my opinion this should be an entirely separate Department. When we appointed the Labour Officer we did not appoint him under the Colonial Secretary's Act. We gave him a separate Department and I feel that the office of Financial Secretary is of sufficient importance to be made separate from and independent of the Colonial Secretary's Office. I feel that if we had a Financial Secretary's Office we could eventually combine the Colonial Treasurer's Office and the Auditor General's Office with it because as we all know, the Colonial Treasurer gives no financial advice to the Government nor the House; he is only an accountant in a very normal way, and he has no voice in guiding this Government in the spending of money or the levying of taxes which will be beneficial to the people of this country. As far as the duties of the Financial Secretary are concerned I feel that it would be very difficult to say at the present moment that he must do this or that. We must remember that we are trying to get an expert to start an office which we have not had before and if we give him too many different jobs to do we may not get the type of man we wish. We have stipulated here that he is to be the Financial Secretary and everyone knows that he must have a first-hand knowledge of economics. I feel that we should not try to tie the Government's hands by stipulating any particular type of work for this Financial Secretary. When he comes he will have plenty to keep him employed before his office is amalgamated with those of the Colonial Treasurer and the Auditor General. I am going to support this Bill because I feel that it is meet that the colony should have an officer of this sort.

Mr. ADAMS: The importance of this Bill is such that although it is getting on to two o'clock and I should like to get through as much work as possible, yet I should reply to certain points which have been made. Nothing that has been said by any honourable member is any criticism of the Government. I should think that the Government agrees with everything that has been said. It is true that I made no reference except in a general way, to what would happen to the Colonial Treasurer who is, in the opinion of honourable members on the other side of the table only an accountant but I assumed that honourable members would see from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill that we were largely guided by Professor Beasley and if honourable members read the Objects and Reasons they will see that I have not omitted to state what the duties of the Financial Secretary will be. The point I made was that until he comes we do not know at what stage and in what way the co-ordination of his office or the supersession

of the Colonial Treasurer or the Auditor General and the re-organisation of our financial policy will take place. But it is not that we do not envisage that. Perhaps I should read from a memorandum on the subject which represents more or less the views of the Government. It says *inter alia*:—"The colony's rate of expenditure has been more than doubled in the last ten years and with the changed attitude of the House of Assembly there are likely to be commitments for great welfare expenditure." For instance, although it is not stated here—I hope this will not scare any honourable members—this House has gone on record that it believes in the nationalization of public utilities and that is a tremendous subject on which the Government will need expert advice. We will need expert advice when, if ever—and certain honourable members will be glad to hear that—we start to nationalize everything. The memorandum goes on:—"Under such conditions, the finances of the colony require the careful day-to-day supervision of an officer who could keep in close touch with the general financial position elsewhere and who could advise on such matters as loans, reserve funds, subsidization and the amount which the colony could afford to spend upon social and welfare projects, having regard to the expenditure involved and the revenue relating to Customs Duties and Income Tax." Well, Professor Beasley in his report points out, after referring to his discussion with the Acting Colonial Secretary and Heads of Departments, that "the problem is not in essence a new one"—and honourable members, I imagine, have read this before coming into the House to-day—"but the greatly increased scale of Government revenues and expenditures in recent years have given it an enhanced significance; moreover developments in the field of international economic relationships such as the proposed International Trade Organisation and the current policy of bulk purchasing arrangements, such as those affecting the sale of sugar, make it of vital importance that Government in these days should safeguard its own interests and the interests of the people it serves, by providing itself with expert financial advice. It is worth recalling that the present Secretary of State for the Colonies before he was a member of the Government called attention to what he described as the 'bottleneck' of all colonial administration. 'Why' he asked, 'must everything on which a decision has to be taken in the life and development of the Colony to pass through two persons, the Colonial Secretary and the Governor? These men are hopelessly overworked. They work from early morning till late at night handling innumerable problems. Everything is made to pass through that bottleneck.' That is a quotation from Hansard. Professor Beasley goes on to point out that "in theory no doubt the Colonial Secretary has the right of full inspection of all Departments of Government—but in practice his preoccupation with the work of his own office prevents effective and detailed acquaintance with the full financial implications of all departmental activities. No provision is made at the present time for an adequate investigation of full effects of such matters as taxation whether direct or through the administration of customs etc.—nor of the implication of price control measures nor of spending departments, Government undertakings or statutory Boards spending public monies. It must be emphasized that these are matters which demand day to day supervision and co-ordination." He further states that the Government's financial problems will become much more complex in the course of the next few years with the inevitable

decline in prices and the effect upon revenue yields and that the problems of the budget will then demand much more careful analysis in detail than is given to them at the present time. Then he goes on to point out that he has studied the records of debates in the Assembly in recent years, especially on occasions when essentially technical matters such as subsidies, price-fixing arrangements such as those affecting rice and sugar, interpretation of cost of living figures are being discussed and it seems to him that the Government has not fulfilled its duty adequately of providing detailed and reasoned statements supported by facts and figures in support of its proposals. He points out that it is wrong to have a Financial Secretary who is not the Financial Adviser and suggests that the Financial Secretary should be the Financial Adviser. I thought I made it clear that under the present constitutional set-up the Colonial Secretary is Head of every Civil Servant except the Chief Justice. He is above the Attorney General and every other Head of a Department and, therefore, if you have a Financial Secretary, the Colonial Secretary, theoretically, is his Head but in practice he will not be bossed by the Colonial Secretary; he will have direct access just as the Colonial Secretary has direct access to the Governor. Whom does any honourable member of this House see in the West Indies or British Guiana we would dream of appointing to the post of Financial Secretary in Barbados? We want a first class man for this post and the Secretary of State has stated that he would look around the Colonial Empire for a man with experience in every aspect of finance. What the junior member for St. James said about the relationship between expenditure and the revenue of the colony is gospel truth. Resolution after Resolution comes down and none of us stop to remember what the Estimates were and how many more thousands of pounds we were knocking off them. There is no policy. We barely budget for a small margin over our expenditure. There has been no settled policy for 300 years in this colony and events in the outside world as well as in this little island have moved so fast and still move so quickly that it is absolutely essential to have a Financial Secretary who will be the Financial Adviser. What his place will be, as things go on, we cannot state definitely now but I make this prediction with some confidence that just as the Cabinet system has grown up in England and the Civil Service has grown up in England, so will we develop and the Financial Secretary will in due course occupy a position similar to that of Chancellor of the Exchequer who conducts in Parliament matters affecting finance. As some honourable members may know, the Treasury in England is a more potent force than even the Prime Minister of Great Britain. I suggest to honourable members that they need have no fear of the statement that we must wait until the Financial Secretary comes before we dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" in respect of his duties but it is safe to say that every matter affecting the finances of the island will be his direct province and he will not be in any way interfered with by the Colonial Secretary. I think I have satisfied honourable members on the points raised by them.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRANCKER being in the Chair.

Clause 1 is read and agreed to.

Clause 2. Section two of the Principal Act as amended by the Civil Establishment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1944 and by the Colonial Secretary's Office and Clerical Service (Amendment) Act, 1946 is hereby repealed and the following new section substituted therefor:—

"2. (1) The Colonial Secretary shall receive a salary of one thousand three hundred pounds per annum.

(2) In addition to the Colonial Secretary the Governor shall appoint such other officers and servants and at such salaries as shall be approved from time to time by special resolution of the Legislature.

(3) The salaries of all persons appointed under this Act shall be paid from the Public Treasury on the warrant of the Governor-in-Executive Committee by equal monthly instalments."

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Clause 2 of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: When the senior member for St. Joseph was speaking about the Financial Secretary he was at pains to point out that this officer would have free access to the Governor and I take it that this office is of such importance that the holder of it should have a Department run by himself. When you pay an officer £1,250 a year and tack him on to the Colonial Secretary's office, it means that that officer will be called upon to act as Colonial Secretary if the Colonial Secretary happens to be ill or absent from the island or the office happens to be vacant because you are not going to take an officer who receives £800 a year and put him over the head of one who receives £1,250; to do that would not be a satisfactory state of affairs. So we start off with that complication as you can very well see. The Director of Agriculture is under the Colonial Secretary but he is not attached to the Colonial Secretary's office under the Colonial Secretary's Act. I feel that it would be no infringement if this Financial Secretary was given an office apart from the Colonial Secretary's Office. You say in one breath that the financial business of the island is so monumental that you require a Financial Secretary to look after it and yet you create the office in such a manner that there will be duplication, so far as its administration is concerned. Mr. Chairman, it does not seem to me that the Colonial Secretary's Department is the right place for this office. It is said that the work in the Colonial Secretary's office now is too much and that they must have assistance in that office. What is going to happen if the Colonial Secretary is out of the island and the Financial Secretary is attached to the Colonial Secretary's Office? Is he not going to be called upon to act as Colonial Secretary? It seems to me that there is going to be complications if unforeseen occurrences take place.

Mr. ADAMS: I wish I knew what the honourable member is quarrelling about and with whom he is quarrelling. Why should he assume that the Financial Secretary is going to act as Colonial Secretary? I cannot take the honourable member seriously. He may probably be laying blame for something that may never arise. The Chief Justice has acted as Colonial Secretary already because he was the fittest person to act in that office. When the honourable member goes on and on asking who would act as Colonial Secretary if the Colonial Secretary is

out of the island, the obvious reply is the Chief Justice. Why should he assume that the Financial Secretary might act as Colonial Secretary if the occasion arises? We may have an Assistant Colonial Secretary who is a first class man, just as is the case now and would he not act as Colonial Secretary? The fact that he is getting £200 or £800 a year does not matter. I do not think it is necessary to say much more. The honourable member is imagining the possibility of something happening and then attacking as if it were really so.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 3 and 4 are read and are agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I beg to move that you do now report the passing of this Bill in Committee.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to say that honourable members fail to remember that it is their duty to rise in their places when they are about to speak. Rule 105 says:—Every member desiring to speak is to rise in his place uncovered and to address himself to Mr. Speaker. That includes seconders of motions as well. When I happen to be in the Chair I shall see to it that the Rules are observed. (Laughter and Cheers).

The question that the Chairman do now report the passing of this Bill in Committee is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In view of the fact that Order No. 16 is the Special Resolution for the appointment of the Financial Secretary I beg to move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order that No. 16 may be taken out of its place.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Rules 88 and 89 be suspended in order that Order No. 16 may be taken out of its place is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND SALARIES OF OFFICERS FOR COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Order No. 16 be taken as the next Order.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Order No. 16 be taken as the next Order is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—To move the passing of a Special Resolution under the provisions of Section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903, as amended by Section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's Office (Amendment) Act, 1947.

Mr. ADAMS: This Resolution hinges on the Bill which we have just passed. The salary of £1,250, as I said earlier to-day, has been fixed for the Financial Secretary because his position will be such that a person holding the office of Financial Secretary should be paid that salary. Honourable members will remember that I gave notice of a Resolution for £1,250 earlier in the day to pay the expenses

of a Commissioner to go into the salaries of public officers and other government employees, and it is proposed to secure for this purpose the services of Sir Wilfred Jackson who was a former Colonial Secretary of this island and who graded the Civil Service which remained the law until the recommendations of the Cuke Committee were implemented and who was also Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and then Governor of Mauritius. It may be that he will make recommendations for altering the present salaries of the Colonial Secretary and other persons in the Civil Service and, therefore, this salary of £1,250 for the Financial Secretary may also be altered and placed at a figure in keeping with the position which it is felt he should occupy in the Civil Service. For the present it is proposed that his salary should be just below that of the Colonial Secretary and on par with that of the Attorney General. This has the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. BRANCKER being in the Chair.

RESOLUTION TO REFUND CUSTOMS DUTY TO D. M. SIMPSON, & CO. POSTPONED

Mr. BLACKMAN asks for and is granted leave to postpone the further consideration of the Resolution for £873, 13, 5 as a refund of Customs Duty and package tax paid by Messrs. D. M. Simpson & Co. on machinery and accessories imported for the manufacture of fuel from megass.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR DELEGATIONS TO CONFERENCES

Mr. ADAMS: The next business is the resumption of the debate on the Resolution for £750 to supplement the amount voted in the Estimates for 1946-47 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, Item 40, Conferences. In view of the suggestions made by honourable members, the Executive Committee has decided to alter this amount to £1,000 and I am asking leave to substitute the sum of £1,000 for the sum of £750 in the Resolution. It is proposed to give the delegates an allowance at the rate of £4 per day each and the Government has obtained from the Jamaica Government the promise that they will provide us at Montego Bay with stenographer—typists at rates which they consider to be reasonable. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re SENDING DELEGATES TO SURINAM

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £600 to meet the cost of sending a delegation

to Surinam to investigate the possibility of sending Barbadian labour for agricultural work there. I do not think that after the debate which took place on the Address to the Governor it is necessary for me to say much more than that the Government has carefully noted the criticisms which have been made in this House and elsewhere and that the personnel of the delegation will be such that questions of housing, living conditions, health conditions in the districts to which it is proposed to emigrate labour will be carefully considered. I do not think anyone need fear that the delegation will not make a thorough investigation and report back to the Government before any decision to send labourers is taken. Doubtless, the members of the Legislature will have the report in their hands and will be in a position to say whether, if the Government comes down afterwards with a Resolution to finance the scheme, they agree to do so or not. The Committee will pardon me for saying something that should be apparent to everybody. This is partly exploratory and it is intended by the Government to be very exploratory. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: I should just like to add that the Government is in touch with the Government of Surinam and they suggest that the middle of September is about the best time to send the delegation; so it is proposed that the delegates should leave soon and they will hardly be there longer than six days.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—I was hoping to have heard from the honourable member who has just sat down how this delegation will be constituted. I think that this House is entitled to that information, so as to have the assurance that the delegation will be properly constituted and properly representative of labour,—the ones who may be more closely connected with labour and even agricultural workers themselves should be included on this delegation. No matter how the delegation may be constituted I want to sound a note of warning that unless a reasonable wage of not less than \$2.00 per day is offered I can very well see that the scheme, even though it appears to be **successful in the early stages**, will probably fall through eventually. We have heard of a wage of \$1.20 per day but I have had the opportunity of sending workers to Cayenne as far back as 1940 and the wage which was offered then was the equivalent of \$2.00 per day. The workers will not only be thinking of benefiting themselves but also of sending something back for those whom they have left behind and that is the object of all emigration schemes. I want to point out to the delegation that when they go to Surinam they must remember that \$1.20 per day is not a living wage for any agricultural worker, especially in Surinam, a place which he does not know as he knows Barbados. It is not only a question of looking into living and other conditions; it is also a question of fixing wages first because the labourers will be under a contract and a contract is a binding document. They will be in a Dutch colony whose language they will not understand and if they break their contract they may find themselves in jail. Those are things which, I hope, the delegation will look into first and foremost.

Dr. CUMMINS enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. WARD: I would like to enquire from the senior member for St. Joseph what type of individuals is going to be sent as the delegation because I see that six are to be sent. I feel that this is a very big number unless we are trying to scare the Dutch into paying better wages. I feel we should send individuals who have some knowledge of the agricultural

worker, for example, peasant agricultural instructors or persons of that type. As the honourable member who just sat down said, the delegation should be capable of going into the question of wages in order to see whether it will be an economical proposition to send our people to Surinam. I hope the Government will not send delegates who will be going only for a spree. I would like to know that it is sending persons who will take an interest in the scheme and will know what is good for workers. We do not want the workers to go to Surinam, remain for two weeks and come back and say that they do not like the place.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member will be pleased to hear that the same bright idea that occurred to him occurred to the Government and that is the type of people we are sending as the delegation.

Mr. WILKINSON: I agree with the honourable member on my left that six seems to be a rather unwieldy number. Four will be quite sufficient and it is no good our talking about wages being \$2.00 or \$3.00 or \$5.00 or \$1.00 per day. If the delegation discover that living is cheap in Surinam, then it may be cheaper to live there on \$1.20 a day than it is to live in Barbados.

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. RAMSAY, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and the postponement of one.

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

At this stage, 2 p.m., Mr. SPEAKER adjourns the House until 2.45 p.m. in accordance with Rule 40(a)

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

On re-assembling.

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

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

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I think that we should complete the consideration of the Question relating to the country shopkeepers.

The question that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—14.

Noes: Messrs. BRANCKER and MOTTLEY—2.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the House adjourned for lunch, the CHAIRMAN had reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

CONVERSION OF TOP FLOOR OF STEAMERS' WAREHOUSE INTO GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Mr. CRAWFORD: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for the sum of five thousand one hundred and thirty-one pounds to meet the cost of converting into office accommodation the top floor of the steamers' warehouse recently acquired by Government from Messrs. Da. Costa & Co. Ltd.

The addendum to the Resolution says that these premises were recently acquired by the Government under specific conditions. These conditions were that the main floor was to be leased back to Messrs. Da Costa & Co. Ltd. for two years. It was part of the consideration that Da Costa's should receive the Commercial Hall but they have agreed that the Government should rent the top floor of the Commercial Hall (now occupied by the Harbour and Shipping Master and the Social Welfare Officer) until the top floor of the new steamers warehouse can be converted into office accommodation. It is proposed that office accommodation should be provided on the top floor of the new steamers warehouse for the Harbour and Shipping Master, the Chief Medical Officer and the Labour Commissioner.

This resolution is to provide the necessary funds to enable the necessary alterations to be carried out.

The breakdown of the Resolution is as follows:—

Estimate of the amount necessary for the new partition walls, £998; floors and counters, £995; ceiling, £1,520; stairs, etc., £546; plumbing and electricity, £358; painting, £248 and contingencies 10%, £466. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I see that they are going to convert the top floor of this building into Government offices and the offices named are those of the Harbour and Shipping Master, the Chief Medical Officer and the Labour Commissioner. I do not know how much space the Port Health Office occupies but on reading this addendum it does seem to me that it would be a very good idea if the Government could find it possible to house the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, the Harbour Master's Office and the Office of the Port Health Officer in the same building. It seems to me that these Offices would act quite harmoniously inasmuch as they affect shipping and so forth. I think that they are renting the Labour Commissioner's Office which is in an ideal place, and that of the Port Health Officer; I think that they would be well advised to remove the latter Office and put it along with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and that of the Harbour Master so that you will have these kindred offices working together.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not know the reason which influenced the Government to select these three offices mentioned in the addendum to this Resolution for settlement in this building: but I am sure that the observations made by the honourable member will receive due consideration in the proper quarters.

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

The Resolution was passed.

COST OF TRAINING COURSES FOR TWO SANITARY INSPECTORS AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of one thousand and seven

pounds to cover the cost of courses in Jamaica for two sanitary inspectors and one public health nurse.

The addendum states:—

A Public Health Training Station has been organised in Kingston, Jamaica, to give training to personnel of the West Indian Colonies.

It is proposed to send from Barbados for post graduate training at the Station the Government Chief Sanitary Inspector, an Inspector who is employed by the Commissioners of Health, St. Michael, and a graduate nurse from the General Hospital. This resolution seeks to provide the necessary funds to enable this to be done.

Details of the proposed expenditure are as follows:—

(a) Return passages—£56. 5. each	£ 168 15 0
(b) Travelling to and from airports	
—£1. 10. each	4 10 0
(c) Training allowance	
<i>Sanitary Inspectors</i>	
10 months at 15/- per day each	
<i>Public Health Nurse</i>	
9 months at 15/- per day	659 5 0
(d) Travelling in Jamaica £3 per month each	87 0 0
(e) Contingencies £3 per month each	87 0 0
Total....	£ 1,006 10 0

On account of the confusion which I heard in connection with this matter I sent out a questionnaire to the Government and I will say exactly what replies I have received. The first question was: Who made the selection? The reply to that question is that the selection of the Government Chief Sanitary Inspector was made by the Chief Medical Officer. In the case of the Public Health Nurse the selection was made by the Chief Medical Officer after her name had been submitted by the matron of the General Hospital. Dr. Harkness, Medical Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, was informed of both selections and agreed with them. In the case of Mr. Bell, Sanitary Inspector, St. Michael, the procedure was different, Mr. Bell applied to the Director of Education after seeing a notice in the Press under a heading "British Council Scholarships" but which also dealt with certain applications under the Development and Welfare Act. I have here with me a copy of that notice and it says this:—

"Persons occupied in work of importance in the community who would benefit by special courses in the United Kingdom, other than those specified above or made available from time to time under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, are also invited to submit in writing to the Director of Education by the 20th November any proposals they may wish to offer for specific courses of similar standard to those described above which would assist them with such work."

The notice also says this "Candidates will please note that all correspondence connected with their applications must be addressed to the Education Department, Public Buildings, Bridgetown, and not to the Office of the British Council."

The reply to the question goes on to say that Mr. Bell's application was sent by the Department of Education to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare. He was interviewed by Dr. Harkness, who informed the Chief Medical Officer that he was very favourably impressed with Mr. Bell and that he would support his application if the Chief Medi-

cal Officer agreed. The Chief Medical Officer was of a similar opinion and sent a letter to Mr. Bell's employees, the Commissioners of Health, St. Michael, asking them if they would approve of Mr. Bell attending the course and if so, if they would grant him ten months' study leave on full pay. One paragraph of the letter says this:—

"I should be glad to be informed if your Commissioners would be willing to approve of Mr. Bell attending the course. This would entail the grant of ten months' study leave on full pay which would have to be met by the Commissioners."

The Chief Medical Officer was present at a meeting when the Commissioners agreed unanimously.

The second question was: How are selections made? The answer to this question is that selections follow the normal course of the Head of the Department making selections with the approval of the Medical Adviser, Development and Welfare. In Mr. Bell's case no selection was made, as here a definite application was being considered.

The third question was: Was it advertised? The answer to this question is that in the case of the Government Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Hospital Nurse, no advertisement was made. In the case of Mr. Bell a notice appeared in the Press and he applied as a result.

The fourth question was: Were all the Commissioners of Health written to about it? The answer to this question is as follows: No. It is not the intention of the Chief Medical Officer to call names to be submitted for such courses until the Public Health Services are re-organised. Under present conditions the money might be wasted, as there are no medical officers of health to direct the Sanitary Staff.

The last question was: Is it a fact that Parochial Inspectors have been applying for such scholarships since 1944? The reply to this question is that two or three Inspectors from St. Michael approached the Chief Medical Officer in 1944, but he replied that much as he wanted to help them, he could not do so until the public health services were re-organised. The time is now approaching, probably next year, when he will be prepared to recommend Parochial Sanitary Inspectors for post graduate courses and then selections will be made by him from names submitted by the various Commissioners of Health.

Those are the questions which were asked and the replies which I received from the Government. I think that the replies are quite satisfactory and they have set out the conditions quite clearly. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I happened to be the person who asked the honourable introducer of this Resolution—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the honourable member proceeds I should like him to take into cognizance that we are not going into the answers to the questions which were asked. This is merely a question of approving of this Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I could have adopted quite a different attitude, I could have adopted delaying tactics such as I saw adopted in here; but far from doing that I saw the honourable introducer of the Resolution and I told him exactly what I would like to know. Therefore I think—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No reply to what the honourable member has read out will be allowed by this Committee. This Committee is not going into that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—You seem to anticipate that I am going to make a second reading

speech; but I am merely apprising the Committee of the fact that the Resolution was given notice of last Tuesday and rather than wait to take the honourable introducer by surprise, I approached him and I feel that that is as it should be.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the honourable member to proceed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am going to proceed if you give me the opportunity to do so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If you stop me all the time I cannot go on. I was saying that rather than delay the passing of any resolution if you want to know anything about it you should ask the honourable mover of the passing of the resolution for the information you desire. I did that. This Resolution is asking for money from the Government to pay for the training of the Government Chief Sanitary Inspector, an Inspector who is employed by the Commissioners of Health of St. Michael and a graduate nurse from the General Hospital. Apparently there is a feeling that I am offering opposition to some individual but let it be clearly understood that that is beside the point. I am attacking the principle of awarding Scholarships of this nature. Let me say here that it is universally known that the smell of the award of some of these scholarships still pollutes the atmosphere and if you are not entitled to ask how they are awarded then you might not even worry to vote on the matter. Now Sir, I crave your indulgence in this matter inasmuch as you will agree with me in having asked the honourable junior member for St. John for certain facts and he has actually informed this Committee of an award being made to a local inspector without an advertisement appearing in the Press. Well, I can only conclude that the Government sends up here whoever they may award a scholarship to, and to ask this Committee to believe that this award was made as a result of the advertisement which the honourable introducer of the Resolution has got—well you could only be mentally unbalanced so as to accept such a statement. I say that for this reason. A scholarship becomes vacant or there is room for the award of a scholarship for sanitary science, for instance: the advertisement referred to by the honourable junior member for St. John is an advertisement by the British Council and when I am convinced that an advertisement by the British Council is anything to do with the Barbados Government, then I will say that this scholarship was awarded in the correct way. Mr. Chairman, there has been quite a lot of talk about the advertisement: if honourable members feel that the publication of such an advertisement calling for applicants is the correct procedure in awarding this scholarship then there is no comment to be made. I have not the slightest intention today of doing anything that would prevent the granting of this scholarship, but Sir, one is bound to allow the Government to know that in making such an award, things must appear to be above board. On the face of this, they are not above board. In reply to one of the questions which I asked the honourable mover of the passing of this Resolution he has said that the Chief Medical Officer admits that applications have been received from local inspectors not only from the parish of St. Michael but from other parishes which were as a result of communications from the Government, thus making it clear that the Colonial Development and Welfare Department were willing to offer scholarships in sanitary science for inspectors. The Head of the

Board of Health Department admits that he intimidated to these inspectors that he would be unable to recommend them for any scholarships until the services were co-ordinated or until he had some control over the sanitary inspectors of the various Boards. Where I am at a loss in the award of this scholarship is just here; the services are not yet co-ordinated, the set-up is not yet changed, the same inspectors exist, but the award of a scholarship of a similar nature in connection with which a communication was received by the Government, is made on a notice appearing in the Press from the British Council! What does the notice say? It merely says that anyone interested in scholarships offered by the British Council or already provided for by the Colonial Development and Welfare Department may send in his application.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I would like to explain that this advertisement was published by the Director of Education and not by the British Council. The advertisement was published on the 2nd November, 1946, and in that advertisement it was stated that people could send in their applications. Mr. Bell saw that stated and sent in his application.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not question the honourable member's authority, but a mistake seems to have been made somewhere, because I am told that the British Council and British Council alone advertised in the Press and used the name of the Director of Education. With all due respect to the utterances of the honourable junior member for St. John, a mistake has been made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Director of Education or British Council mentioned in this Resolution. The point is that certain funds are being asked for. The honourable member is quite at liberty to criticise the award of the scholarship but going into details will not get us anywhere. The Chairman will rule—

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Chairman must rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman will rule immediately.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am making a further appeal. Unless you give me a certain amount of latitude—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You had all the latitude you wanted and the Chair does not intend to go any further.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If a statement is made in this Committee which on the face of it—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules that the honourable member will not go on with what he is going on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What are we speaking about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what the Chair is trying to find out from the honourable member.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on the Resolution for the sum of £1,007 relative to the award of scholarships for health training in Jamaica for two sanitary inspectors and one public health nurse. In moving the passing of the Resolution the honourable junior member for St. John has made it quite clear that the principle of award has been questioned by a member of this Committee, and am I not entitled to discuss the replies which the honourable member has given to the questions?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules "No".

Mr. MOTTLEY: If that is your ruling, I have no alternative but to go about the matter from another angle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your alternative is going to be in the voting.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am saying that if the principle of awarding scholarships to local inspectors as explained by the honourable junior member for St

John is the principle which is going to be adopted in awarding these scholarships then this Committee can see that it is not the correct principle. When such a recommendation is made without taking into account that the taxpayers' money is being spent, and I am not yet told that this money will be paid back by the Colonial Development and Welfare Department—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no suggestion about the Colonial Development and Welfare Department in this Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If you will recall, Mr. Chairman, the honourable junior member for St. John made it clear that the scholarship was awarded partly through the Colonial Development and Welfare Department.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Committee cannot follow every word spoken by the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution in detail.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am entitled to know something about this Resolution. If the honourable junior member for St. John makes it clear that the scholarship has been awarded partly through the Colonial Development and Welfare Department but does not intimate that this money will be refunded by that Department, then I am saying that the scholarship has to be paid for out of the funds of the Central Government and to accept that the advertisement of the British Council was enough to satisfy all the persons who would have been interested in the scholarship, which in truth and in fact is a Government Scholarship, is not all that can be desired.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is before the Committee is quite clear; if the honourable member cannot understand the Resolution I will ask the Clerk to read it again. This is a plain Resolution asking for a sum of money to cover the cost of training in Jamaica for these people. The honourable member cannot go on as he is going on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This Committee is being asked to vote money for the award of this scholarship and I am attacking the principle and nothing but the principle on which the scholarship is awarded. I am nothing to do with personalities or any such things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can say that the scholarships have been awarded to the wrong people and he is not voting for the Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If you feel so, that may be your way of doing it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not going on in your way of doing it: I rule that the honourable member cannot carry on any more.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on this Resolution which is before the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman rules that you will not proceed any further or I will have to leave the Chair.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You can leave it, Mr. Chairman, I have no idea of disrespecting the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN left the Chair and the House resumed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committees has not reported to me and I think that it is a matter for the House to appoint a Chairman of Committees.

Mr. ADAMS: I am appealing to both honourable members; I am expressing now only my personal view. It does seem to me that the principle of making money available for training has nothing specifically to do with the method of making the appointment. However, the honourable introducer was right, in view of the fact that it is common knowledge

that there has been public criticism of the method of appointment, to give honourable members some information affecting it: and the honourable senior member for the City was perfectly right to make some reference to it. But the ruling of the Chair that the honourable member had said enough on the point should have been accepted by him whether the Chair was right or not. Although a barrister in a Court feels that he is perfectly right and that the judge is wrong he does not question the judge's ruling; and if an honourable member questions the ruling of the Chair, then all Parliamentary procedure is at an end. I appeal to the Chairman to return to the Chair and I appeal to the honourable senior member for the City who cannot complain that he has not been given much latitude—I estimate that he has had twenty-five minutes—to continue his speech if he has anything more to say without any reference to the method of appointment. I suggest to the honourable members that it is our duty whether we agree with the Chairman or not, to submit to his ruling although he may give a wrong ruling. Every honourable member has to maintain the dignity of the Chair otherwise we will degenerate into a squabbling society. I appeal to the honourable junior member for St. Peter to return to the Chair and to the honourable senior member for the City to respect the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. WARD: I feel that although this state of affairs is an unhappy one, the honourable senior member for the City is quite in order in asking about the method in which this appointment was made. This is something for the benefit of the community and I feel that the House is quite right in criticizing the manner in which this money is proposed to be spent. I feel that the honourable senior member for the City should be allowed some latitude before voting on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to say that the Speaker is not a Court of Appeal for the Chairman of Committees; but in this particular instance I think that after the honourable senior member for the City got the information all he had to say was that he thought that the replies were a ground for disallowing or reducing the amount of the Resolution. I think myself that the replies should not be made use of for any debate. It is for the Committee to say whether there are any reasons to vote for or against the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I said before, all does not seem well as a result of the replies given me by the honourable introducer with respect to the method of this award. It is true that for some time now there has been a feeling existing that scholarships of this nature are being awarded and all the surrounding circumstances are not taken into consideration. Although I have not the slightest intention of doing anything to hold up this award as it stands, I want it to be known if I stand alone today, that there are people who feel that broader principles should be adopted in future for awarding such scholarships; and that people interested in the particular vocation should be given an opportunity for knowing that such scholarships will be awarded and that they can apply for them. Whatever honourable members

might feel about the replies to the questions which the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution so kindly got for me, it is a matter for them: but I am confident that no one; at least no one who can judge for himself, could be at all satisfied that an advertisement of this nature could be accepted as a correct notice calling for applicants. I repeat, if I stand alone, that I want the Government to know that people feel that all is not well and that practices of favouritism in such high places will not be tolerated. I am grateful to see after many years of personal fighting for scholarships on behalf of these inspectors that some scholarships have been offered at last; but I feel, however, that I would be lacking in my duty if I allowed this Resolution to be passed without making this criticism. I hope that very soon similar Resolutions will be sent down to give more scholarships for advanced training in sanitary science to inspectors not only from the parish of St. Michael but from every parish in this island, that the procedure in calling for applicants will not be so questionable and that the awards will be made above board.

Mr. ADAMS: I shall say but very little in this matter. The honourable member who has just sat down has used some rather strong remarks about the Government. I do not know whether the honourable member was a member of the Housing Board when we considered the Secretary for a scholarship. Every department has been consulted as to whether they could recommend some of their junior personnel for training.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I should just like to repeat that the Chief Medical Officer has said that the time is now approaching, probably next year, when he will be prepared to recommend Parochial Sanitary Inspectors for post graduate courses and then selections will be made by him from names submitted by the various Commissioners of Health. In the advertisement which was put in the Press by the Education Department this was stated: "Candidates will please note that all correspondence connected with their applications must be addressed to the Education Department, Public Buildings, Bridgetown, and not to the Office of the British Council."

At this point, it now being 3.30 p.m. 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.

Mr. HAYNES: I object.

Mr. SPEAKER: An objection having been taken, I shall have to put the question. The question is that leave be granted the honourable member to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) in order to continue Government Business. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. The honourable member may therefore make the motion.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the time for Private Members' Business arrived, 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.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee of Supply, we were considering a Resolution for the sum of £1,007 to cover the cost of courses in Jamaica for two sanitary inspectors and one public health nurse. Before any other honourable member speaks, the Chair wants to say that it is not only today but from the time I became Chairman of Committees I informed honourable members that I would always give latitude to members of the Government. It is the duty of the Committee to accept that explanation. It does not at all mean that the members of the Committee will be able to dilate on anything.

Mr. BRANCKER: There is just one point I should like to make and it is this: the honourable introducer of the Resolution said that he has been informed by the Chief Medical Officer that it is not his intention to call for names to be submitted for certain courses until the Public Health Services are re-organised. He went on to say that the Chief Medical Officer had said that under present conditions the money might be wasted as there are no medical officers of health to direct the Sanitary Staff. I should like to point out that in some cases a medical officer is a member of the Commissioners of Health although he does not direct the Sanitary Staff. I suggest that when a scholarship such as this is to be awarded or when an opportunity such as this is afforded there should not be any attempt made to confine it to the metropolitan area. In the parish of St. Lucy the Parochial Medical Officer is a member of the Commissioners of Health and they are quite capable, with the assistance of the Parochial Medical Officer, to recommend a member of the Sanitary Staff who would benefit from a scholarship such as this.

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

The Resolution was passed.

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES TO TRINIDAD OF
DEAF-MUTE BOY

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for a sum not exceeding ten pounds to meet the transportation expenses incurred in sending an inmate of the St. Andrew's Almshouse to a school for the deaf and dumb in Trinidad.

The addendum states:—

"There is in the St. Andrew's Almshouse, a deaf-mute boy aged five years. Arrangements have been made with the Parochial Authorities of the parish to send the boy for training to a school in Trinidad for the deaf and dumb.

The Guardians of the parish are prepared to provide the sum \$20.00 a month towards his maintenance and funds can be made available from private sources to meet the balance of his expenses while in Trinidad.

This resolution is to provide his transportation expenses".

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS. I beg to second that.

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

three Resolutions in Committee 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.

PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 3 on the Order Paper be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Petroleum Act, 1882 (1882—2) as amended by the Petroleum (Amendment) Act, 1942 (1942—1).

Mr. ADAMS: I am sure that every honourable member will agree to the passing of this Bill without any comment. As honourable members will see from the "Objects and Reasons" the local Agents of the Trinidad Petroleum Companies informed this Government that in order to cover an increase in the costs of production of gasoline it would be necessary to make a corresponding increase in the local retail price. The object of this Bill is to keep gasoline at the present price of 50 cents a gallon. From paragraph 3 of the "Objects and Reasons" honourable members will see that it was agreed that the increase should be absorbed locally, first from funds available for gasoline in the Equalisation Account, and when these funds were exhausted, then by a reduction in the charge made under Section 26 of the Petroleum Act. The Government will take four cents less so as to keep down the price of gasoline. This is a simple Bill and I am sure that honourable members will agree with it whether they are motorists or bus passengers. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: In supporting this Bill I should like to say that the price of gasoline has gone up all over the world; I notice that in England it has gone up by six cents in the gallon and in Trinidad by 3 or 4 cents in the imperial gallon. At present the amount of tax which we collect on gasoline is very high—something like 27.8 cents per gallon. As your Honour knows, we are paying 50 cents per gallon for gasoline and more than 50% of the price goes back into the Treasury in some form or other. I think that it would be asking too much of consumers to again ask them to pay more for gasoline for local purposes. If this Bill was not passed it would appear that the price of gasoline would have to be increased by 3 cents a gallon. You will remember, Sir, that in the early days of the War in order to increase our revenue the tax on gasoline was increased; we considered then that gasoline which was required for War purposes was more or less a luxury but today it is not so. Owing to the scarcity of proper food many people are compelled to go in for transport. Gasoline is necessary to carry on the business of the island and the consumption has increased enormously since the rationing has been taken off; many more vehicles are now on the road. I do not think even with this reduction that the revenue of the island will suffer in the end; the amount of revenue estimated will still be reached. I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The second reading was passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed, the words "first" and "September" being inserted in the blanks in Clause 4.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumed.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. SPRINGER in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADDITIONAL CLERKS FOR CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to resume debate on the passing of the following Resolution:—

A Resolution that His Excellency the Governor be authorized in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 (2) of the Clerical Service Act, 1944 as amended by Section 2 of the Clerical Service (Amendment) Act, 1947 to appoint four additional clerks to the Clerical Staff of the Clerical Service. When this Resolution was last being debated the honourable junior member for St. Peter was speaking.

Mr. RAMSAY: I was saying that the way in which passengers leave the ships and invade the Customs, it is impossible for the Customs as a Customs to do its duty. I draw to the attention of the Government that if they want to collect this revenue, they should do something at the Baggage Warehouse whereby the Clerks should have a modicum of responsibility. I shall say nothing stronger; it is farcical to expect any Customs work to be efficiently done at the Baggage Warehouse under the present conditions.

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

The Resolution was passed.

CHIEF JUDGE AND CROWN LAW OFFICERS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 9 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. George:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Chief Judge and Crown Law Officers Act, 1907 (1907-13) as amended by the Chief Judge and Crown Law Officers (Amendment) Act, 1946, No. 2 (1946-19).

Mr. SPRINGER: The purpose of this Bill is to increase the salary of the office of the Assistant to the Attorney General and Legal Draughtsman.

There are lengthy "Objects and Reasons" which explain the matter fully. In short, we have no Assistant to the Attorney General and Legal Draughtsman nor have we got an Assistant Legal Draughtsman. We have somebody acting in the post but my information is that the vacancy has not been filled. What is far more important is the office of Assistant to the Attorney General

and Legal Draughtsman, an office in which some training and experience in the science of draughtsmanship is required, and we have been informed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that he will be unable to get suitable candidates who are qualified barristers or solicitors at the salary which is at present prevailing. It is therefore desirable that we should increase the salary of the Assistant to the Attorney General and Legal Draughtsman. Naturally the salary proposed is conditioned to some extent by the prevailing salary scale in the legal services in the colony, and until there is a general revision of all salaries, it will be obviously difficult to regrade an office of this nature. I doubt whether the House would agree to this normally, but the matter is so urgent that an attempt should be made to fill this post as the whole administration of Government as far as legislation is concerned depends upon the smooth passage in this Chamber of all measures from the drafting office. The Government has sent down this Bill in the hope that the House will support the efforts that are being made to bring an incumbent to this office with the least possible delay. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that. Normally it would be very difficult to agree to a thing of this sort, dealing with any class of Civil Servants before the general revision and consolidation is made. I think that every honourable member knows that the work in the Attorney General's Office is so overwhelming that it is very difficult to get Bills like the Public Health Bill, the Housing Bill and the Land Acquisition Bill drafted and there is much piling up of absolutely necessary work. For that reason all honourable members should agree to make an exception in this particular instance because we cannot get any legislation passed unless we get it drafted. I commend this Bill to honourable members and although this is an exception to the recommendation sent down for the revision of salaries, it is so important that it has to be dealt with now.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This is one of those Bills that when you view it closely you have to vote for it with a heavy heart. This particular Office is one which has frequently engaged the attention of this House in connection with an increase in the salary of the Assistant to the Attorney General. The history of this office is somewhat peculiar; with respect to the last holder of the office it was stated that the only way in which we could carry on in this Department efficiently was to hold this officer and at that time the salary was increased. That was some time ago. In making increases in certain posts I think that we should do so having regard to what the post deserves. Now that this officer has gone, the Government is faced with a peculiar position in finding somebody to fill the post. The Secretary of State has said that it is difficult to find somebody to fill the post for £650 per annum but I do not know if he means in the West Indies or in the United Kingdom. Speaking for myself, that salary could not bring any first-class man from the United Kingdom here. In the West Indies whether you look to Trinidad, Jamaica or British Guiana, you are going to find yourself in a precarious position to attract somebody here to do this job. Should we not at this stage go through the whole Act and try to bring it up to date? We have been patching every now and then with this Office and I feel that as it strikes at the kernel of an important department we should try and make some change. There is no Assistant to the Attorney General; there is a lot of work to be done in

this Office, the Assistant to the Attorney General has to assist in prosecuting at the Court of Grand Sessions so that you cannot keep such a post open for any long time. I do not believe that this is the best method of dealing with the situation however; this is just a stop-gap and I feel very diffident about voting for this Bill which is only a palliative. I would prefer to hear that the Government proposes to make an over-all change in connection with this Department and put the offices in line with other colonies. In Trinidad and in British Guiana there is a whole-time Solicitor General but this is not the case here. We are spending money for the services of a part-time Solicitor General and when you take an over-all picture of the situation, you will find that we are spending more money for the services of the Crown Law Officers than they are spending in some other places. This is a case where honourable members will be forced to vote for this Bill owing to the prevailing circumstances, not that they agree in their heart that they should vote for it as it stands.

Mr. COX: As far as I can see there seems to be some overlapping in this office. It is difficult to understand why this Government is paying a Solicitor General and yet it cannot have his services as a whole-time Officer. It has been voiced on the floor of this House on many occasions that in order to assist in expediting the drafting of the many Bills that are to come before this House, the Solicitor General should be made a whole-time Officer. I regret that no steps have been taken towards that end. I should like to say that when we were dealing with the Medical Bill some time ago, it was said that the salary of the Chief Medical Officer was not increased because the Government was prepared to go through the salaries of the Civil Servants and send down a comprehensive salary scale. I do not think that it is fair to other Civil Servants, including the one of whom I have just made mention, for us to increase the salary of the Assistant to the Attorney General and Legal Draughtsman at this time and leave the other salaries as they are. At least the salary of the Chief Medical Officer could have been increased without any harm being done to anybody. It has been said that we want somebody to carry on as Assistant to the Attorney General and Legal Draughtsman but I feel that if this Office was pulling its weight, it would not have been necessary to force the hands of the Government at this time to increase this salary before the comprehensive scale is sent down. As the honourable senior member for St. Peter has pointed out, we have no alternative but to support this Bill. I am hoping, however, that the Government will see the wisdom of employing a whole-time Solicitor General because as the position is at present, the Solicitor General serves in a dual capacity. You cannot ask him to give complete satisfaction to the country; he may be defending somebody who, at the same time, has committed an offence against the country. I feel that it is high time that something be done as regards making the Solicitor General a whole-time Officer: I am sure that his service will be of inestimable value to the community as a whole.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The second reading was passed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

The two Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumed.

On motions of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that Order No. 2 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. George:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Department of Science and Agriculture Act, 1925 (1925-5) as amended by the Department of Science and Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 1946 (1946-32).

Mr. SPRINGER: This is a very important Bill although the effects of it will not be felt as rapidly as, for example, the effects of a Bill to provide for the spending of large sums of money on a building. The Bill is important because it will prove the efficiency of the Department of Agriculture. I do not think that it is sufficiently well known that during the last ten years or so the efforts of the Government have been on an increasing basis devoted towards the improvement of the agriculture of the peasants as distinct from the plantations. More especially have efforts been directed towards the diversification of agriculture and the improvement and increase of livestock. This is a country whose economy is based on sugar mainly and it is likely to continue to be so as far as one can foresee; therefore it is in our interest to devote as much skill and attention as possible to improving the quality of our agriculture. Previous to the years immediately preceding the War most of our efforts were directed towards the improvement of cane cultivation in general and the results have been marvellous; but for the last ten years or so there has been a concerted drive towards the improvement and diversification of our agriculture. One of the purposes of this Bill is to increase the number of peasant agricultural instructors, or perhaps I should more accurately say, to provide for that increase. I say more accurately so because honourable members will have observed that the form which this Bill takes is to provide for a number of officers whose salaries with the exception of that of the Director of Agriculture are to be approved from time to time by special Resolution of the Legislature, so that the actual appointment or provision for these officers will be made subsequent to the passing of this Bill. It has been set out in the "Objects and Reasons" that it is proposed to increase the number of peasant agricultural instructors from eleven to seventeen, that is to say, by six. The work of these peasant agricultural instructors has been very heartening; there is no doubt that their work has been highly appreciated by the peasantry and it has been fruitful of very beneficial results in the matter of agriculture. This Department gives little publicity to its work but its eleven peasant instructors are kept extremely busy; they not only give encouragement to the peasants in the field but they impart technical knowledge to them

through the holding of weekly conferences. An important feature of this work is the administration of District Agricultural Stations; there are six of these all of them in the country districts where livestock of the highest quality is kept for service of the peasants' stock. One of the reasons why it is necessary to increase the number of peasant instructors is that six of the eleven are in charge of these Stations, and it has been found that the control of these Stations takes up so much of their time that they naturally cannot visit the holdings of the peasants as often as would be necessary so that this service should be carried out effectively. It is therefore proposed to make provision for six more peasant instructors so that the work which could be done by the eleven instructors before these District Agricultural Stations were created can be maintained and we may have to come back to the House for more peasant instructors. There is also the question of laying the foundation for the development of 4-H clubs all being to the end that youths who leave the schools might find encouragement in agriculture and become excellent farmers in years to come. It is necessary to appoint a Government Veterinary Officer whose duties will be to look after the Government's livestock at the Pine and other Stations. There is a considerable number of livestock at these Stations; I do not wish to take up too much time, but at the Pine there is one thoroughbred stallion, four imported bulls of absolutely first-class quality, very expensive animals they are indeed, three pedigree boars, ten or eleven pedigree goats, a number of pigs and so forth. At the Livestock Stations there are a large number of excellent stock which have been very well used indeed during the years that they have been available to the public. It is expected that the number of services this year will be greater than last year. This Government Veterinary Officer will not be attached to the Public Market: he will be attached to the Central Livestock Station and his job will be to look after the extremely expensive stock and the Government purposes to put him in a capacity to assist private owners with their problems from time to time provided that it does not interfere with his substantive duties. The third purpose of this Bill is to make it possible to appoint an additional lecturer in Natural Science at Harrison College. That needs no argument: many members of this House have demanded it from time to time when we were considering the Estimates and now that a change is being made the opportunity is being taken to bring that appointment into effect. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH: I am glad to see that the Government has seen fit to send down this Bill. I remember that not long ago a poor man in the country lost his cow which was worth about £50 owing to the lack of the services of a veterinary surgeon. Poor fellow he did not have the means whereby he could telephone and obtain the services of a veterinary surgeon from St. Michael. I also know a person who lost his mule on the same account. While reading the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill relative to the appointment of a veterinary surgeon, I noticed this: "It is further suggested that the services of this officer might be made available to owners of livestock in a consultative capacity." I do not quite understand the use of the word "might"; I think it should have been worded that the services of this officer "will" be made available to

owners of livestock. Taking into consideration the fact that at the present moment you have one veterinary surgeon you will be appointing a second one. If at present one veterinary surgeon tries his best to do this job when you appoint another one it should be that he will be in a position to attend to the cattle of private individuals. I think that the services of this officer should be made available to the poor people in the country districts: they should be able to get him on the spot so as to save them from losing all they have. I am sure that this poor man who refused £50 for his cow in order to get a little more for it eventually lost all he owned. That was sufficient to kill him as well. I hope that this Bill will mean that this officer will be in a position at all times if necessary to attend the calls from the poor people in the country districts.

Mr. GALE: I am pleased to see that at long last the Government has seen the wisdom of removing the Veterinary Surgeon from the Public Market; the time has long past when he should have been of some use to the community in looking after the Government animals at the different Stations about the country. I welcome this Bill. The honourable junior member for St. Joseph has made a few remarks about the Veterinary Officer but I think that he has taken the matter in the wrong spirit. It is stated in the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill that the services of this officer might be made available to owners of livestock in a consultative capacity; that is, that he will be able to advise owners of livestock who may want any particular advice. It is not intended that the Government Veterinary Officer will be engaged in any practice outside; people will not be able to call him if they have sick animals as the honourable member has envisaged. He will be able to give advice as to breeding and so forth. I must congratulate the Government and the Director of Agriculture for getting this matter through and I hope that the country will reap the rewards which this Bill is trying to provide.

Mr. COX: On the last occasion when a similar Bill was before this House I drew it to the notice of the Government that persons who take their stock to the Government studs are not allowed a return service. I would like to know if anything has been done to remedy that situation. It is said that these animals are to improve the situation so far as this country is concerned especially with regard to the poor people; and if you fail to give a return service you are not really helping them. If a person has to pay \$1 for the service of his animal on every occasion, that is creating a hardship on him. People are accustomed to having return services for their animals and I again bring the matter to the notice of the Government and ask them not be hard on these people if they are really prepared to help them. They should allow a return service just as is allowed by ordinary people; I feel that the Government owes a greater duty to the people than any individual owes. It does not matter whether the Government makes money out of the people or not because it can tax anybody and to any extent so as to get as much money as is required to carry on its work. I think that in the interest of the people the Government should give a return service just as an ordinary individual does.

Mr. RAMSAY: This Bill concerns the Department of Science and Agriculture which is of such value to this country that we must not speak of it lightly. This Department has at its head one for whom I have profound regard, Dr. Saint. I am afraid however, that there is the necessity for more re-

orientation. Speaking of the Government Veterinary Officer, I do not think that it is wise in a day like this to have him looking after the Public Market and have no such officer at the Agricultural Department. I think that the Government should have these two officers and one of them should be the chief; I do not think that they should bring in a junior officer and put him in a place where there is much to be done. The honourable junior member for St. Joseph says that it is not sufficient to say that the services of the veterinary officer might be available to owners of livestock—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member but, as a matter of fact, that is not in the Bill at all.

Mr. RAMSAY: The remarks of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph were to the effect that he was hoping that people will not lose their stock because the veterinary officer is far off. I cannot see how he will be any nearer; I cannot see how one officer can act in a consultative capacity for the whole island. I do not think that sufficient thought has been given to this Bill: we ought to have these two officers, one being the chief, the other his assistant and we should have husbandmen to go around to the people. I think that a Select Committee should be appointed to go into the matter and consider it from every phase.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The second reading was passed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair

Clause 1, the title Clause, was read and passed.

Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2 Subsection (1) of section four of the Principal Act as contained in paragraph (a) of section nine of the Civil Establishment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1944 and amended by the Department of Science and Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 1946 is hereby repealed and the following new subsection substituted therefor:—

“(1) (a) The Governor may appoint as head of the Department a Director of Agriculture who shall receive salary at the rate of one thousand one hundred pounds per annum, and such other officers and servants and at such salaries as shall be approved from time to time by special resolution of the Legislature.”

(b) The salaries of all persons appointed under this Act shall be paid from the Public Treasury on the warrant of the Governor-in-Executive Committee by equal monthly instalments.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to know if any consideration has been given to the peasant instructors who were employed there for so many years, if they will be regarded as senior or junior instructors or what will be done about them. I do not know if the honourable member in charge of the Bill can supply us with any information relative to that matter. I would like to emphasize that in this Department there are many officers who have been employed as Mosaic Disease Inspectors for 15 or 20 years and their services have not been taken into account. Although they were appointed on a permanent basis they were not given any increments on that basis. I would have thought that now we are increasing the number of peasant instructors some provision would

have been made whereby greater increments will be given to those peasant instructors who have been attached to this Department for so many years. Up to now they have not received any increment or gratuity for their past services. I would like to know if these past services will be taken into consideration relative to the granting of pensions, if the services of these officers as Mosaic Disease Inspectors will be considered in respect of their pensions if and when the time comes for that. Has the Government got in mind giving these officers increments or gratuities for their number of years' service? I think that if you are going back to the land and encouraging and assisting the peasants—I see that the number of peasant instructors is to be increased from eleven to seventeen—the instructors should be encouraged to give of their best. I agree with the appointment of more than one veterinary officer because one officer cannot cope with the work. As regards the point mentioned by the honourable junior member for St. Joseph and supported by you Mr. Chairman, that exposes the hand of the Administration of the Executive or whoever is responsible for this Bill, that they do not really intend to help the peasants whose animals may have fallen sick. One officer is available for the entire island and it is stated in the “Objects and Reasons” of the Bill that his services might be available. That is the method employed in the past and it seems that they cannot get away from the bad method of doing things. I would like the information which I have asked for supplied so that the minds of the peasant instructors might be set at ease.

Mr. SPRINGER: There is only one point on which the honourable member wants information as far as I can understand him, and it is that if the years of service in a non-pensionable office will be taken into account when the officers reach the age when they retire. That will depend on the attitude of the Administration when these officers come to retire. It would be useless to give an opinion to-day as to what will be done as we have to make sure that when these officers come to retire we have an Administration which will be favourably disposed towards them. As to the other point, you can only do things at one step at a time; if you had a Bill for the appointment of several veterinary officers you might not get them. We have been extremely fortunate in getting one now and it is rather ungracious of the the honourable member to say that the Government is proving that it does not want to help the peasants because it only asks that one officer be appointed. It would have been reasonable to say that if we were depriving the colony of the services of somebody, but not when we are asking to provide for the service of—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable member referring to me in this matter?

Mr. SPRINGER: I am referring to the comments of the honourable senior member for Christ Church. I do not think that he meant to be as strong as the remarks which he used. I have just referred to them for the sake of the record. This Government Officer will be in charge of extremely expensive and valuable livestock which is for the benefit of the island; there is no private interest in it, you cannot have this Officer there and tell him that he must answer every call. His services can only be made available to owners of livestock in a consultative capacity if he has the time. The question of free veterinary services can be considered but that is not what is before the Committee to-day. We have some very valuable stock at the Pine as

well as at the other Stations about the island; the present Veterinary Officer is asked to do work which is not befitting his qualification, and the duties of this new officer will primarily be to look after the Government livestock at these Agricultural Stations.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 2 was passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PROPOSAL TO REVERT TO PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—The most important Government matters have been dealt with except the Resolution which has been postponed, the supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Resolution to approve the Rules made by the General Nursing Council. In view of the fact that there are two matters under Private Members' Business which ought to be dealt with before the Legislature is prorogued, I suggest that we should now revert to Private Members' Business so that these matters can be finished and I am asking the House to meet again on Thursday of this week so as to deal with other matters before the prorogation.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. WILKINSON: I cannot agree with that: I think that we have had a pretty good day, we have done a lot of work in spite of the heat and I think it is time to adjourn. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph must be congratulated on the amount of Government business which has been done on account of honourable members having given up the time allocated to Private Members' Business. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPRINGER: I wish to oppose the motion for the adjournment and to support the remarks which have been made by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and the proposal he has made. While I am in sympathy with the honourable junior member for St. James in respect of the heat, we are all suffering from it both physically and mentally, and with the impending prorogation I think it would be highly desirable to deal with matters under Private Members' Business today and not take a chance that we might not be able to deal with them before the prorogation.

The question that this House do now adjourn to this day week at twelve o'clock noon was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. MOTTLEY, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—5.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. RAMSAY, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, HAYNES and Dr. CUMMINS—15.

ADDRESS *Re* POWER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ALTER OR REJECT BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE.

Mr. MAPP: I ask leave that Order No. 83 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. HAYNES: I object; my Address has been hanging fire for some time now and I think we should finish it and then go back to any other matter on the Order Paper. I appeal to honourable members to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: An objection having been taken, I shall have to put the question. The question is that leave be granted the honourable member to proceed with Order No. 83 as the next Order of the Day. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. RAMSAY, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, GARNER, TALMA and Dr. CUMMINS—12.

Noes: Messrs. CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—7.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative twelve honourable members voting "Aye," and seven honourable members voting "No". The next Order of the Day therefore stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the power of the Legislative Council to alter or reject Bills passed by the House of Assembly.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,—The Address reads as follows:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor.

The House of Assembly are of the opinion that, in order to give effect to the will of the people as expressed by their elected representatives, it is necessary that the power of the Legislative Council to alter or reject bills passed by this House should be so restricted by law as to secure the undivided authority of the House of Assembly over finance and its predominance in legislation in general, and ensure that within the limit of a single Parliament the final decision of the General Assembly shall prevail.

The House are further of the opinion that the attainment of this end is a matter of urgency and therefore request Your Excellency to take appropriate steps to achieve this result in the shortest possible time.

No attempt has been made to force this Address on the attention of honourable members; it has been on the Order Paper for quite a while and honourable members who felt it necessary to consult the Authorities constitutional and otherwise, both local and foreign have had an opportunity to do so and to make up their minds as to whether they will support this Address or not. This Address, to my mind, is couched in very moderate language; there is nothing revolutionary about it, it is very clear as to its intentions and therefore I do not think it will have a very hard passage through this House. I want to make it clear from the beginning that this is no attempt in any way to eradicate the Other Place as a second Chamber. We are not asking today that there should be no second Chamber at all as some people

seem to think all we are asking through this Address is that the will of the majority, which I take it honourable members will agree is a most fundamental principle in any Democracy, as expressed in this Chamber, should be predominant: and that in financial matters this House as between the two Chambers should be the dominant partner. Indeed the Address goes further than that; it asks that in matters which concern the pockets of ordinary citizens this House should have exclusive control and an exclusive right to say what measures may be considered as financial or otherwise, and whether they should be passed, amended or rejected. No one in his right senses would deny that a second Chamber has an influence on the character and shape of legislation; a second Chamber can bring to questions of the Day a reasoned and a very sound body of opinion and it can debate those questions in a very calm atmosphere sometimes, a thing that may not be possible at all times in this House. A second Chamber can represent the various bodies of opinion in a country in more fulness and in more detail than this Chamber can at times; but more of us would defend a second Chamber that is distinctly partisan. I feel sure that none of us who claims to represent the interests of the majority would do that. Unfortunately it has always been the tendency of every second Chamber to have a distinct cleavage of opinion whenever the character of representation in the lower Chamber is fundamentally changed. We cannot or do not expect that any proposals even to reform the second Chamber would meet with universal approval in this colony: it has always been felt by the majority of people that any attempt to tamper with the second Chamber is to do something revolutionary and turn the country upside down. That is only natural to the class of persons represented in the Other Place; at present it becomes natural for them to defend their interest in that manner. The position is the same as in 1911 when there was a distinct cleavage in the House of Commons when the Liberals swept into power over the Unionists: when there was a body of opinion which felt that the House of Lords should have the power not only to cast opinions in matters of legislation in general, but to take the liberty of deciding what shape and character such legislation should assume. Just as it was felt that the House of Lords represented the real, solid backbone of the country, so in this colony whenever you suggest anything in the nature of a reformation of the Other Place there will be a body of opinion to say that it is something revolutionary. I shall not use the term revolutionary; I say that this is far-reaching but not revolutionary. I should like to commend to the members of the Other Place the same attitude adopted by Lord Rosebury, that outstanding politician; he was not a Socialist, he was an Independent but he was certainly one of the most outstanding Liberal Peers that the House of Lords ever produced. Although he opposed to the idea of having a weak second Chamber, although he decried any move to interfere with what he considered the rights and domains of the second Chamber, he went so far as to suggest that they should take the lead in framing some very far-reaching reforms for the House of Lords at that time. I suggest that action of conciliation, an action which has characterised the noble Lords at times in their conflict with the House of Commons; I suggest that it is a very good line of action for our local Councillors to follow at this time however much they might be opposed to any attempt to limit the power of the second Chamber. All this Address asks is that in the interest of the people of this colony we should not allow the Other Place which represents a very small

minority, to have the power to veto finally any considered legislation that we may send up to them. Even if we allow them a suspensory veto, if we want to say that we are really representing the people of this colony, we should not allow them to have or retain any longer the final veto in respect of any measures that may come before us. If they have the power to delay legislation, that is a very great factor in any political dispute that may arise between the two Chambers. When the Other Place has that power they can yet exercise a great influence on the character and shape of legislation in general. That is a very threatening influence which they have; the power to delay legislation is a power which if used in a co-operative spirit and not put into any extreme use, can play a great part in settling any dispute over which the country is divided. The opinion of the people is best expressed in this Chamber and to allow the Other Place to destroy legislation which has been passed in this Chamber would be the act of 24 absolutely blind men. I think that this is a very appropriate time for us to take steps to guard against what might be called the "sword of Damocles" which is so menacingly and precariously hanging over our heads. The attitude of the Other Place is partisan and it has shown its partisanship recently. I have seen amendments sent down which represent the opinion of the minority in this Chamber. Is that not partisanship?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the honourable member has any right to suggest that the Other Place is partisan.

MESSAGE FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RETURNING FACTORIES BILL WITH AMENDMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member; I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Honourable Legislative Council returning with amendments the Bill to make provision for the registration and supervision of Factories and for the safety and well being of workers employed therein.

ADDRESS *RE* POWER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ALTER OR REJECT BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

Mr. MAPP: I have read in a recent debate where one of its members actually implied that the Other Place had equal authority with this Chamber in matters of legislation. I put it to honourable members in this Chamber: is this not a dangerous principle? Is this not something against which we should take steps? I would like to bring to the attention of this House that provision has been made for legislation along these lines in the Jamaica Constitution. In that Constitution it is provided that if a Bill is twice passed by the House in successive sessions and rejected by the Legislative Council, it is forwarded to the Governor for his assent. If that is necessary in Jamaica, I say that it is even more necessary in this colony. This colony, as you know, is a settled colony and as such its Constitution has taken the shape of the British Parliamentary Chambers. All I am asking this House to do to-day is that we follow something which the English have done since 1911. In matters of finance the House of Commons and the House of Lords have been at dispute for many years. In 1911 the House of Lords held that it was their right to reject money Bills; the members of the House of Commons claimed that that right was lost since 1066. It was resolved by the House of Commons in 1678

that all aids and supplies of His Majesty are the sole right gift of the Commons; that all Bills for the granting of such aids and supplies ought to begin with the Commons; and that it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit and appoint under such Bills, the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords. A similar Resolution was passed by the House of Commons in 1860 and Section 6 of our Executive Act lays it down that the Executive Committee may from time to time prepare votes and estimates provided that all aids and supplies of the Executive shall be the sole gift of the House of Assembly, and the House shall have and exercise its undoubted and sole right to withhold, reduce or grant such aids and supplies, and to direct, limit and appoint such aids and supplies whensoever granted, and to limit and appoint the ends purposes, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, aids and supplies. Lately we have seen that representation on the Executive Committee is based more firmly on representation in this House; any attempt therefore to interfere with the sole right of the Executive with respect to financial measures must interfere with the character of representation in this House. It is a direct infringement of our rights and privileges. I do not think that there is very much more that I can say in this matter; there is no doubt that opinion is solidly in favour of the Address. I think that most of the points that can be raised in connection with the matter have been raised since 1942. I may say that I feel that a Bill of the nature of the one which was withdrawn a short time ago would answer to the aims and purposes of this Address; but I did not feel that that was all which should be done for the simple reason that the Other Place would throw it out with impunity. The House of Lords agreed to the 1911 Parliament Act because they were forced by threat of putting in a majority of Labour Peers, it may be necessary for some such step to be taken in this colony. I think the time is ripe when the Executive Committee, or at least the part of the Executive Committee which represents the people, should be given a voice in saying who should be nominated to the Other Place. That would constitute a real threat to the Other Place in dealing with legislation sent up by this House. I do not anticipate much opposition to this Address and I beg to move that it do now pass.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that. This Address strikes at the very heart of democracy. To my mind, the quintessence of democracy demands that the will of the people must prevail at all times. Broadly speaking, no Democracy in 1947 should see itself being ruled by any nominated body no matter who it may be. You cannot ask people to go to the polls and elect their representatives and then when the people have done so, have the will of those representatives nullified by any body of men who have not been before the electorate at all. I feel that Abraham Lincoln gave a very classical definition of democracy—government by, of and for the people. I feel that those words are just as true to-day as when they were first uttered and those honourable members who can see the writing on the wall can very well agree that the time has come when any measure passed here should receive universal approval. I feel that this measure is democratic in every phase and it gives me very great pleasure in seconding the motion for its passing. Any honourable member of this House who feels that the powers of the Other Place should not be limited should resign his seat because he would not be believing in the will of the

people who sent him here. We are here to speak out our wishes and we cannot be relegated to impotence. I feel that the will of the people must prevail in the House of Assembly.

Mr. GALE: I have listened very carefully to the remarks of the honourable mover and seconder of the motion for the passing of this Address. The honourable mover has referred to the Parliament Act which was passed in the House of Lords, but I do not think that the Legislative Council in Barbados is like the House of Lords in England. The House of Lords is a hereditary Body; one becomes a member of the House of Lords by being the son of a peer. In the island of Barbados, according to our Constitution, we have an elected Body and a Body nominated by the Governor and approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and His Majesty the King. There is therefore a great difference between the House of Lords and the Legislative Council here. Under the Letters Patent of Barbados the members of the Legislative Council are not appointed for life; they are appointed for a limited time and they can be removed at any time if the Secretary of State wants to remove them. If the Secretary of State or the Governor finds that the Legislative Council is not carrying out the wishes of the people of Barbados he has it in his power to remove any member at any time. The members of the Legislative Council are appointed under and at the discretion of the Crown; therefore I cannot see how under the Constitution of Barbados, the House of Assembly can limit the powers of the Council. If the powers of the Council have to be limited, they have to be limited by the Crown by which the members of the Council are nominated. The Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Crown nominate the Legislative Council and therefore under the present Letters Patent and the Constitution of Barbados I cannot see that this House can do what is being attempted to do this afternoon.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am wondering why some honourable members always approach matters by the wrong method. We have recently had a display of what one honourable member called railroad methods when a Bill was rushed through this House without honourable members even seeing a copy of it. That Bill never appeared on the Order Paper. Now this afternoon at short notice we are asked to consider an Address dealing with a very important matter. Order No. 83 on the Order Paper is being considered as Order No. 1! I think that honourable members are making a great mistake by adopting these measures. This question is one which has a great amount of sympathy and if it is approached in the ordinary, normal way an Address could be passed. I do think that the honourable mover and seconder of the motion for the passing of this Address would have gained much more sympathy if the matter had not been gone about in this way. I am sure that the method which has been adopted this afternoon and which is now becoming a practice among those in power, is going to bring about antagonism in respect of something which should have come along in the usual way. I did not have the slightest idea that Order No. 83 on the Order Paper would have been considered today. I have not had any chance to prepare any facts; I think that the honourable junior member for St. Michael has put the case of some of us on this side of the Table very clearly. I do not consider that it is necessary at the present moment to make any alteration in our Constitution; that would be necessary if we had any cases where the Other Place had directly and pointedly ignored the wishes of this House but I do not think that that has happened

so far. If honourable members have taken great resentment because the Bill which they were in so great a hurry to pass to pay themselves was rejected by the Other Place, I think that it speaks very badly for Barbados if on that alone we should restrict the powers of the Other Place. I think that honourable members are putting their case very badly. The case to which I have referred is the only one where I can remember that a Bill sent down by this House has been entirely rejected. I, for one and many other honourable members consider that the members of the Other Place were quite in order in rejecting it not only because of the methods which were adopted but some of the sections of the Bill were so outrageous in our opinion that the Council could do nothing but reject it. The members of this House have their remedy for altering the powers of the Council: we have heard that the House is going to be prorogued so that honourable members can introduce another Bill and put it through in the proper manner. I am sure that if a Bill is put forward in due course for a reasonable sum, the members of the Council would pass it.

Mr. SPEAKER: This debate is becoming the matter of a debate which took place not long ago, but I think that I shall have to allow a certain amount of latitude. It is very difficult in a debate of this kind to keep out certain matters; while I would like to keep these matters out yet I have to allow some latitude.

Mr. WILKINSON: In view of what has been said on this side of the Table I hope that honourable members will not press this matter this afternoon.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON Messrs RAMSAY, GARNER, BRANCKER, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, TALMA, and Dr. CUMMINS—15.

Noes: Messrs. MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT WILKINSON and WARD—6.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, fifteen honourable members voting "Aye," and six honourable members voting "No". I will ask the honourable junior member for St. Thomas and the honourable senior member for St. Peter to present this Address.

Mr. MAPP: As your Honour pleases.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: As your Honour pleases.

ADDRESS RE DISESTABLISHMENT AND DISENDOWMENT OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to move that Order No. 2 under Private Members' Business be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the Day is to resume debate on the motion that the Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the Disestablishment and gradual Disendowment of the Anglican Church in Barbados do now pass. When this Address was being debated on the last occasion, the honourable senior member for the City was speaking and moved that the further debate on this Address be postponed. That motion was seconded by the honourable senior member for St. John and agreed to.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When the debate on this Address was adjourned on the last occasion I was dealing with the economic aspect of the established

Church and its relationship with the State. I said then that on the face of all the available facts Barbados was apparently ahead of any other West Indian colony in social legislation. I also made it clear that because the Church is established and endowed that is no argument to say that we would have gone further ahead if it had not been so, despite other interpretations. To go on further today, I should like to say that one of the reasons why I am not convinced that disendowment will serve the purpose which the honourable senior member for St. Andrew would have us believe it will serve is that among the benefits which the people receive today from the established and endowed Church is a form of culture which none of us can deny. I instance the music supplied to the various churches, which is provided for in nearly every instance by an act of legislation and such finance which is raised from taxation. It may be argued that everyone in the parish or diocese who is called upon to contribute such taxation does not benefit from this as a form of culture. I instance the parish of St. Michael; I wonder now with the interest which the well-to-do seem to take in religion, if you had a disestablished and disendowed Church 15 years ago, whether the people of this parish would have the opportunity to enjoy music from the strains of a £5,000 organ? Sir, we all appreciate that persons from the lowest walk of life in this colony have been able to take advantage of the facilities offered in the various parishes on account of an established and endowed Church. As we look around we see that the rich are compelled by law to support this form of culture, they having lost every possible interest in religion. We have only been able to appreciate one type of culture that is the one with which we find ourselves; and it seems only reasonable to argue that that if for generations we have been watching the well-to-do and the monied class taking their place in the various churches and to-day it is observed that these people no longer take any interest in religion, it must follow as night follows day that this interest will cease among those in the lower walks of life. It must be appreciated that as time has gone on, as the persons whom the masses of this colony seem to have followed in their form of culture, have apparently lost all interest in religion as offered by the established Church, it must follow that they will cease to give financial assistance to the Church. Therefore if you admit that the masses of this colony are naturally religious, if you admit that their economic position can ill afford them to support the Church if it is disestablished the logical conclusion must be—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member but he has already made that point.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I had not finished the point about the economic aspect. It seems to me that if we agree to the passing of this Address when we see things staring us in the face, when we know that no financial assistance will be forthcoming for the upkeep of the Church, we will not be doing our duty to the masses of the people of this country. My last point in respect of the economic aspect of the matter is this: honourable members are mindful of the fact that I quoted from the journal of the Diocesan Synod which showed that approximately £2,000—

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, the hour is getting late and I think that the further debate on this Address should be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for the City will have to move the postponement of the debate himself.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on what, to my mind, is a most important matter. If honourable members feel that it is a late hour I will again move for the postponement of the debate. I do not want to delay honourable members but I take it that they will appreciate that this is a matter upon which I am speaking very strongly. If it is the feeling of honourable members that the further debate on this Address be postponed I beg to make that motion.

Dr. WILSON: I beg to second that.

The question that the further debate on this Address be now postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs BRANCKER, F. L. WALCOTT, GARNER, MOTTLEY, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—8.

Noes: Messrs. COX, FOSTER, MAPP, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD and Dr. CUMMINS—6.

The further consideration of the Address was postponed.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next, the 28th of August, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Thursday next is a very short notice for the next meeting of this House; the majority of us have made other arrangements not expecting that we would meet twice this week. I cannot vote for a meeting on Thursday when I cannot attend and other honourable members are in the same position. I beg to move that the words "Thursday next, the 28th of August, 1947," be deleted in order to insert the words "Tuesday next, the 2nd of September, 1947."

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: While I am in sympathy with the honourable junior member for St. James, I do not think it is fair to us, merely because it may embarrass him to come out on Thursday, to suggest that we do not meet before next Tuesday. The House will be

prorogued shortly and there are still important measures on the Order Paper which should be dealt with before the prorogation, otherwise they will have to be re-introduced. The honourable members for St. James can stay away; honourable members realise as representatives of labour that there are many things to be done in this House—things that have been left undone for all these years.

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking honourable members to meet again on Thursday although we have done a lot of work to-day. The Other Place has to consider the work which we have done to-day, namely, five Resolutions and four Bills including the most important measure in respect of the appointment of a financial secretary. I think that we should meet on Thursday; we have to meet on Tuesday and also on Friday. It is not customary to do any work on prorogation days except to deal with amendments that may come down from the Other Place. Surely we will not need to sit until this hour on Thursday; we may not sit after lunch. We may get through with this Address which is under consideration and adjourn at lunch time, but we will be in session to deal with amendments from the Other Place. I think that we should attend the House on Thursday and do half day's work at least.

Mr. SPEAKER: A motion has been made that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next, the 28th of August, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon. An amendment has been moved that the words "Thursday next, the 28th of August, 1947," be deleted in order to insert the words "Tuesday next, the 2nd of September, 1947". The question therefore is that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of the motion. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it. The question now is that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next, the 28th of August, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned.