

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

16th December, 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*), Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, C. E. TALMA, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, D. D. GARNER, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., and H. A. DOWDING.

Prayers are read.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 9th December, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

Dr. WILSON enters the House and takes his seat.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council in reply to the Message which was sent to the Honourable the Legislative Council by the House of Assembly on the subject of the appointment of a joint Committee of both Houses of the Legislature for the purpose of considering the situation arising out of the present dollar crisis. I will ask the Clerk to read the message which shows the change in the position.

The Clerk reads the Message as follows:—

The Legislative Council

To

The Honourable The House of Assembly

The Legislative Council have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Message from the Honourable the House of Assembly transmitting a copy of a Resolution passed by the honourable House on the 11th November, expressing the opinion that it is

expedient that a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature should be convened for the purpose of considering the situation arising out of the present dollar crisis.

The Legislative Council have the honour to inform the Honourable House that since the passing of the Resolution, a Committee has been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to advise as to the action to be taken to give effect to the instructions of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that there should be a restriction of imports. As this Committee includes members of both Houses of the Legislature, the Council feel that the report of this Committee should be awaited before any decision is taken regarding the convening of a joint meeting of the two Houses of Legislature to consider this matter.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from H. M. Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the period ended 30th September, 1947, in respect of the several schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

Statement of Post Office advances for the payment of Money Orders to the 31st October, 1947.

Statement showing the gross Customs and Excise receipts to 31st August and 30th September, 1947.

NOTICES

Mr. ADAMS gives notice of the following:—
A Bill to amend the Colonial Treasurer's Act, 1891 (1891—20), as amended by the Colonial Treasurer's (Amendment) Act, 1941 (1941—9).

Mr. COX gives notice of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to appoint a Committee including members of the House to

recommend to Government the tenantry roads to be immediately taken over and repaired and the localities for installing standpipes and hydrants.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at its next meeting:—

1. Is the Government aware
 - (i) of the increased Colonial Scholarship grants from the British Treasury for public servants in the Colonial Empire?
 - (ii) that the Trinidad Government has asked for applications from its various departments of the Public Service for the 1948 academic year?

2. What does the Government propose to do to enable its public servants to receive the training offered from the scholarships for 1948?

Messrs. CRAWFORD, SMITH, and SYMMONDS enter the House and take their seats.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Colonial Treasurer's Act, 1891 (1891—20), as amended by the Colonial Treasurer's (Amendment) Act, 1941 (1941—9), is read a first time.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. SMITH) is appointed to act as Chairman of Committees until the Chairman of Committees (Mr. RAMSAY) arrives.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first 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. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ADAMS: The first Resolution which I shall deal with is No. 5,—a Resolution for the sum of £2,230 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the service of the colony. Honourable members will observe that this is one of the supplementary resolutions which come to the House from time to time. If here is any information which is required other than what appears in the notes I shall be pleased to give it. The additional amount of £60 which is required under Head VI, Customs, for books and stationery is due to the increased transactions in rum and increased prices and the additional amount of £90 which is asked for under the same Head is required to pay the travelling expenses to the 31st March, 1948, of the Revenue Officer attached to Gregg Farm Distillery. As regards the next Head, Government Industrial Schools, the Committee appointed to make recommendations for the reorganization of the Schools has recommended the establishment of vocational training at the Schools, and it is proposed to make arrangements for carrying out this recom-

mendation. £20 is therefore required for the purchase of material for the training of the girls in Domestic Science and £30 is required for the purchase of material for the teaching of handicrafts to both the boys and the girls as well as for the payment of teachers. It is proposed to make provision in the Estimates to meet these expenses. With regard to Head XX, Education, the Authorities at Codrington College have increased the tuition fee from £50 to £70 a year and it is necessary that the Government should pay an additional £30 for the Island Scholars at this College. I hope the House will pardon me for suggesting that no one should be found in the House to raise a debate on this matter, as if it is the Government's fault. The Durham Authorities having increased the tuition fee at Codrington College, it is necessary for us to increase the grant for the payment of the tuition fees for the scholars for whom the Government pays. Under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, £2,000 is asked for to pay substitutes. £2,500 was provided in the Estimates for this purpose. Up to the 9th October £2,011 has been spent and it is estimated that a further £2,000 will be required to meet these expenses to the 31st March, 1948. Some of these substitutes have been paid and it is hoped that the others will be paid before the end of this year. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

At this stage, Mr. SMITH vacates the Chair in favour of Mr. RAMSAY who arrived while Mr. ADAMS was speaking.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I should like to make a few remarks in respect of No. 2—Head XVII, Government Industrial Schools. The explanatory note states:—"The Committee appointed to make recommendations for the re-organization of the Government Industrial Schools has recommended the establishment of vocational training at the schools, and it is proposed to make arrangements for carrying out this recommendation." Sir, while we have no power to increase this amount yet I think that £20 is not sufficient to do any tangible work of this nature at the Boys' Industrial School. I think there are about 70 boys and about two dozen girls at these schools and £20 is inadequate for this purpose, if they are really going to teach these boys and girls something. It is a good thing they are about to do now and I do not see why the Government should not carry out some of the major recommendations that have been made for the re-organization of these schools. The schools need to be re-organized. A dollar to-day is practically nothing and I do not see how far £20 can go. I am wondering whether this could not be postponed and sent back to the Government. £20 is absolutely no money to teach boys and girls handicrafts in these days. It is too small an amount if they intend to teach these boys something that will make them become useful citizens when they will have left the school. The explanatory notes go on to state that "the Resolution is to provide the necessary funds to carry out the proposals to the 31st March, 1948." It does state that future provision will be made in the Estimates of expenditure estimated at £120 but even then, I think that £120 would hardly be adequate. There are in our midst these boys and girls who were heretofore regarded as untouchables—if I may use that word—but that day is passed. We are now beginning to feel that such boys and girls should be reclaimed and brought back to society. If we are going to help them I think that some money should be spent along that line. After all, these boys and girls at the Government Industrial Schools work very hard and if the Government does show a profit out of the working of the estate, it results from the sweat and labour of these boys and girls; they do a

hard day's work and much too hard at that. People who are being reformed should be given lighter work than that which is given to the boys and girls to do. As I have often said in this House, the plantation work should be separated from the reformatory.

The CHAIRMAN: I am wondering whether the honourable member is in order.

Mr. GARNER: It has something to do with the social aspect of the question. Something about that is stated in the report of the Committee which has just been published.

The CHAIRMAN: What we are discussing is whether or not these sums of money which are set out in the schedule for the Government Industrial Schools should be voted. We all appreciate the point which the honourable member is making and I myself have spoken against the boys having to do the plantation work.

Mr. GARNER: I am saying that £20 is inadequate for the purpose mentioned in the explanatory notes.

The CHAIRMAN: I agree. Is the honourable member going to move the postponement of this vote?

Mr. GARNER: If the teaching of handicrafts is to be added to the list of things that are taught on the vocational side of the schools, then every honourable member around this table will agree that £20 is too small an amount for the purpose. I would ask honourable members to postpone this vote and let it go back to the Government for further consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to point out to the honourable member that if this particular vote is postponed, the whole Resolution will have to be postponed.

Mr. GARNER: In that case, Mr. Chairman, the Government can take my remarks as a pointer.

Mr. ADAMS: I have had occasion before to tell the honourable member that I am as strong on this question as he or anybody else and when I saw this Resolution I thought that this amount was too small but as the result of a conference between the Education Department and the Assistant Social Welfare Officer, £75 a year was estimated for the purchase of material for these purposes and it is on that basis that the Government is asking for this small amount. I agree that the amount is small but the Government will bear in mind the honourable member's remarks when next year's estimates are being considered. This amount of £20 is for the purchase of material only and not for the payment of teachers.

Mr. WILKINSON: Can the honourable senior member for St. Joseph give us a little more information about No. 4—Head 29, Miscellaneous Services, item 44, Acting Allowances, payment of substitutes 1947—48. £2,000? The explanatory notes state that the sum of £2,500 was provided in the Estimates for this purpose and now an additional £2,000 is being asked for. That means an increase of 80% on the estimate which was passed in March last and it would appear to me as an extraordinarily bad estimate, unless we had some epidemic among the public servants and an unusual number of substitutes had to be appointed. There must be some reason why this amount has been increased from £2,500 to £4,500 and I do think it needs an explanation. If the honourable member can tell us something about it I should be obliged to him.

Mr. ADAMS: I am afraid that I cannot at the minute say what took place to cause this increase of expenditure but I am endeavouring to get the file relating to the matter. I know that some officers did not take their leave in the early days of the war

and they took some leave this year. That may be the chief cause for the increased amount. I frankly do not know whether the computation of the amount for the rest of the financial year is on the assumption that that same rate of taking leave will continue to the 31st March, 1948, and therefore this sum for the balance of the year becomes so high. If the honourable member will allow the Resolution to be passed I would be glad and I will furnish him with the information later in the day when I get the file.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think the easiest way is to postpone the further consideration of the Resolution for half an hour and go on with the other business. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed, not with the idea of postponing it until next week but of obtaining later in the day the information which I asked for.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I would like to say that just before I came here I was asked to endeavour to get this Resolution through to-day because there are a good few persons who are entitled to this money and really need it at this time of the year; so I hope we will get the information later in the day.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that when the Leader of the House makes certain statements, the House should regard them as a gentleman's agreement and accept them.

Mr. ADAMS: I have the file which is the usual document that is sent along but it does not give the details in respect of individual offices. All the information I have is this. The Auditor-General explains that the acting allowances for the first six months were £2,020. 18. 1; that it is difficult to estimate how many acting appointments will be made owing to officers being on leave but that it is expected that the expenditure for the next six months will be less.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no motion before the House for the postponement of the Resolution because the motion of the junior member for St. James has not been seconded. The question is that this Resolution do now pass. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

PURCHASE OF A MOTOR LORRY FOR THE WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for the sum of £350 to purchase and equip a motor lorry for the Waterworks Department. A Waterworks Department's motor lorry was severely damaged in a collision with a telephone pole on the 6th October, 1947. It was insured for £350 and the Insurance Company paid the amount into the Public Treasury on the 26th October. The matter was referred to the Police who stated that there was no criminal negligence on the part of the driver. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: I would like to ask the honourable member what type of lorry is he going to get for £350.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The Minute of the Head of the Department states:—"I have made enquiry of McEneaney and Co. who inform me that they have a new lorry in their warehouse which they are willing to sell this Department for the sum of £350 for which the other was insured."

Mr. WILKINSON: This does not sound right to me. I do not know what type of lorry this is but my experience is that a new lorry costs considerably more than £350.

The CHAIRMAN: If the honourable junior member for St. John does not have the information

I intend to put the question but I think it would be a very peculiar thing if in a democratic institution a question is asked and no reply given.

Mr. WARD enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What I think the senior member for St. Andrew is driving at is that the Government is buying a new lorry for £350 and no private individual can buy one for that amount. We should know what type of lorry, not what make of lorry, is being purchased for this amount. My knowledge of the unit that was destroyed is that it was a pick-up and, therefore, it strikes me that a pick-up and not a lorry is going to be purchased for this £350. I do not see anything wrong in the senior member for St. Andrew asking the question.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I do not see how a new lorry can cost £350. I can tell the Government that a new lorry will cost £700. This must be a lorry with two wheels (Laughter). If the Government cannot give a proper answer to the question I certainly would be obliged to vote against this Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: This is only a quibble. This is not a new lorry; it is an ordinary pick-up.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: When you buy a lorry it has no body or platform.

Mr. COX: I would like to say that it is difficult to understand how some honourable members look at the Government. After all, the Government tells us "We can get a brand new lorry for £350." Do honourable members have no confidence in the members of the Government that they will speak the truth? Suppose, for instance, McEneaney and Co. or Cole and Co. wanted to sell the Government a lorry for this sum of money, that is their business. We are told that the Government is going to get a lorry for £350; that is all. What is the use of playing this child's game?

Mr. WARD: I have just come in but what I have heard so far does not make much sense because it is a well-known fact that if this is supposed to be a new lorry somebody is wrong, whether it is the Executive Committee or McEneaney, as far as the price is concerned. Either this is a second-hand lorry or it does not worth much. I think the Government will have to increase this amount by £200 because as far as I remember a Ford lorry costs £550. I feel that we should postpone the further consideration of this Resolution and get the figures correctly or it will mean that we pass this Resolution for £350 and the Government will come back for another £200.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I will read the Minute of the Manager of the Waterworks Department. It says:—"Messrs. Gardiner Austin and Co., Agents for the Sun Insurance Co., have to-day, 27th October, paid in £350, the sum for which the lorry is insured. I have made enquiry of McEneaney and Co. who inform me that they have a new lorry in their warehouse which they are willing to sell this Department. I respectfully ask that I be allowed to purchase this lorry for the sum received from the Insurance office to replace the lorry destroyed." That is the Minute of the Head of the Department.

The question that the Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY and HAYNES—16.

Noes: Messrs. DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD and Mr. SPEAKER—5.

EX GRATIA GRANT TO JAMES GORING.

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £66. 13. 4 as an *ex gratia* grant to James Goring, formerly employed as a porter at Queen's College, in consideration of his eight years' service at the College. This is the usual form of Resolutions to pay gratuities to those who are semi-Government servants or non-pensionable employees of the Government. Mr. Goring is an ex-porter of Queen's College and was employed at the College from October 1934 to 31st August 1947. This gratuity is computed on the basis of one month's salary for each completed year of service up to the age of 65 years and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: I do not know if it is a misprint but in the addendum it is stated that this officer was 69 years old when he retired. The age of retirement is 65 and I would like to know why he was allowed to work 4 years more before he retired.

Mr. ADAMS: I am very sympathetic towards this old gentleman and although I know that he would like the money before Christmas, yet if it is the feeling of the House that the gratuity should be based on 12 years' completed service instead of eight I do not think that the Executive Committee would object. He really was at Queen's College for thirteen years but did not complete the thirteenth year of service when he retired. If the Committee feels that the Government should give him the equivalent of the extra four years I am perfectly prepared to go back to the Executive Committee with the matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In view of the fact that this is an *ex gratia* payment and not a pension I think that all the years of service which this gentleman has given should be taken into consideration in the computation of this gratuity. The amount is small and I think we would be well advised if we postpone the further consideration of this Resolution and give the Executive Committee the opportunity to consider the matter with the view of including the extra four years of service. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I was going to say the same thing which the senior member for St. Peter has said and I beg to second his motion.

Mr. WARD: I feel that if the age limit is 65 years and this gentleman went on to work for four years longer he was drawing salary during those four years. It is a precedent we are trying to create and we may get someone else going on to work five or six years longer and keeping somebody else out of a job. I feel that we should not postpone this Resolution but let the gentleman have the legitimate amount of his gratuity.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am glad to hear the senior member for St. Lucy make that point. This is a clear example of how the senior member for St. Lucy looks upon the poor section of the Service. Now, this gentleman has given twelve years' service to the Government and as far as I am concerned I would like to create some more precedents like this in the interest of the people.

Mr. TALMA: I hate to prolong this debate because it is rather rare, to say the least of it. All pensionable officers who attain the age of 65 years must go but this is not a case of a pensionable officer. This gentleman has worked up to the age of 69 instead of 65 and what the Government is doing as regards giving him a gratuity for his years of service is quite in order.

Mr. WARD: And the Government in its wisdom realizes that he has put in only eight years' legal service.

The question that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed is put and resolved in the affirmative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, F. L. WALCOTT, TALMA, ADAMS, CRAWFORD, GARNER, and HAYNES—13.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD, and Mr. SPEAKER—8.

ADDITIONAL GRANT TO BARBADOS WELFARE LIMITED.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Sir, is for the sum of £210. 4. 2 (to be subsequently refunded as a free grant under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on the terms and conditions stated in the Message from the House of Assembly to His Excellency the Governor, dated the 14th December, 1943) for the purpose of paying an additional grant to Barbados Welfare Limited. This is in accordance with an arrangement between Barbados Welfare Limited and Colonial Development and Welfare, namely, that for every £ raised by the former, the latter will give an equal sum not exceeding £2,000 in any one year. Barbados Welfare Limited has succeeded in raising £210, consequently they are applying, through this Government, to Colonial Development and Welfare for this £210. 4. 2. The reason for the urgency is this. I suppose it is common knowledge that Barbados Welfare Limited have an account at the Bank which is slightly overdrawn and they are anxious to get this money in order to help them to liquidate their affairs at the Bank. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am not opposing the Resolution but I am surprised to hear the senior member for St. Thomas say that it is common knowledge that this Company owes the Bank a lot of money,—at least, he said, a considerable overdraft. I do hope that this money will be spent in the right direction. Everybody is in sympathy with the idea but some of us fear that the best use is not being made of the funds of Barbados Welfare Limited. We want to support everything that will improve the standard of the life of our people and we had great hopes of Barbados Welfare Limited. The Company is not so limited after all, because its shareholders are able to create an overdraft at the Bank. I wish they would give me the secret! They have been able to create an overdraft without capital! I wonder if the honourable member could give us information as to how it is done!

Mr. ADAMS: I hope the honourable member in charge of this Resolution would not mind my intervening. I am a director of Barbados Welfare Limited, and I am going to ask honourable members not to press that point, not because we cannot answer but because the whole question of Barbados Welfare Limited is going to be brought before the Legislature in a different form soon. The Legislature may have to consider whether they think Barbados Welfare Limited should be made a branch of the Government's social welfare activities or whether it should be allowed to continue in its present form. As the senior member for St. Thomas has said, the organization is financed on the pound-for-pound basis and like most organisations which are run purely by assessment, mistakes have been made. Barbados

Welfare Limited is not on the same footing as Jamaica Welfare which receives a thundering grant from the Jamaica Banana Producers Association. The planters very liberally contributed at first to Barbados Welfare Limited but I believe that after the cane fires which took place, they did not come forward as readily with their subscriptions as they did in previous years. In the meantime, the organization had a lot of stock that was not being sold as quickly as it might have been and a staff to be constantly paid. Those are the chief reasons why the organization got into its present position. But the Government is considering very seriously whether it should take over Barbados Welfare Limited as a Government department and for that reason I ask honourable members not to press that point because they will have the opportunity in the New Year to explore all the activities of Barbados Welfare Limited.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I would like to say that if the directors of Barbados Welfare Limited had any interest in the organization—especially those who were in the fortunate position of being members of the Government at the same time they were directors of Barbados Welfare Limited—if, I repeat, they had any interest in the organization they would have seen to it that the finances were in a much more healthy state. The Government was recommended to impose a compulsory levy of 2/- on every pound of sugar produced in this country and the money so collected was to be allotted for the financing of the activities of Barbados Welfare Limited. In other words, it was not to be left to the voluntary contribution of any planter in this country nor was it to be a matter of whether or not the planters would subscribe to the fund by which the organization would operate. In view of the fact that this recommendation has been completely ignored and in view of the fact that the directors of Barbados Welfare Limited, as far as the public know, have never made any effort towards making the Government impose this compulsory levy, it is not to be surprised at that the finances of the organization are in the state in which they are, that its activities have had to be curtailed and that the organization itself has not been able to fulfil the purpose for which it was established. Other colonies in the Caribbean who were not so fortunately blessed as to have a Banana Company allocate an appreciable sum for welfare purposes have had to carry out this recommendation of the Moyne Commission and I repeat that if in this country we had on the Executive Committee or on the directorate of Barbados Welfare Limited people who are genuinely interested in the organization, efforts would have been made to implement the efforts repeatedly made on the floor of this House.

Mr. ADAMS: By the honourable senior member for St. Philip. This House thoroughly investigated the matter and Professor Simey pointed out that in welfare schemes it was far better to persuade people to contribute voluntarily. Which is better: to persuade people to put their hands in their pockets and give you a shilling each or to force them by law to pay 1d. each? The senior member for St. Philip and myself were advised that the voluntary method for social welfare work would work out best in the end. I cannot help putting down the present position of Barbados Welfare Limited to the cane fires which took place. The planters got annoyed because the canes were being burnt night after night and did not feel like continuing their contributions to the organization. I cannot blame them. If I were a planter I would do the same myself. I have seen the work of similar organizations in several other West Indian

colonies and I repeat that with the exception of Jamaica Welfare Limited which started off much better with a voluntary tax of 1d. per bunch of bananas exported out of Jamaica by the Jamaica Banana Producers Association, they have all had a precarious existence. At the same time, Barbados Welfare Limited, considering the size of the island as compared with that of Jamaica and the period in which it has been in existence, can hold its head up when it is remembered that among its activities are the establishment of playing fields and the encouragement of many clubs that have grown up in different parts of this island. Although I have had cause to differ in many respects as regards some of the activities of Barbados Welfare Limited, it would be dishonest on my part not to state how much the organization has done to create a community feeling in many districts in this island but it is not true to say that Barbados Welfare Limited failed because it did not urge the Government to impose a tax rather than have contributions to the finances of the organization on a voluntary basis.

MR. CRAWFORD: It is completely untrue to say that the planters stopped their subscriptions to Barbados Welfare Limited after the cane fires in 1945. What happened is that in the first year they contributed on a sufficiently appreciable basis. In the second year the wages of agricultural labourers were considerably increased from what they were, previous to the year in which the fires to which the honourable member referred took place and in consequence of that considerable increase in the wages of agricultural workers, the planters decided, inasmuch as their contributions were purely a voluntary gesture—nothing obligatory—not to make their contributions to the organization, on the claim that they had already increased substantially the wages of people engaged in the sugar industry.

Now, if Professor Simey said or did not say that it was better to persuade people to make voluntary subscriptions, the fact remains that the West Indian colonies were specifically asked by the Moyne Commission to make this levy and operate it in the same way in which the levy on behalf of the miners in Great Britain is operated. Apart from the fact that the coal-mining owners in Great Britain have to pay proper wages to the people engaged in producing the coal, a cess per ton of coal mined is imposed by law and the money so obtained is devoted to welfare schemes for coal miners themselves and when I said that other West Indian colonies had taken steps to buttress the finances of their welfare organizations on this method I was not referring to Jamaica which alone of these islands has a flourishing banana industry. St. Lucia, St. Kitts, in addition to Jamaica, also paid attention to this question of imposing a levy compulsorily and I am almost sure that if Professor Simey recommended that the contributions should operate on a voluntary basis he was referring to contributions from the commercial element of the community; but I doubt very much whether he would completely repudiate the suggestion of the Royal Commission that the planters be asked to pay a cess and also be left to contribute voluntarily. One could understand that it would be well for an organization of this sort to get voluntary subscriptions from every element in the community because in consequence of that, you will, of course, get all sections of the community interested in the organization. When a Broad Street merchant or one of the Foundries or a Roebuck Street merchant has to put his hand in his pocket every year and make a contribution towards the organization, he automatically takes an interest in what it produces and this

interest is good for the organization but that has nothing to do with the specific recommendation that the industry in the colony which is more or less subsidized by taxpayers' money, either locally or abroad, should make a specific contribution by law towards the funds of the organization and I repeat that if that had been done, we should be able to-day to employ a Managing Director and Staff which one of the directors now claims is necessary and we would have a healthy organization operating in the interest of the people whom it was established to benefit.

MR. BLACKMAN: I am not interested in the cane fires or the planters or any of those things. I am merely talking on this Resolution. I want to say that the Government of this country has considered the point of view put forward by the senior member for St. Philip and has decided that that fund to which he referred is not intended for this purpose but is intended as a fund set apart to benefit the workers engaged in the sugar industry.

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

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY

MR. TALMA: The next Resolution is for the sum of £24,460 to meet the capital cost of the maintenance, expansion and development of fisheries production, marketing and distribution and to provide for the recurrent expenditure to the 31st March, 1948. I should surely like to say that this is one of the few occasions on which honourable members have had the details of a scheme set out so clearly in a memorandum; but if any honourable member would like any further information or to have any point in the memorandum explained I should be only too willing to do so. We all know how this scheme came into force—through Colonial Development and Welfare. Normally, it falls within the ten-year plan but it has been thought fit, inasmuch as it is an urgent scheme,—to take it out of the ten-year plan and finance it from the local Treasury; so that the £800,000 which is to be put up by Colonial Development and Welfare will not include this scheme. I have been told that I have not given the information which has been asked for. This is a scheme which was put forward in 1945 and as far as the sites on which the fishing sheds will be erected and at which the beach rights will be established are concerned I have already mentioned them to honourable members but if it is necessary to reiterate them I will do so. The beach rights will be established at Paynes Bay (St. James), Half Moon Fort, Cove Bay (St. Lucy), Martin's Bay, Conset's Bay (St. John), Skeete's Bay, Foul Bay (St. Philip), and Silver Sands (Christ Church). The land at Conset's Bay is not for sale but a portion of it will be leased for the purpose. The fish-sheds will be erected at Paynes Bay, Holetown, Reid's Bay (St. James), Speightstown Market (St. Peter), Oistin Town Market (Christ Church), Half Moon Fort (St. Lucy), Martin's Bay, (St. John), Skeete's Bay, Foul Bay (St. Philip), and Silver Sands (Christ Church). There will be two large markets and other small sheds. This is a scheme which should recommend itself to every honourable member and any honourable member who seems willing to retard the progress of it, has not the interest of the people at heart. The amount of money remains the same as is suggested in the ten-year plan and the idea of an experimental station has been included to provide means of teaching fishermen methods which they do not know up to now. I do not know, Sir, if any honourable member would like to ask any further questions but I repeat that

this is one of the few occasions, since I have had the privilege of being a member of this House, on which each and every honourable member has had a copy of a memorandum giving the details of a scheme.

Mr. BRANCKER: My anxiety is only about the omissions. I may put the honourable member's fears at rest by saying "So far, so good but you have not gone far enough." There are three important fishing bays and centres in the parish which I have the honour to represent and I notice that the honourable member has referred to beach rights in respect of two,—Half Moon Fort and Cove Bay. Of course, Cove Bay is one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult, in the island. The boats are beached there and the fishermen who live miles away have to travel long distances to and from this beach. It is very difficult for them to safeguard their fishing gear. They have to leave them on the beach and sometimes they return to find that they are gone; in many instances they suffer losses owing to this inconvenience. A couple of years ago I drew to the attention of the Government the state of that channel and the difficulty of negotiating it. The Fishery Officer was sent down there and he didn't devise means of making it less difficult than it happens to be. Then the honourable senior member for Christ Church makes an unaccountable and startling omission. Stroud's Bay is one of the major bays in the parish of St. Lucy and in the whole leeward area. There are at least two dozen boats which are connected with that bay—some large, some small—and I cannot understand why the Fishery Officer, if he is at fault, should have overlooked that bay. After all, it is his duty to go around, make investigations, collect data and then report back to the member of the Government who is in charge of his Department and why that officer should have omitted Stroud's Bay passes all understanding. I take it that they are not discriminating as far as these bays are concerned and simply looking after those in which they have a personal interest but that they are acting in a manner which is normally and logically becoming in a scheme like this. I am not blaming the honourable member in charge of this Resolution. I am blaming those in charge of the spade work who should have seen to it that this bay was included in this memorandum. I assume that there is no favouritism nor any question of persons trying to help certain districts in preference to others. Stroud's Bay, St. Lucy, has been left out altogether. So far as Cove Bay is concerned I have not heard any mention about a fish shed to be erected there. Perhaps the honourable member would look through his file and see if there is any reference to a shelter at Cove Bay. This Resolution does not go far enough. Let this Fishery Officer do some more work. We are not paying him to do nothing. We have too many Heads of Departments sitting in their offices and not going around. Let him go around and see to it that all these recognized bays are accorded the same treatment, so that the scheme will be a comprehensive one and no heart-burning will be caused. If there are districts with bays and one is left out you can imagine what the fishermen in the district which has been left out will say. They will say: "We have been left out. The Government has not considered us. The Fishery Officer does not think it necessary to consider us." I suggest to the Government to send down a Resolution in respect of those important bays which have been omitted from this scheme.

Mr. SYMONDS: Mr. Chairman,—I want to very strongly commend those who have realized the necessity for hastening this scheme. There are some omissions as far as the preparation of this scheme

goes. I see no mention of any provision being made for the setting up at the proposed experimental station of a boning industry or for the clearing of the scales, heads, and bowels of the fish, so that we could establish the manufacturing of animal feed or the making of manure. When it is remembered that even in the case of flying fish 55 per cent of the fishes' bodies are taken up by the heads, fins, and guts I would suggest to those in charge of this scheme to give some attention to the putting of such a proposal in force. It is said that those of us who represent St. Thomas and St. George should not join in this debate but the people of St. George and the people of St. Thomas suffer as much from the malnutrition resulting from the lack of protein in the daily meal as any other set of people in this island. I think that we would do well to give support to this Resolution to-day and let the scheme be got ahead with; then any defects can be brought to the attention of those in charge of the operation of the scheme. But let us do something to assist the development of this industry which, I hope, will develop into such huge proportions that we shall be able to considerably reduce the importation of salt fish and to export some of the products of our own country.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir,—On the last occasion when this Resolution was postponed I made a few observations and I think that the honourable mover of the Resolution has taken my remarks seriously because from his reply to-day I observe that he seems to have been studying those observations. It goes to show, Sir, that the postponement of a Resolution never does any harm and as a result of the postponement of this particular Resolution I have had a better opportunity of discussing this matter with several persons who have a first-hand knowledge of the industry. I was at pains to go very carefully into the entire memorandum with them and there are one or two things to which I still think it is my duty to draw to the attention of this Committee. Take, for instance, the estimated cost of the experimental boat. Mr. Chairman, there is a certain amount of uneasiness, a certain amount of restlessness among boat builders, boat owners, and fishermen over this estimated cost of \$12,000 for an experimental boat. Now, I am going to say that I hope that the rumour outside will prove on this occasion to be incorrect. The rumour, Sir, seems to be rampant among local craftsmen, boat-builders, that the Government somewhere or other made tentative suggestions, if not arrangements, to a newly established shipping firm in this colony—now in the parish of St. James—which recently arrived here from the United Kingdom. At least, Mr. Chairman, this matter, I know, has been discussed with them and all the local men are worried about this \$12,000 for this experimental boat. Even if one hears a denial to-day of any truth in this statement which I have made or rumour which I have heard, I as well as other honourable members, would still like to be satisfied as to how the estimate of \$12,000 was arrived at. The type of fishing boat we have in this colony has been tried and tested for many a generation, and I suppose that it is common knowledge, even among people who are not interested in fishing, that the type of boat, whether experimental or not, that is used in other countries will not suit local fishing conditions. For instance, it is said that if one goes out fishing in a boat that has double decks, spars and engines, when one comes to the fishing banks the fish are scared by the noise of the engines and so it becomes difficult to catch them. I am merely expressing the view of fishermen who have been engaged in fishing in this island for generations. Furthermore, it is understood among

—I repeat—local boat owners and fishermen that while certain recommendations have been made by very reputable and distinguished boat builders in this colony yet this decision to build an experimental boat at an estimated cost of £2,500 was taken without even consulting these local men. That is one point and I am hoping that all honourable members of this House are interested—and if they are not, they should be interested—in finding out how this estimate of \$12,000 is arrived at. This scheme, a wonderful scheme, must go through but we have not reached the stage yet when we must accept things of this nature without the fullest information that we can possibly get, and that is one point on which, I feel, the honourable introducer will be required to give us further information. Now, Sir, it is proposed in the memorandum to build the experimental station on the Reef grounds. I wonder if the Government has considered the fact that the Company now surveying the Wharf in connection with the proposed Harbour Scheme has already intimated that the proposed harbour will be in the direction of the Reef and that the taking of quite a large area of the land in that locality is fairly imminent? I am also wondering whether it would not be advisable to give further consideration to the proposal to erect this experimental station on that site and not be faced in another year or two with the situation of having the station on the wrong site. I wonder also whether this is another question of spending money on this scheme as was done some years ago on the Market. I just throw out these suggestions, not with the slightest idea of blocking this scheme but with the idea of Government giving the matter further consideration and making any amendments. The fishing industry is a vital industry to the inhabitants of this colony. In discussing this matter since the postponement, it was forcibly brought to my notice for consideration whether it is really necessary to expand our fishing industry or to improve it.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but I beg to move that this debate be postponed.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that this debate be postponed is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reports the consideration of five Resolutions in Committee of Supply, the passing of three, the postponement of one, the postponement of the consideration of another and asks leave to sit again.

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

THE CHASE PENSION BILL

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to take Order No. 3 as the next Order.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church,—Second reading of a Bill to provide for the payment of a gratuity and reduced pension from the Public Treasury to Lisle Aubrey Chase, formerly Superintendent of the Government Industrial Schools in this Island.

Mr. TALMA: This Bill, Mr. Speaker, seeks to grant a gratuity and a reduced pension to Mr. Lisle Aubrey Chase who was formerly Superintendent of the Government Industrial Schools. Mr. Chase

served this colony faithfully and well since 1908 in many capacities. In addition to his services as a public officer, he was appointed Manager of the Barbados Settlement Co. Ltd. which the Government established at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia in 1938 for the settlement of people from this island, a scheme from which the island would have benefited if the War had not stepped in at the inopportune time. He was also appointed Social Welfare Officer in 1943. The amount of the gratuity and of the reduced pension has been calculated by the authority who deals with matters of this sort and the figures set out in the Bill are in order. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

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

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 18 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy; and the replies to questions No. 23 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Michael.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business. I shall also ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b). I take it that the majority of honourable members would not like to return to the House until the New Year; inasmuch as we will be losing two Tuesdays I think that honourable members will agree to the suspension of the Rules.

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

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs RAMSAY, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and DR. CUMMINS—14.

Noes: Messrs. BRANCKER, CRAWFORD and GARNER—3.

THE CHASE PENSION BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment for lunch the House had passed the second reading of a Bill to provide for the payment of a gratuity and reduced pension from the Public Treasury to Lisle Aubrey Chase, formerly Superintendent of the Government Industrial Schools in this Island.

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

The five Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to revert to Order No. 1, Committee of Supply, as the next Order of the Day.

There being no objection the honourable member was granted leave.

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

MAINTENANCE, EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES PRODUCTION.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee of Supply, we were considering a resolution to place the sum of £24,460 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the capital cost of the maintenance, expansion and development of fisheries production, marketing and distribution and to provide for the recurrent expenditure to the 31st March, 1948. The honourable senior member for the City was speaking.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When the Committee reported progress I think I was dealing with the cost of the Experimental boat. I appreciate that this boat is not the type of boat which will be used for actual fishing. I think I made it clear that the Committee should be given more facts in respect of the type of boat, the cost of it and so forth. I also think that I hinted to the Government what I heard in connection with this matter and asked for an explanation. Going further from the memorandum I wondered whether the expansion of the fishing fleet was the real thing that would matter or the improvement of the fleet. Under the Fishing Regulations money is loaned to boat owners for repairing their boats and to fishermen for building new boats; I think that I should observe in passing that the time fixed for the repayment of these loans is two years and that time seems to be a bit short. I think that it is very difficult for boat owners and fishermen to repay their loans within that time, more especially when it is realised how the seasons run for fishing in this colony. All of this must be intended for the improvement of the fishing industry. I hope that the Government is really paying attention to the observations which I am making. Another thing which they should know, something which seems to be worrying fishermen, is that in respect of the money loaned to them for building new boats there are cases where fishermen have had the money for as long as eight months in their possession and interest is being paid on it; that period is out of the two years in which they have to repay the money and there is difficulty in obtaining materials for repairing or building boats. That is something which is not directly controlled by the Government. As I have said before, there are only a few select people who can get this material. I suggest that as a means of assisting the fishing industry the repayment of loans should be extended to three years. Sometimes for eight, nine and ten months the money is in hand and no use can be made of it because no material can be obtained. As regards the items Oil Extractor and Incidentals and so forth, while the honourable senior member for Christ Church gave us some idea of what would happen, he did not give us sufficient information. With respect to the question of cold storage, I am surprised that it has been dealt with so lightly when it is realised that Dr. Brown in his Report actually recommended cold storage facilities. As the honourable senior member for St. Philip observed on the last occasion, quite a lot of these recommendations seemed to have been overlooked. Although

it is true to say that a genuine effort has been made to improve the fishing industry, I think that more consideration should be given to cold storage, not necessarily cold storage of merely small fish, not necessarily cold storage of fish which have been caught off our shores, but I think it must be known to honourable members that fish caught by intercolonial schooners off the banks are brought in here in ice-boxes and sold very profitably. It is also known to honourable members that there have been occasions when such schooners call in here at night and because there were no cold storage facilities a lot of big fish had to be wasted. I think that the Government should observe the recommendations of Dr. Brown relative to cold storage. On the whole I think that this Committee does appreciate the efforts of the Government in the erection of these sheds at the various points in the island, because anyone with a merely passing interest in the matter would know under what sanitary conditions and under what difficulties fishmongers offer fish at the various beaches where the boats come in. I am therefore entirely in agreement with the suggestion that these shelters be erected at the various beaches. I know that the time will eventually come when we will have other facilities at these sheds. There are other items in the memorandum to which I know other honourable members will want to refer; I do not want to exhaust the patience of this Committee but I must repeat that I hope the two points which I have mentioned will be seriously taken into consideration by the Government. I refer to the site for the Experimental Station as mentioned by the honourable mover of the passing of this Resolution and also that we should know something more about the Experimental boat—whether it will have a diesel Engine or whether it will be propelled by oil, steam, wind or what? Honourable members are entitled to have this information; they are entitled to know whether the plans and so forth are in keeping with the recommendations for fishing in these areas. I feel that this Resolution should be passed with a little delay as possible and it is because I feel so that I say that we should know enough about the Resolution before we actually pass it.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: There are some items about which I would like information. Let us take the markets which are to be built at Speightstown and at Oistin's Town. The acquisition of the site and the legal expenses with regard to the market at Oistin's are estimated at £1,650 and with regard to the market at Speightstown the estimate is £350. I would like to know why the acquisition of the land at one place costs so much more than the acquisition of the land at the other place. I would like to know why there is such a differentiation in these prices. There are many of these estimates which were made in 1945 and today that material which used to cost \$40 a thousand feet now costs \$240 a thousand feet. I would also like some information as to the item "Structural Improvement in Flying Fish Boats". The cost of a fishing boat is estimated at £450; that is a Government estimate. I am sure that the boat will cost £550 by the time it is built and I am also sure that that will not be of any use to our fishermen. They will not be able to build it. We passed a Regulation saying that no boat can put out to sea unless the Fishery Officer says that it is seaworthy and when you appeal from him you appeal to Caesar. I am hoping that this is not the thin end of the wedge so as to keep out boats which do not come up to this model; because if that happens it will mean that all the small men will be thrown out of business

They have been fishing here before any of us was born and I think that Dr. Brown says that you cannot improve the fishing industry here much. I do not see that we should have a Rolls Royce when a little Austin will get us here just as good.

Mr. ADAMS: Before any other honourable member speaks I should like to point out that there is a misunderstanding as to this £450. The Advisory Committee has asked for this money to be used in making structural improvements to fishing boats intending to make alterations and leave it to the fishermen to copy them if they feel that these alterations are better than their present fishing boats. Most people seem to think that the present type of fishing boat has hardly undergone any evolution and these boats are about as good as we could hope to have for comparatively near-shore fishing. The £450 is not merely for improvement in respect of one boat; that is the sum which the Advisory Committee considered should be put down under this head. The idea is that if a fisherman cannot afford to have a boat which can go out in all kinds of weather, he might, in combination with others, own one. If I know my fishermen aright, many of them will prefer to remain ashore when the wind is calm than to have to spend money to join with others in building this better type of boat. It is thought that this method by way of an experiment to improve the fishing boats should be tried and therefore the estimate of £2,500 for a bigger ocean-going boat has been made. While I am on my feet I would like to say that I can show honourable members the type of boat which is going to be used as the Experimental boat. When the Fishery Officer was in Aberdeen undergoing training he said that this type of boat could be obtained for £1,450. A year later the price of it was £2,500 and the latest estimate sent down in June this year is now £4,500. For more than one reason the Government has made enquiries as far as I know of one local ship-builder who can produce that type of boat for £1,500. As regards the point made by the honourable senior member for the City a certain firm has advised the Colonial Office and that firm has had experience in building boats for the tropics so that the point made by the honourable member would have been covered by reason of the fact that the type of boat which we will have has been tried out off the West African coast. The firm has advised us that because of the extra cost of labour in Scotland it would be better to build this boat with local timber. I shall read out these particulars to honourable members: "The price for building a 35ft x 11ft x 5ft fishing vessel complete with 40 B.H.P. Diesel engine, Mc.Bain winch, wheelhouse, metal sheathed, steering-gear, masts, derricks, rigging and sails F.A.S., Liverpool, is £4,500." If honourable members would care to have a look at the photograph of this vessel it is what a boat for £2,500 will eventually look like. It is intended for bonita and shark fishing and there will not be any competition in catching flying fish; it is a part of the Government's scheme of getting fish ashore. It would require too much money for private enterprise to think of doing this on any big scale. I do not think that there are any further particulars with which I can help honourable members: I have tried to contact Mr. Wiles so as to get details of the type of insurance provided for these boats but he is out to sea. I have been able to gather that it would be much cheaper and more within the reach of local fishermen to have boats fitted with petrol than with diesel engines. The Government might consider taking off the road tax and making some arrangement whereby sales of petrol to fisher

men will be cut in half or even less than that, and provision could be made against any abuse by the sale of petrol to non-fishermen. I will bear in mind what the honourable senior member for the City says about putting the Experimental Station at the Reef grounds. If the proposed Harbour Scheme will necessitate the removal of the Station I suppose the Fishery Officer will look around for a more suitable site. Mr. Wiles is out to sea at present and he will not be returning until late. As regards the point made about not giving the fishermen the grant of £25, I should like to point out that when this scheme came up the loan business had hardly begun. Dr. Saint has reported that more boats have been built than we have experienced fishermen to man. There is no danger in fishermen borrowing money and paying it back quickly; they have the money to build boats apace. It is not because of the loan scheme that they will be unable to build any boats. Some old fishermen have told me that inexperienced lads go to sea and if you go on building boats you will not have sufficient men to share in the boats. As far as the local existing boats are concerned there are two chief necessities—to power them for calm days and to see whether you can give fishermen boats at not too great a cost.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I made the point that this boat is going to cost too much money. If you refer to the paragraph in the Ten Year Development Plan relative to the structural improvements in these boats you will see this: "This boat, or these boats, will be of experimental design and will serve as demonstration models for fishermen who build boats in the future. It is estimated that the construction costs will be £450 and that a sum of £20 per annum should be provided for maintenance". I think that this is in respect of one boat. My argument is that no small fisherman will be able to build this boat for less than £450.

Mr. WARD: I am quite satisfied about this boat which will cost £450. It does not say that the fishermen must build this type of boat; if a fisherman feels like building this model boat, it is a matter for him. What is worrying me is whether this type of boat will be able to come alongside the wharf to be unloaded or whether a jetty will have to be provided for that purpose.

Mr. WILKINSON: As regards this Experimental boat which is estimated to cost £2,500, the honourable senior member for St. Joseph tells us that this boat can be built for £1,500 but he is unable to let us know what the engine is going to cost. The more we consider this Resolution, the more I feel that I was right in suggesting that it be referred to a Select Committee so that we can call in Heads of Departments, Fishery Experts and fishermen and find out what is really intended. Another point is this, who is going to be admiral or commodore of the boats? Are you going to put in charge two juniors at \$30 a month? I hardly think that junior clerks will be put in charge of boats which in all probability will cost more than £2,500 each. Can the honourable junior member for Christ Church inform us as to who is to be in charge of these boats, who is going to be the flag officer and how much he is to be paid? I think the pay suggested is too much on the cheap side.

Mr. TALMA: This matter has been engaging the attention of this Chamber for a few weeks now and I am satisfied with the interest evinced in the fishermen and the fishing industry as a whole. We are hoping that this scheme will be a redounding success. With regard to this £450, if hon. members

refer to their memorandum they will see that this sum is for the structural improvement of flying fish boats. In other words, certain boats which are now in existence will be improved upon. It does not mean that one boat will cost £450 and any hon. member who thinks so is not trying to understand what he reads. This money is to be spent on improving certain boats structurally. As regards the sum of £2,500, this is for the Experimental boat and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has explained as much as he knows about it. We cannot tell the Committee what the engine for this boat will cost, who will be the captain or the mate and it is beyond our scope to tell who will be eventually admiral. As far as the marketing and distribution of the fish are concerned, if hon. members refer to appendix 2 of their memorandum they will see that the sum of £441 has been allocated to each market. At each market there will be a clerk, two cleaners, telephone, and so forth; each market will be provided with similar facilities. As regards recurrent expenditure there will be an amount of £240 to March 31st next. The scheme for the development of fisheries has been modified; it was first drawn up by the Colonial Development and Welfare Department many years ago, long before I dreamt of being a member of this House. At that time the hon. member who has asked many questions occupied a seat such as that which I am occupying to-day and he should be thoroughly acquainted with this matter. It is thought by the Fishery Committee that the scheme should be modified so that this money will be spent to greater advantage in respect of the entire fishing industry. The scheme has been modified so that the Experimental Station will be founded and the fishermen island wide will benefit from Mr. Wiles' experience.

At this stage, it being now 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) so as to continue Government Business.

Mr. GARNER: I object.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not think that the honourable member was in the House when I made my first application. I, personally, am going to ask that the House be adjourned until next Tuesday but I know that the majority of honourable members are going to ask for an adjournment for three weeks. Under the circumstances I am asking honourable members to allow Government Business to be proceeded with. After all, the time allotted to Private Members' Business is no longer than that allotted to Government Business and this must be the only Assembly in the world where that state of affairs exists. It is because we are not likely to meet again until three weeks hence that I am asking honourable members to finish the consideration of this Resolution at any rate.

The question that leave be granted the honourable member to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, MESSRS. RAMSAY, FOSTER, SMITH, COX, F. L. WALCOTT, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, HAYNES, WILKINSON and WARD—13.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, MESSRS. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, DOWDING and S. A. WALCOTT—8.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, thirteen honourable members voting "Aye", and eight honourable members voting

"No." The honourable member may therefore make the motion.

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

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

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

MAINTENANCE, EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES PRODUCTION.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply just now we were considering a Resolution to place the sum of £24,460 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the capital cost of the maintenance, expansion and development of fisheries production, marketing and distribution and to provide for the recurrent expenditure to the 31st March, 1948.

Mr. GARNER: All is not well with regard to the whole fishing industry because up to now all the facts have not been declared and the information sought has not been forthcoming. Personally, I have grave misgivings about the cost of the Experimental boat; I think it should be built by local people and tenders should be invited by the Government. If that is not done I think that there will be a terrible state of affairs. Another point which I would like to make is this; I cannot see how the Government can contemplate building a shed at Foul Bay unless it takes care of the road leading to the beach. Not very long ago I tabled some questions in this House asking that this road be repaired and up to now I have not heard anything about them. The Government has not had the decency to answer those questions. This road will have to be repaired. I have asked for a special grant to repair this road because the Vestry of St. Philip are unable to repair it and if the Government wishes to have a fish shed there it will have to repair the road. Up to now the Government has not seen fit to repair this road: if the fishing industry is so essential why does the Government not have the road repaired? You cannot get down to the beach unless that is done. The road is absolutely impassable.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that money was allocated to the various parishes last Saturday.

Mr. GARNER: I do not know that and you cannot expect me to imagine things. I have not got that information I do not know to what roads you are referring, but I am referring to the road which leads directly to the beach.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter for the people of St. Philip to see after the private roads.

Mr. GARNER: I happen to be a representative of the people and I am claiming what they have asked me to claim. I ask this Government to see that this road is repaired if it intends to erect a fish shed there. Only the fishermen can pass there and they have to go on their knees in order to do so. Not long ago I paid a visit there and I had to go on my all-fours. I am very serious about this matter; a proper road is needed at Foul Bay. It is one of my political babies to have this road repaired. I repeat that if the Government is erecting a fish shed at Foul Bay it will have to repair this road because

people will not be able to get there except those who do not wear any shoes. I wish that honourable members would take some interest and go and see this road. I have asked questions about having this road repaired; I have not received any replies and that is why I am labouring the question. I am entitled to make a row because I have not been told anything about what I have asked. How can we spend the taxpayers' money in erecting a fish shed at this beach when there is no road there? As it is now, only fishermen and people who can bend their knees can get down there, and when I am a little older I will not be able to do it. I am asking the Government to send down the replies to my questions as to what steps are being taken to repair this road. (Mr. ADAMS: The replies will be given at the next sitting of the House). I have been given the assurance that my question will be answered at the next meeting of the House. As regards this £450 boat I should like to say that if you are building a model boat you should build one that people can afford to follow; you should not go up into the air and expect poor people to come up there with you. There are very few fishermen who can build a boat for £450. I would like this Resolution referred to a Select Committee: I have no intention of shelving it but only that certain information can be gathered. I think that it would be wise to refer the Resolution to a Select Committee so that it can be gone into and information can be gained. I do not think that we would be doing anything wrong if we agreed to that. Even if we pass this Resolution today there are certain things which cannot be implemented perhaps in another three years and it would be an act of grace if the honourable member in charge of the Resolution—

Mr. TALMA: It has been explained on several occasions that this £450 is not for the building of a specimen boat or the type of boat which fishermen will have to use in future. This money is to be spent in connection with the structural improvement in the boats so as to bring them up to a certain standard. The honourable member has been told that over and over again.

Mr. GARNER: There are over 600 boats and how much of this money will be allocated to one boat? This amount cannot go far enough. I have in my hand a copy of the Ten Year Development Plan and in the section dealing with structural improvements in flying-fish boats this is what is stated: "In paragraph 96 of his Report Dr. Brown points out the desirability of structural improvement in the local flying-fish boats and mentions specifically side decks and bilge boards. It is proposed to construct one or more boats of an improved type which will increase the safety and manoeuvrability of the present flying-fish boats. This boat, or these boats, will be of experimental design and will serve as demonstration models for fishermen who build boats in the future." If I am wrong then somebody else is also wrong. "It is estimated," the section goes on "that the construction costs will be £450 and that a sum of £20 per annum should be provided for maintenance." I am not the original writer of this section: I am just repeating what is written here and somebody is misconstruing it. The section concludes: "Any revenue accruing as a result of the operation of this boat, or these boats, will be offset against the recurrent expenditure." It is as plain as daylight that the construction costs will be £450. Am I dense in repeating what is written here? The more I read and study this Resolution, the more I am inclined to have it referred to a Select Committee. I repeat that it would not be out of place to refer this Resolution to a Select

Committee because many of the things proposed in it will not be implemented within three years. We want facts; I am as much interested in the fishermen of this island as anyone else and more so, but I refuse to associate myself with any Committee which does not go into the fundamentals of business and only works on sentiment. We are spending £24,000 and we must know how we are spending it. We want to know who is being awarded the contract for building the Experimental boat and so forth. If no honourable member has not moved that this Resolution be referred to—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When this Resolution was about to be considered on a previous occasion the honourable junior member for St. James made a motion that it be referred to a Select Committee. If the honourable member is still inclined to have his desire carried out, all he has to do is to move that I do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again; and when Mr. Speaker takes the Chair the honourable member can proceed with his motion for referring the Resolution to a Select Committee. That cannot be done when the House is in Committee; that is my explanation.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am still of the same opinion and I therefore move that you do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If we want to get on we should not make any speeches.

Mr. GARNER: I wanted more information in connection with this Resolution and I therefore second the motion of the honourable junior member for St. James.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I should like to say that there is no reason why any of the outstanding matters on which honourable members need enlightenment could not be attended to by the honourable member who is in charge of the Resolution. There is no doubt that either the honourable member on my left is right with regard to the cost of one of these experimental boats or the text of the relative paragraph in the Ten Year Development Plan is wrong. Before I go further, I think that in so far as the proposal to erect a shelter at Foul Bay is concerned, I may be allowed to make a very brief reference to the condition of the road which leads thereto. The honourable junior member for St. Philip is completely in order. This road, at least the part of it nearest the beach, is completely impassable to the average pedestrian. One has to get down on his all-fours so as to get to the beach. It is now over seven years that the attention of the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip has been drawn to the condition of this road and invariably the answer has been that they are financially unable to put it in proper repair. With regard to the grants given for the repairs of the roads, I should like to point out that there are so many roads in the parish which need repairs that the additional grants have been expended in repairing some of the roads which are more used by the greater number of the people of the parish than the Foul Bay road which is used exclusively by the fishermen. It is hoped that the Government will give an additional grant to the parochial Authorities so as to enable them to carry out the necessary repairs to this road, or that the Authorities themselves will take some steps to see that it is repaired at the very earliest possible date. The point which I tried to emphasize on the last occasion when this Resolution was before the Committee was the omission on the part of the Government to implement

the recommendations of the Ten Year Development Committee in respect of the special grants to fishermen. These grants are for the purpose of enabling them to improve the construction of their boats. Now the hon. senior member for St. Joseph in endeavouring to answer me has answered himself; he has pointed out that it is not so much a question of the extension of the number of fishing-boats, but a question of the improvement in the structural form of the boats which are going to be used for this type of fishing. And the Committee had that clearly in their minds when they recommended that in order to improve the existing type of boats now in use they should assist the fishermen with a free grant of £20 to £25 because this recommended type of boat would cost a little more money and the additional sum might be beyond the ability of the average fisherman. It was recommended that we should give this £25 to about one hundred fishermen. In other words, the total cost to the Government would be about £2,500 and we are now being told by implication that the Government finds itself unable to accede to this suggestion—a Government which later on will ask this House to spend a similar amount unnecessarily in bringing a Fire Brigade expert here. The Government says that it realises the importance of the fishing industry—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to assist me in allowing the motion for reporting progress to be put so that hon. members can afterwards consider the question of the appointment of a Select Committee where all the points in the Resolution can be threshed out. We are not getting anywhere now.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The object of my remarks is to obviate the possibility of the Resolution being referred to a Select Committee. What I feel is this: the information which has been given us with regard to the Government giving these free grants to the fishermen is totally unsatisfactory. All we have been told emphasises what we have been already told by the Ten Year Development Committee. We want improved boats and the only way to get them is by assisting the fishermen with free grants. We have too many fishing-boats of the wrong type and if we want boats of the right type we should assist people in getting them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking that the Chair be taken by somebody else because my physical ability has been exhausted. I am asking that a new Chairman be appointed and let me leave the Chair.

The question that the CHAIRMAN do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again was put and the following division was taken:—

Ayes: Mr. SYMONDS.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP and TALMA.

On being called upon to vote,

Mr. ADAMS (sitting): I suggest that honourable members are not aware of the nature of the voting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I intended to get an understanding from honourable members. The question is that I do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

The CHAIRMAN reported further consideration of the Resolution in Committee of Supply and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

Mr. ADAMS: I suppose that that was done in order to relieve the Chairman of Committees of his duties for the remainder of the day. In that case, I beg to move that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph be appointed Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the day's sitting.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—I was emphasizing that the Government have failed to explain satisfactorily why they refuse to give to the fishermen the grants which have been recommended for them by the Ten Year Development Committee. I repeat that if the Government can afford to have money to spend on less advantageous schemes, they can find money to be spent on an industry which admittedly is of such vital importance to the colony. If this attitude is persisted in, if we are not going to afford the fishermen the assistance which has been recommended for them, then other action will have to be taken so as to ensure that these worth-while recommendations of the Ten year Development Committee are carried into effect. In connection with the Experimental boat, some apprehension has been voiced already there being some dissatisfaction on the part of the local boat builders relative to the Contract for the building of this boat. Local boat builders have reported that the matter has already been discussed with the new boat-building firm in St. James by people who have some say with regard to the administration of this matter. I endorse the suggestion that in so far as this matter is concerned, the Government would be well advised to call for tenders and award the tender on the basis of the most advantageous price and the most satisfactory type of work offered; otherwise this will not be the last that we shall hear about this experimental boat. (A MEMBER: He is a master at making threats). If honourable members think that this is a threat they will wait and see. One thing more; it is to be sincerely hoped that in the near future the Government will pay attention to the advisability of providing some sort of assistance to local fishermen to allow them to fish at night. It is well known that the best time for catching flying fish is at night between the hours of 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. and very often the fishermen cannot set sail between those hours because of the lightness of the wind. In the neighbouring French colonies—I know it as a fact as far as Guadeloupe is concerned and I understand that it is also done in Martinique—fishermen have been provided with motor boats which enable them to leave the harbour at night when the hour is more suitable for fishing. Whether the Government consider that they should take the road tax off the petrol or not the point which I have made is of immediate consideration since any experienced fisherman will say that the heavy ballast which these flying-fish boats have to carry prevents them from setting sail in a light wind in order to take advantage of the best hour for fishing; and they should be able to set sail at the best hour for fishing whether the wind is favourable or not. We should pay due attention to the points which have been raised during this debate to-day; considering the amount of money involved there is nothing surprising that these points should have been raised, and at the next indication that things are not proceeding in the way in which

they should proceed, both the Legislature and the public will hear more about the matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In an important debate like this one I feel that one should voice his opinion in relation to it. I do not intend to answer any threats that have been made by any honourable member as to the future of our stand here on this measure. All I would like to say is that in going through this Resolution points have been made by the honourable senior member for the City and the honourable junior member for St. George which you cannot resist. The honourable senior member for the City spoke about the Experimental boat and the structural improvements in the flying-fish boats and I feel that the answers that were given him clarified the position that was operating in the minds of many honourable members. Now that the information has been given and it has more or less cleared the atmosphere, we still find that certain honourable members are merely idealistic with regard to this Resolution. To-day we are beginning to make up for what I term as administrative negligence for a large number of years so far as the fishermen are concerned. From the time that I was a boy I have never heard from the floor of this House the agitation that is in mind to-day or what is being done by this Government to-day in connection with the fishermen. An attempt is being made to do something for the fishermen now and it does not matter if you do not reach your ideal at one time. I would like to remind honourable members that this House have already passed a vote for £24,000 over a period of twelve months for the purpose of subsidising salt fish from Canada at 18 cents a pound so as to prevent it from being sold at 23 cents a pound. I say that if we can spend £24,000 in one year in order to help some Commission merchants in Bridgetown we can spend this money on our fishing industry so that we can get more fish. (Cheers). If we look at the facts we can see that we are trying to experiment, to industrialize, to do something at home as a beginning and I say that I would be willing to make any mistake along the lines of doing something at home first. On the last occasion we voted £12,000 over a period of five months for the subsidisation of salt fish. I am not a dietician, I am not an expert in dietetics; but I know from commonsense that flying fish is more essential and has more nutritional value than salt fish. If we can subsidise something where the money is going out of the colony, then I say that even if we do not have all the boats or all the things which we would like to have, we can start now until we are able to carry on further. In our private lives we start our businesses and we make changes and improvements as we go on; the same principle applies in connection with this Resolution. I do not believe that it is necessary to refer this Resolution to any Select Committee; I do not believe that this is a Resolution which we should not pass. I agree that information should be given to those honourable members who want it because this Resolution calls for £24,000 and it is sufficient money in respect of the expenditure of which any honourable member will want information; but the principle is that we have to consider what we are spending outside. As the honourable junior member for St. George has said, we have to look around and see where we can get even more out of this project where industrialisation is concerned. On sober reflection when I realise the amount of money that is being spent on the subsidisation of salt fish, I will support this Resolution blindly because I know that I am doing it for a class of people who have never had the opportunity of past Governments doing anything for them. I should like to remind honourable

members that in days gone by when the voters' qualification was high it did not matter if the fishermen did not have the right to vote, but to-day conditions have changed and the fishermen have come within the ambit of the voters' roll.

Mr. ADAMS: I genuinely regret keeping back the Committee but I cannot on behalf of the Government allow this repetition for propaganda purposes of the suggestion that the Government is heartless as regards making grants to fishermen. I have given the explanation as given by Dr. Saint and it may be that the honourable member—I will not accuse him of this but it happens—is bringing in everything of himself in this matter. When the honourable senior member for St. Philip quotes from the Ten Year Development Plan and suggests that we are going back on promises which we have given or suggestions which we have made, I would like to remind him that he was a member of the Ten Year Development Committee like myself and he signed this Report. Even if the honourable member does not remember that, he has a Copy of the Report before him. I repeat that this suggestion that we are going back on our promises as regards the grants to the fishermen has been made purely for propaganda purposes so that it can be blazoned in the "Observer" on Saturday that the Labour Party refuses to give free grants to the fishermen. It is purely for that reason that the honourable member makes that allegation which has no validity whatever. The section of the Ten Year Development Plan dealing with "The Multiplication of Operating Units" says this: "Paragraph 5 of the Report of the Committee appointed by the West Indian Conference to make recommendations regarding the expansion of fisheries reads in part: 'Multiplication of operating units should, when necessary, be assisted by Government credit facilities particularly in financing boat building.' During the past three years the Government of Barbados has made loans to fishermen to assist in the repair and building of boats. It is considered, however, that these schemes do not go far enough and, if the multiplication of operating units of an improved type is to be encouraged still further, free grants of say, £25 or not more than 20% of the actual cost of the boat should be provided. It is proposed that free grants of this nature should be made available to say, a hundred experienced fishermen who wish to build a boat conforming to the approved model...." We have not yet made that model: we are asking for this money part of which will be used in making that model, and to say that we have promised to give fishermen free grants of £25 and because they are borrowing money we have refused to do that, is dishonest. The position is that loans have been readily repaid and boats are being built so that all that has happened is that this proposal has been subsequently made and put in the Report of the Director of Agriculture. The real point originally made is that this improved model would cost more money and that we would select one hundred experienced fishermen and help them with this model. But we have not yet agreed on what the model will be, so that it is not accurate to say that the Government has refused to give the fishermen these grants.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is pathetic; it is the most remarkable thing I have seen during my life in this Chamber. The Memorandum which accompanied the Resolution which we are now discussing is the source of my information. This Memorandum was compiled recently by Dr. Saint and sent down to the House with the Resolution now under consideration. The honourable senior member for St.

Joseph reads a paragraph from the Ten Year Development Committee's Report which is a few years old, and attempts to be extraordinarily clever by saying that the fact that we are not proposing to give these grants to the fishermen does not mean that we will not do it. Let me read this paragraph from the Memorandum which came down with the Resolution—

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation. Reference is made in the Memorandum to not making these free grants to the fishermen because of the loans, but it is still true that the Government's original promise is to make these free grants.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is all very clever but if the question about making these free grants had not been raised we should never have heard any thing about them. It is only because the matter has been emphasised that they are trying to make an excuse. The Memorandum says this: "It was proposed that free grants of £25 or not more than 20 per cent. of the capital cost of the boat should be provided to persons willing to build improved types of fishing boats. During the past two years the Government has advanced loans to fishermen to assist them to build their own boats. This scheme has been most successful and it is now considered that there is no necessity to make free grants for this purpose." That is stated in most emphatic terms leaving no room for any doubt at all. Since the Government is making loans to the fishermen it is now considered that there is no necessity to make free grants for this purpose. It is easy for anybody to come in here and try to be clever and to fool people who do not know the facts; but we have it set out here in black and white that because they are making these loans to the fishermen it is not considered any longer necessary to give them these free grants. We are, therefore, justified in saying that—

Mr. ADAMS: That is no declaration of the Government's policy; this Memorandum has been sent down by Dr. Saint, not by the Government. We have not made any declaration not to give these free grants to the fishermen.

Mr. CRAWFORD: We were told by the honourable senior member for Christ Church that all the information we wanted was set out in the Memorandum accompanying the Resolution. We are now told that as far as this Memorandum is concerned, the things that are stated therein are only Dr. Saint's fancies and we need not pay them any mind. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph must understand that we are not a bunch of sixth standard boys so that you can push things down our throats. (Mr. ADAMS: You would not be in it). I repeat that if eventually we get these free grants for the fishermen we would have got them because we made a row in this Chamber over the Government's omission to give the grants, and the fishermen will know that if we had not made this row they would never have got these grants.

The question that the CHAIRMAN do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. GARNER, S. A. WALCOTT and WILKINSON—4.

Noes: Messrs. RAMSAY, SYMMONDS, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, BRANCKER, MOTTLEY, Dr. CUMMINS and Mr. SPEAKER—14.

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

The Resolution was passed.

REFUND OF CUSTOMS IMPORT DUTY TO MESSRS. ROBERT THOM. LTD.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for £37. 11. 11. as a refund to Messrs. Robert Thom. Ltd., of the Customs import duty and package tax paid on one case containing an Opperman 4-wheel drive assembly which was subsequently shipped to Trinidad.

As honourable members will see from the Addendum, Messrs Robert Thom. Ltd., imported an Opperman 4-wheel drive assembly on which they paid customs import duty and package tax amounting to £37. 11. 11. On arrival in the Island this unit was found to be 6" wider than is allowed by Regulation 25 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, 1938. The unit was subsequently shipped to Trinidad.

It is considered equitable under the circumstances that a refund of the duty and package tax paid on the unit should be made and this Resolution is to provide for the refund.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: 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.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. SYMMONDS: I beg to move that the Chairman do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: There is a Resolution relative to the carriage of mails which should be dealt with this afternoon. I understand that the honourable junior member for St. Philip has a measure under Private Members' Business with which he desires to proceed and I have no objection to remaining and dealing with it.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE RE CARRIAGE OF MAILS

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution Mr. Chairman is one for £1,200 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1947-48 under Head VIII, Post Office, Item 13, Overseas direct mails (Surface), by £300, and Item 15, Transit mails, by £400.

The Addendum states that in the estimates of Expenditure for the year 1947-48 under Head VIII, Post Office, Item 13, Overseas direct mails (Surface), and Item 15, Transit mails, the sums of £1,300 and £450 are provided, respectively.

Owing to the exceptionally large number of mails, principally parcel mails, which are being sent to the United Kingdom, the provision under Item 13 has proved to be insufficient to meet the charges to the 31st March, 1948, and a further sum of £800 is required. In the case of Item 15, Transit Mails, there has been a large number of such mails received for onward despatch, and a further sum of £400 is required to meet expenditure to the 31st March, 1948. In the case of the former item the amount expended is recoverable with a margin of profit by the sale of postage stamps, while in the case of the latter item the amount is recoverable from the Adminis-

tration from which the mail is despatched. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MAPP: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I should like to say that this Resolution concerns a Department of the Government Service where certain wrong things have been taking place recently. Apparently this Department is at present one of the bugbears of Government Departments in this island. I refer to the report that included in certain mails for England were certain foodstuffs and other articles hidden away behind items which had been duly registered. The joke is that a retired Postmaster was called in to handle this affair. This is a very serious state of affairs where this colony is concerned. Here it is that we in this colony are experiencing a shortage of foodstuffs and other items and in an important Department like this it has not been readily discovered that certain members of this community, people who occupy prominent social positions, have been using the facilities offered by this Department to send some of the items which are badly needed in this colony to their relatives and friends abroad! In Great Britain matters such as this are taken very seriously and the people involved are hit very hard in the Law Courts when they are brought to justice. I do not know what action is being taken in the matter but I hope that the Government will take some action in relation to it and will see or lend their weight in some way or other to have severe penalties imposed upon the offenders. At a time like this we find that essential commodities in which we are lacking are being sent abroad hidden in all ways and the very people involved complain, for instance, that the Barbados public are only allotted so many ounces of cheese! When we take into consideration the fact that these ounces of cheese are not properly distributed and that very few of us see any cheese or butter which is being sent abroad, I think that we should take a very serious view of such happenings. I have seen fines of £5 imposed upon people who stowaway aboard ships in order to get employment outside this colony and very small fines imposed upon the big firms for the infringement of the various Regulations. While I do not want to bring politics into the administration of justice, I feel that I should express the hope that in the light of the conditions facing this colony at present and those which may face it in the future the Courts of Justice will view these matters very seriously. I feel it appropriate that I should make these observations and I hope that serious notice will be taken of them. As I said before, the small people are hit very hard when they are found guilty of such offences and the position in this case should be the same. Justice should be meted out equally to all members of the community when they infringe the law. I am not opposing the Resolution but I hope that the authorities will take careful note, as I believe they will, of the remarks which I have made and will take action against the recurrence of these happenings. I hope that an efficient handling of mails will continue and that we will not have any more foodstuffs being smuggled out of this colony.

Mr. COX: I cannot allow the honourable member to sing a solo in this case. I feel very strongly in this matter. Imagine at a time like this when there is such a scarcity of foodstuffs in this colony and we are more or less dependent upon imports, that articles of food are being sent out of the colony! I feel that that is being very dishonest and some penalty should be imposed upon those individuals

who commit such offences. I am not in a position to say what were the items sent out of the colony on this occasion or who committed the offence, but I feel that if it were a poor person he would have been haled before the Law Courts and convicted and perhaps sent to prison for it. Many people who are actively engaged in bringing food into this colony are without many items at times and here we find that food parcels are being sent overseas. I think that that is a very wicked and dishonest thing to be done and I feel that the Government should take drastic steps to punish individuals who are found doing it.

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. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee, the postponement of one and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

REVERSION TO PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the House do now revert to Private Members' Business.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now revert to Private Members' Business was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. GARNER: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 31 on the Order Paper as the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member will have to ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 60 so as to deal with that Order.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60.

Mr. GARNER: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 60 so as to deal with Order No. 31.

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

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

Mr. MOTTLEY seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE ST. PHILIP (HIGHWAYS) LOAN BILL.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that Order No. 31 be taken as the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr. MOTTLEY seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business therefore stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip:—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of Saint Philip to raise a loan to purchase a road roller.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—I hardly think that this is a controversial matter. This Bill seeks to authorise the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip to raise a loan not exceeding

£2,200 so as to purchase a road roller for use in repairing the roads of the parish. I may state that the road roller which is in use at present is now over 21 years old and it has been giving a lot of trouble recently. The last bill submitted for repairs to it was something like \$1,700 and we considered that it would be a waste of the taxpayers' money to continue with this roller. Every year we have to spend a great amount of money on it and it was felt that it would be much better to obtain a new roller. We can hardly get through with the number of roads which have to be repaired because of the condition of the roller and it is thought that it would be in the interest of the parishioners to replace this roller with a new one. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I remember that quite recently a similar Bill introduced by the honourable senior member for St. Peter was passed and the cost of the roller was only £2,000. I would like to know why this roller is going to cost £2,200. I do not mind what honourable members might think; when it is a question affecting any Vestry I will express my opinion on it. I have been told by many people in St. Philip that all is not well where loans are concerned. I understand that quite recently—

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether the Commissioners of Highways of this parish should be authorised to raise this loan or not. Except you can show some reason why the money should not be loaned—

Mr. COX: It all depends upon how the first amount of money was spent.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not before the House. The point is whether these Commissioners of Highways should be authorised to raise this loan or not.

Mr. COX: At the same time I have to vote on the question and I have to be satisfied that the money has been well spent in the past.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question as to how the money was spent in the past.

Mr. COX: All right, Sir.

Mr. FOSTER: The honourable member is not as aware of these matters as we who are Vestrymen. We spend many sleepless nights in working out these matters. When parochial representatives put measures before the House honourable members should be quite prepared to support them except very strong reasons can be advanced against supporting such measures. (Cheers).

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. GARNER, seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

On a similar motion the Preamble was postponed.

The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed.

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

EXTENSION OF LEAVE TO MR. LEWIS

Mr. ADAMS: On behalf of the honourable junior member for the City I ask for six weeks' extension of the leave which has been already granted him.

There being no objection, the extension of leave was granted.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS: Order No. 13 on the Order Paper under Government Business is a Bill against double taxation and I am thinking that we will have to meet again next Tuesday for the purpose of dealing with it. I have been informed that honourable members have not yet got their printed copies of this Bill and my instructions are that it should be passed before the 31st of December.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you propose to have a special meeting so as to deal with that Bill?

Mr. ADAMS: We will fix the Order Paper in the usual way and I suggest that we should spare the time next week and get through with this Bill. If honourable members agree to come here again next Tuesday I assure them that we will deal with this Bill only and adjourn until the first Tuesday in January.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the honourable member says that he will deal only with that Bill, the House can decide whether they will proceed with any other business or not; or you can summon a meeting for next Tuesday with one item on the Order Paper.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know if honourable members will want to remain after the Bill has been dealt with; but if they are in a mood to go on with other business the Order Paper will have been fixed. I assure honourable members that in the way in which the Bill is worded it has to come into operation at an early date.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 23rd day of December, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to move as an amendment that the words "this day week the 23rd day of December, 1947," be deleted in order to insert the words "this day three weeks, the 6th day of January, 1948." Despite what the honourable Leader of the House has said about the Bill having to be passed before the end of December, it can be amended and made retrospective. I do not think that the honourable member is very serious about our meeting next week merely to deal with this Bill.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second the amendment. It is impossible for the honourable member to expect that we will come here next Tuesday.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would be quite willing to vote for an adjournment for longer than one week but when I hear the honourable member say that it is impossible to expect honourable members to come here next Tuesday, I say that next Tuesday is not any impossible day. Next Tuesday is the 23rd day of December and meeting on that day may be a matter of inconvenience the next day being Christmas Eve, but it is not any impossibility for us to meet next Tuesday. As far as I am concerned, there is no harm if we adjourn until the 6th of January next because everybody needs a little rest;

but I cannot agree that it is impossible for us to come here next Tuesday.

Mr. SPEAKER: A motion has been made that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 23rd day of December, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon. An amendment has been moved that the words "this day week, the 23rd day of December 1947" be deleted in order to insert the words "this day three weeks, the 6th day of January, 1948." 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.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS and BLACKMAN—7.

Noes: DR. WILSON, Messrs. SYMMONDS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY and RAMSAY—7.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in a "tie" seven honourable members voting "Aye", and seven honourable members voting "No". I record my vote with the "Noes". (Cheers). The question now is that the words "this day three weeks, the 6th day of January, 1948," be inserted in the blank created by the deletion of the words. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

The question that this House do now adjourn to this day three weeks, the 6th day of January, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.