

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 11th February, 1947.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN, (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Deputy Speaker*), Mr. J. T. C. RAMSAY, (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. J. A. LEV. WILSON, Messrs. L. E. SMITH, M. E. COX, R. G. MAPP, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, and J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E.

PRAYERS AND MINUTES

Prayers are read and the Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 4th February, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. MOTTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

DOCUMENTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month ended 31st January, 1947; also the Report of the Inspector of Trees for the parish of St. Lucy.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

DELAY IN THE CIRCULATION OF THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker.—Before you proceed to the business of the day I should like to draw to your attention the fact that the Order Paper reached members, including myself, at a very late stage. Only yesterday afternoon I received my Order Paper and as a result I have not been able to go through the various measures as I would have desired. I draw the matter to Your Honour's attention with the view of having it rectified. If things continue like this we shall have to force the Government to establish its own printery.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £65,650 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to purchase the Bay Estate (Cheers) and to meet legal and incidental expenses in connection therewith.

Resolution to increase the salaries of the officers of the House by way of a cost of living bonus.

Address to provide a cost of living bonus for the Chaplain of the House of Assembly.

Address to provide a cost of living bonus for the Official Reporter of the Legislative Council and the two Official Reporters of the House of Assembly.

Address to regulate the salary of the Head Messenger and Librarian of the House of Assembly.

Mr. ADAMS (On behalf of Mr. Springer): Resolution to approve the following Rate payable to producer and Rate of tax payable to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board on fancy molasses produced during the crop year 1946-47 fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board in accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Regulations, 1938:—

- (a) The Rate payable to the producer of fancy molasses during the crop year 1946-47 shall be not less than eighteen pence a wine gallon;
- (b) The Rate of tax payable to the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board shall be one and one-half pence a wine gallon.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution to grant the sum of £5,063 from the Public Treasury (to be subsequently refunded from loan funds) to supplement Resolution No. 17 of the 13th February, 1945, towards the cost of erecting a new Pay Ward A at the General Hospital.

Resolution to advance the sum of £110 from the Public Treasury (to be subsequently refunded as a free grant under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on the terms and conditions laid down in the Message from the House of Assembly to His Excellency the Governor dated the 14th December, 1943) and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet

the cost of financing a scheme for the attendance of a delegate from Barbados at a Conference of Veterinary Officers from the British West Indies to be held in Jamaica.

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

QUESTIONS

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at the next meeting:—

1. Whether it is a fact that the Dominion of Canada has lowered its immigration barriers?
2. Whether Government will immediately contact the Government of the Dominion and explore the possibility of emigration to Canada of workers from this Colony?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

1. Whether it is proposed to publish an Index for the current edition of the Laws of Barbados?
2. If the answer to the above is in the negative, will Government explain why?
3. If the reply to query 1 (above) is in the affirmative, will Government state the date on which publication of this Index is due or expected to take place?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House:—

1. Is it still the intention of Government to proceed with the scheme for the amalgamation of the Parry and Coleridge Schools?
2. If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, will Government state the date on which it is proposed to lay the foundation stone of the new edifice for the combined school?

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave, Mr. Speaker, to take as the first Order of the day a Resolution to provide a cost of living allowance to the officers of the House.

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

Mr. SPRINGER enters the House and takes his seat.

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. ADAMS: This Resolution is the result of a decision arrived at by the Debates Committee of the House who have considered that the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the Marshal of this House should have an increase of salary by way of a cost of living allowance on the same scale and at the same rates as were recently passed for members of the Civil Service, that is to say, 40% on the first £100 of salary or part thereof, 30% on the second £100 or part thereof, and so on. I think honourable members will agree that it is reasonable to give some officials in this colony at any rate a cost of living allowance in view of the increased cost of living. I think that, generally speaking, we will all agree that the cost of living to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the Marshal of the House has increased in the same way as it has increased for members of the Civil Service; therefore, the least we can do to our own servants is to give them an allowance similar to that which we have given to members of the Civil Service. I, therefore, beg to move that the following Resolution do now pass:—

“Resolved that the salaries of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Marshal of the House of Assembly be increased by way of a cost of living allowance as from the 1st day of April, 1946, at the rates set out in the schedule hereto.”

I will just remind honourable members of the rates:—

On the first £100 of salary or part thereof 40%; on the second £100 or part thereof 30%; on the third £100 or part thereof 25%; on the fourth £100 or part thereof 20%; on the fifth £100 or part thereof 15%; on the sixth £100 or part thereof 10%.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO THE CHAPLAIN OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave now, Mr. Speaker, to deal with an Address to His Excellency the Governor in respect of a cost of living allowance to the Chaplain of the House of Assembly.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to provide that the Chaplain of the House of Assembly be paid a cost of living allowance as from the 1st day of April, 1946, at the rates set out in the following schedule:—

SCHEDULE

On the first	£100 of salary or part thereof	40%
“ “ second	“ “ “ “ “ “	30%
“ “ third	“ “ “ “ “ “	25%
“ “ fourth	“ “ “ “ “ “	20%
“ “ fifth	“ “ “ “ “ “	15%
“ “ sixth	“ “ “ “ “ “	10%

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO OFFICIAL REPORTERS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I also ask leave to deal with an Address to His Excellency the Governor in respect of a cost of living allowance to the Official Reporter of the Legislative Council and the two Official Reporters of the House of Assembly.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to provide that the Official Reporter of the Honourable Legisla-

tive Council and the two Official Reporters of the House of Assembly be paid a cost of living allowance as from the 1st day of April, 1946, at the rates set out in the following schedule:—

SCHEDULE

On the first	£100 of salary or part thereof	40%
" " second	" " " " " "	30%
" " third	" " " " " "	25%
" " fourth	" " " " " "	20%
" " fifth	" " " " " "	15%
" " sixth	" " " " " "	10%

Mr. RAMSAY: I beg to second that.

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

INCREASE OF SALARY FOR HEAD MESSENGER AND LIBRARIAN.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave, Sir, to deal with an Address relating to an increase of the salary of the Head Messenger and Librarian.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to the following facts:

1. On the 1st day of April, 1944, the then Messenger of the House, Mr. A. J. Caddle, was appointed Head Messenger and Librarian at a salary of forty dollars per month for each of these pos'ts, making a total of eighty dollars.

2. On the 19th day of September, 1946, a Resolution was passed whereby the pay of other Messengers who had been in the Service for the length of period served by Mr. Caddle was increased as from the 1st day of April, 1946, to forty eight dollars per month.

3. Mr. Caddle has never received any of the abovementioned increase of salary.

The House of Assembly respectfully ask your Excellency to take the necessary steps to ensure that Mr. Caddle's salary be increased by the said eight dollars per month as from the 1st day of April, 1946.

Mr. RAMSAY: I beg to second that.

Mr. GARNER enters the House and takes his seat.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to be so good as to present the Addresses to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. ADAMS: As Your Honour pleases.

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 Government.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman,—The first Resolution is for the sum of £2,520 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946—47 under Head XL, Waterworks, Item 15, Repairs to reservoirs, mains etc.

"The average rainfall at Bowmanston Pumping Station," states the addendum, "for the ten years 1929 to 1938 was 66.18 inches; the average for the three years 1943 to 1945 was 49.38 inches and the rainfall in 1946 was 30.78 inches" which is less than half what it was in 1939. On this account the supply of water in the Springs at Bowmanston has diminished to such an extent that there is now only sufficient water to allow one of the Everton pumps to be used for the purpose of supplying the reservoirs. The amount of water that is received from the Belle is at present governed by the fact that for a distance of 900 yards along the Dash Valley road, the Belle supply pipe is only 5" in diameter. The object of this Resolution is to enable that 5" pipe to be replaced by 9" pipe which will increase the flow of water. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—Of course, this is a Resolution which I wholeheartedly support but I wonder if the junior member for St. John can tell me if this will assist the water situation in other parts of the island. For instance, every now and again we have a severe shortage of supply in the Mount Gay and College districts in St. Lucy and I wonder if this will tend to assist the general flow of water in those districts. If this is not likely to have an effect in other parts of the island, perhaps the honourable member will try to investigate the cause of the frequent stoppages in the supply of water to the districts which I have mentioned and, after he has investigated the matter, take the necessary steps to relieve the situation by means of a Resolution in this House. You know, Sir, that there is nothing more necessary than water and it is a matter that should receive the constant attention of the Government.

Mr. GALE: I am not opposing this Resolution because I think it is a very urgent necessity but I do not believe that it is generally known that our water supply is in a parlous state. We certainly should get an undertaking from the Government that it is going to do all that is humanly possible to try and improve the present state of the water supply in this island. It is known that at present very little water is being obtained from the pumping station at Bowmanston; if the facts be known, the state of affairs is very much worse than is painted in the picture before us and I would like to call the attention of the Government to it and ask it to do everything in its power to put the water supply of the island in better shape. The crop is coming on and if there is a drought this year, we are going to be in a very bad way as far as the supply of water is concerned. There are many applications from residents in several districts for supplies of water but those applications cannot be granted as long as the sources of our present supply remain what they are. We must see to it that the sources are increased before we can think of putting water in all these districts and other places where people are clamouring for supplies of water. I would like the people to know here and now that most of the applications which have been received for supplies of water will not be dealt with until we have new sources of supply. We have been drawing water from the present

sources for the past twenty-five years continuously and they remain the same although more water has been and is being used. I regard the matter as one of great urgency and I trust that the Executive Committee will do all in its power to see that the situation is remedied as soon as possible.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—We can save a debate on this subject if I tell honourable members that nobody has had more cause for grumbling than I have had. I have not been able to bathe under my shower for two weeks steadily. The night I do not use a bucket, catch water and adopt the primitive method of throwing it on my skin with a tot, I do not bathe. Both hon. members can rest assured that the Government is well aware of the difficult water situation. I do not wish to anticipate anything that the honourable member in charge of the Resolution may say but I add my personal experience to show honourable members that we are well aware of the water situation and I have no doubt that the junior member for St. John will explain to the House the steps which the Government is taking to try and improve the situation. It may be, of course, that those of us who are more religious than others and who believe in the efficacy of prayer, will pray for more rain because the Waterworks says, for the benefit of those of us who do not believe in the efficacy of prayer, that the rainfall is the remedy.

Dr. CUMMINS enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—The shortage of water is a very serious matter. I am aware that the Government has, for some time, been considering the extension of the pumping facilities but I am afraid that even after that is done, this House will have to approve of the expenditure of a large sum of money before we are able to have water supplied all over the island. In this case, however, I think that some little blame is to be attached to the Government for not seeking the assistance of the people earlier in this matter of the shortage of water. As you know, Sir, the crop has now started and the applications for supplies of water from factories will be many and if to-day the senior member for St. Joseph is not able to get a bath unless he goes and visits his friends, I am afraid that during the next three months he will not get a bath for a month or two. I believe that the Government should have warned the people earlier that the supply of water would be cut off during certain hours of the day. I do not know if a notice to that effect has escaped my attention but I have not seen any notice that the supply of water will be cut off at intervals. I agree with other honourable members that this is a very serious matter but I am afraid that owing to the shortage of materials in the big countries of the world we will be in a bad way for some years, as far as our water supply is concerned.

Mr. SMITH: I think the Waterworks should explore the gully and mountainous districts of the island with the view of sinking wells to obtain a larger supply of water. I suggest to the Executive Committee to advise the Waterworks to act along the lines I have mentioned.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I would like to ask the senior member for St. Joseph this question: When do they expect to receive the balance of the 9" pipe to complete this distance of 900 yards? I would also like to know if the Belle Pumping Station is capable of supplying much more water and what districts are supplied by this Pumping Station.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman,—The Government is well aware of the shortage of water and steps have been taken to remedy it. A report has been submitted by Dr. Senn, the Geologist, and

that report is being printed at the moment. Dr. Senn has discovered where we can get a further supply of water and as soon as his report is printed, that matter will be gone into; the necessary wells will be sunk and the reservoirs will be able to put the water into circulation. All that honourable members have said has been known to the Government for some time; it has been going into the question and knows exactly what to do to put the matter right.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The honourable member has not answered what I have asked. Can the Belle Pumping Station supply more water? I want to know if the engines are capable of supplying more water because it will be a waste of money to purchase this pipe when more water cannot be pumped.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform the honourable senior member for St. James that there is 9" pipe in the island and that, according to the plan of the Waterworks, if it is not sufficient, they will use 7" and 5" pipes for the purpose. I can say for a certainty that they have not got all 9" pipe to complete this distance.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I thank you, Mr. Chairman, but I know that myself and that is why I asked whether the engines will be capable of supplying more water.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are quite capable. You cannot make the Government answer if they do not want to do so.

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

TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. MICHAEL'S BOARD OF GUARDIANS IN CASE WORK IN TRINIDAD.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for the sum of £115 (to be subsequently refunded as a free grant under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on the terms and conditions laid down in the Message from the House of Assembly to His Excellency the Governor dated the 14th of December, 1943) to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of financing a scheme for a course of training for an employee of the Board of Guardians of St. Michael in case work for a period of six months in Trinidad.

All the Vestries were circularized and asked to state whether they had any suitable candidates whom they could recommend for this course and the Vestry of St. Michael recommended one of their employees. It is proposed that this candidate should attend the course of training which commences in March, 1947 in Trinidad and this £115 is now asked for to pay his passages, subsistence allowance and travelling expenses while he is in Trinidad. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Perhaps the senior member for the City or the Chairman may be able to give us a little more information on this matter. What facilities has Trinidad got for this course of training which we have not here? I have paid several visits to Trinidad and really I do not think they are far ahead of us in matters of this sort.

Mr. BRANCKER: Before the honourable member replies I would like to enquire whether St. Michael's Vestry is the only one which has accepted this offer. Did all the other Vestries turn it down or was St. Michael's Vestry chosen from among the Vestries?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I believe I can throw some light upon this matter. The Social Welfare Officer got in touch with the Board of Guardians of St.

Michael and put this suggestion to them. It was felt by the Board of Guardians that the training of a youngster in their employ in case work would be of some benefit in dealing with poor relief and it was represented to them that facilities in Trinidad for the purpose were much more modern than they are in Barbados; as a result, the junior member of the staff of the Board of Guardians was selected for this course. I think honourable members will appreciate that there is still a very primitive method here of dealing with case work and I suppose that if persons from this island are trained in Trinidad in this type of work, their training will be of some benefit to the island when they return. I am definitely going to support this Resolution because from my experience — I believe it is also the experience of other honourable members — the handling of case work in this island by Inspectors of Poor leaves much to be desired.

Mr. TALMA enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. GARNER: I am going to support this proposal, but our Vestry in St. Philip was circularized in the matter and I think we too intend to send somebody to Trinidad. I do not know why only one candidate has been put forward because you have to expect another.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does the honourable member want to have this Resolution postponed so that he can put his house in order?

Mr. GARNER: Yes, Sir. I am going to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed because I am sure that the St. Philip Vestry has been circularized in this matter and we intend to send someone also. Let all of them go together.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I have a Minute from the Assistant Social Welfare Officer who states that all the Vestries were circularized in this matter; that, presumably, as they have not replied none of the other Vestries wish to avail themselves of the offer and that she recommended the candidate from St. Michael. The Vestry of St. Lucy was circularized along with all the other Vestries and I make that statement for the information of the junior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What the junior member for St. John has stated is absolutely correct. I got in touch with the Assistant Welfare Officer and it was suggested to me, in my capacity as Churchwarden of St. Michael, that we should recommend someone. The Vestry of St. Michael recommended one of their employees and I cannot help if the other Vestries failed to make recommendations. I fail to see any useful purpose being served by postponing this Resolution. As I understand it, only one candidate will be sent from Barbados. This is a scholarship offered by Colonial Development and Welfare and all the Vestries were circularized with the view of selecting the best candidate and the Vestry of St. Michael availed themselves of the opportunity. If the junior member for St. Philip wants to castigate the members of St. Philip's Vestry for not making their recommendation, he has the opportunity to do so now.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I am not going to withdraw my motion because I know for certain that the Vestry of St. Philip intends to recommend a candidate for this course of training in Trinidad. I cannot help if they have been somewhat negligent in the matter. As regards poor relief work I know a lot about it but people who know nothing about the work—because of their

affiliation to some planter—are appointed to do this work and this Course will do a great deal of good by bringing them in touch with what is necessary in the administration of relief to the poor.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to point out that the honourable member has no motion before the Committee; it has not been seconded.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The junior member for St. Philip is a member of the Vestry of that parish and he should know what he is saying. It is possible that the Vestry of St. Philip may have been negligent in not sending in their recommendation to the Social Welfare Officer but this course does not start until March. Trinidad is only next door to us and I am going to ask the House to postpone this Resolution for a week so that the honourable member can actuate his Vestry in the matter in the meantime. I beg to second the honourable member's motion.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—I was not originally in favour of the motion for the postponement of this Resolution because I felt that if the St. Philip Vestry eventually decides that one of its employees should be sent for this training, another Resolution could be sent to this House for that purpose and I am sure that we will pass it as we intend to pass this. But I just had a confab with a brother Vestryman on my left and he has stated that his Vestry was of the same opinion as the St. Lucy Vestry, namely, that they might have had to look for funds to defray the expenses of their delegate and that it was not explained to them that they would be reimbursed what they would have had to pay a *locum tenens*. I feel now that this Resolution should be postponed. The respective Vestries of St. Lucy, St. Joseph and so on will understand what the position is exactly and they will then be able to decide, in the light of the further information which has been given to-day, whether it is practicable for them to send candidates. Personally I am definitely in favour of the St. Lucy Vestry sending someone and if this Resolution is postponed, they may be able to find someone whom they can recommend. These courses are useful from the point of view of contacts which are made. When parochial officers of the various parishes meet with their counterparts in other West Indian colonies, the contacts are bound to be very helpful. For that reason, I am going to support the motion for the postponement of this Resolution.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—If you read the addendum very carefully you will see that it states that provision is being made for special training in case work for persons engaged in poor relief or old age pensions work. If that is correct, it would seem as though the intention was to send not only one person but a few persons and it is for that reason, Sir, that I rise to support the motion made by the junior member of St. Philip; so that this course of training will not go a-begging and that it may be beneficial, not only to St. Michael but to other big parishes such as Christ Church (Laughter) and St. Philip,—in fact, to the island as a whole.

Dr. WILSON: I am supporting the motion for the postponement of this Resolution because I feel that the Vestry of St. John will be able to find a suitable candidate to take advantage of this course of training.

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

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, HAYNES and S. A. WALCOTT—7.

Noes: Messrs. SMITH, COX, MAPP, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, MONTLEY, GALE, WILKINSON and Mr. SPEAKER—11.

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

GRATUITY AND ANNUITY TO ERNEST MATTHEWS.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for the sum of £174. 5. to be granted as a gratuity and £52. 5. 6. as an annuity payable in monthly instalments from the 21st December, 1946, to Mr. Ernest Matthews, formerly messenger of the Port Health Officer's Department.

Mr. Matthews has given 34 years' service and his job is not pensionable. It is usual in cases of this sort to pass a Resolution through the House of Assembly and this is now being done. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE POST OFFICE.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for the sum of £3,640 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 under Head VIII, Post Office, item 6, Overtime Pay, by £300, item 14, Overseas direct mail (Air), by £3,300, and item 31, Furniture and Fittings, by £40.

The number of mails by air and otherwise has very greatly increased in the Post Office and the Postmaster has stated that the staff has had to work long after 4 p.m. on several days. The votes for overtime pay and overseas direct mails by air have been exhausted and one of the objects of this Resolution is to increase those votes. So far as the furniture and fittings are concerned, the Post Office has been extended by the inclusion of the offices formerly occupied by the Imperial Censor Authorities and as a result more furniture and fittings are required. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to take this opportunity to make a few remarks about the Post Office in the interest of the public. It is obvious to most people who go to the Post Office either to purchase stamps or send parcels away that it has been under-staffed for some time now; if the Post Office is not under-staffed then the present staff is not doing its work because it is a common practice to go there and have to wait an hour or longer to purchase stamps or send a parcel away. I do think that the Postmaster should make representation to the Government for more facilities at the Post Office for members of the public who use it. It is distressing to see ladies waiting at the counter for an indefinite length of time either to purchase stamps or send parcels away. There are two or three openings at the counter but very often there is access to only one and people have to queue up as far as the door. I do hope that representation will be made with the view of having the service improved. One must remember that in these days it is very difficult to get certain articles and it is quite a common practice for persons in this island to send parcels to their friends in other places and vice versa.

That results in revenue for the island and a more efficient service in the Post Office is badly needed for the purpose. I take this opportunity to ask the Government to investigate and see whether the statements I have made are correct or incorrect.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the Chairman reports the passing of four Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip.—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to sanction the Regulations made by the Transport Board under Section 7 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 (1937-16).

Mr. CRAWFORD: These amending Regulations, Sir, propose to increase the length of omnibuses from 22 ft. to 25 ft. Some of the concessionaires have asked that the length of omnibuses be 25 ft. instead of 22 ft. and an advisory committee of the Transport Board has recommended that the request be acceded to. The regulations were accordingly made and the Legislature is now being asked to sanction them. I may say that the regulations have for their object the expressed purpose of providing more seating accommodation for passengers in omnibuses and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—I am in favour of the passing of this Resolution. I take it that the Government is seeking to amend Regulation 24 which deals with the construction and maintenance of public service vehicles. That regulation reads as follows:—

"No motor omnibus, the body of which has a longitudinal overhang exceeding 3/11 of an overall length shall be licensed. Provided that the overall length of such motor omnibus shall not exceed 22 ft."

The honourable member, I take it, is seeking to amend that regulation to provide for an over-all length of 25 ft. instead of 22 ft. as in the past. We have seen, Mr. Speaker, during the past few weeks, on the streets in this island omnibuses which contain one additional row of seats—seven instead of six—and there is a great advantage in that, because people find it difficult to get accommodation in the omnibuses. If there is an extra row of seats, room will be legitimately provided for at least five or six more passengers in that particular omnibus and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the passing of these amending regulations. I wonder if the honourable member in charge of the Resolution can give me any idea—now that the Government has decided to sanction this additional seat in omnibus—as to what is its attitude towards the enforcement of Regulation 28 which deals with corridors.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not before the House.

Mr. BRANCKER: I know, Sir, but the honourable member may be able to assist us in determining whether we should make another regulation providing for a different type of bus. I take it that it is not intended that the owners of omnibuses with old bodies should be called upon to scrap those old

bodies so as to construct an additional row of seats in each of them. I will remind honourable members who are worrying about that point, that this amending regulation provides that the over-all length shall not exceed 25 ft.; in other words, it does not interfere with those omnibuses whose over-all length is 22 ft. With regard to the additional accommodation which these larger omnibuses provide, they seem to have gained a certain amount of popularity and the public, I may say, seems to be very much averse nowadays to the enforcement of the other regulations because the omnibuses with an over-all length of 25 ft., apart from the fact that they can accommodate many more persons are so much more airy and safer, although many people refer to them as mobile prisons and death traps and things of that sort. I am just mentioning to the members of the Executive Committee that while the House passes this regulation to provide for an increase in the over-all length I can imagine them, in deference to public opinion, being just as eager and anxious to amend the regulation dealing with the omnibuses with corridors because of the fewer passengers which they can accommodate and of their unpopularity nowadays. There is just one other thing which is very closely allied to this regulation and the size of the omnibuses—if you will just allow me to make the point, Mr. Speaker, I shall be obliged.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is very difficult to allow you to make the point and not allow other honourable members to speak on it.

Mr. BRANCKER: I appreciate that, Your Honour, but it is equally difficult not to allude to the price of petrol, more vulgarly called gasoline, when dealing with the question of the omnibus. I would like to know what they intend doing about the price of gasoline.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise under these regulations.

Mr. BRANCKER: Quite so, Mr. Speaker; but as soon as the price of petrol is reduced, the price of the bus fares is automatically reduced. However, that is a point which, I hope, will not be overlooked by those in charge of transport. For those reasons I am in favour of the passing of these amendments to these regulations in order that five or six more passengers may legitimately be accommodated in the omnibuses which are still too few to accommodate the number of potential passengers who await accommodation at the stop-poles on the streets of this island.

Mr. COX: Before I vote on this question I should like to have an assurance from the senior member for St. Philip that omnibuses which to-day are 22 ft. long will not have to be scrapped. My reason for that is this. Quite recently I have seen some very crude and harsh regulations placed upon these concessionaires. During the holiday season—in fact, before then and after we could not get materials for the building of omnibuses as the Act prescribes—the Director of Highways and Transport, I am told, gave the bus concessionaires the privilege of reconditioning omnibuses as well as trucks and making transfers. No sooner did the General Motor Omnibus Co. finish reconditioning and transferring, a notice was issued—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is out of order. The only regulations we are dealing with are Regulations 17 and 24 of the principal regulations which these amending Regulations seek to amend by providing that the length of motor omnibuses should be 25 ft. instead of 22 ft.

Mr. COX: Yes, Sir, I intend to vote for this Resolution but before I vote I want to be assured

that no crude and harsh treatment will be meted to these people and I am endeavouring to cite a few instances to bear out my argument. Suppose we pass these regulations as they stand and a few days after, the Director of Highways and Transport calls upon concessionaires to scrap omnibuses which are 22 ft. long.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will leave it to the honourable senior member for St. Philip to explain that, but it is clear that a concessionaire can run a bus 20 ft. long, if he likes, but he cannot run one longer than 25 ft.

Mr. COX: All right, Sir. I bow to your ruling but I want to hear some explanation by the senior member for St. Philip because I happen to know a concessionaire of whom much advantage was taken towards the end of last year and I am not prepared to vote for anything that will create a hardship on any section, especially the poorer section, of the community.

Mr. TALMA: This is the only point that occurs to me. Anxious as we are to improve the type of omnibuses, yet at this stage of experiencing great transport difficulties I firmly believe that this is an inopportune time to bring forward a matter of this nature. Although I will support it I feel, Sir, that a certain amount of hardship will be experienced not only by the small bus owner but also by the public who have to travel in the omnibuses. I feel that instead of implementing a measure of this sort at this stage, the Executive Committee should have seen fit to have postponed it, with the view of improving the transport service and of not doing anything to detract from it in any way. I feel that these regulations are being brought forward at an inopportune time and that they will be a means of causing transportation to be even worse than it is to-day because these owners will be thrown off their routes if they cannot comply with the provision in the regulations.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The junior member for St. Philip has already spoken. The honourable member seconded the motion for the passing of the Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am going to support these regulations on the ground that the senior member for St. Philip has assured me that the extension of omnibuses by 3 feet is a means of further accommodating the travelling public. What I would like to know from the honourable Minister of Transport is whether this is really going to put an end to the improvement of the various routes and whether the Department has in mind calling upon the concessionaires to provide more omnibuses for the accommodation of the travelling public and whether they have in mind extending the various routes to be able to accommodate the travelling public. This additional three feet which will provide an additional row of seats will only relieve the congestion that exists to-day, and what I would like to know from the honourable member is whether the Department contemplates calling upon the concessionaires to provide more omnibuses to accommodate the travelling public.

Mr. WILKINSON: Perhaps I can be of some help by way of an explanation in this matter. I happen at the moment to be a member of the Advisory Board and these regulations were passed last July, I think, as a result of an application of some of the concessionaires. They pointed out that the cost of building a bus to-day is very much higher than what it was some years ago; that it would assist them in some small degree if the length of the om-

nibuses was increased by three feet because they will be able to accommodate more passengers. I was reluctant at first to recommend that the request be acceded to because some of the corners of our streets are practically at right angles—for example, the one on which the Canadian Bank of Commerce, DaCosta & Co., Ltd., Cosmopolitan Pharmacy and Knight's Ltd. in Broad Street stand—and I feared that an additional length of three feet would make it none too easy for an omnibus 25 ft. long to go around a corner of that description. But I consulted the Police of the Traffic Department and they assured me that a bus 25 ft. long could be manoeuvred around a corner at right angles. As regards the question which the senior member for the City asked as to whether the Director of Highways and Transport has in mind the improvement of the bus routes, I can definitely reply "yes". Not only does he have in mind the improvement of accommodation for passengers but he also has in mind the increasing of the number of omnibuses on the different routes. Honourable members must realize that it is very difficult to get materials since the war is over but I can give the assurance that the last time I talked with the Director he certainly had in mind the improvement of the bus service generally.

MR. CRAWFORD: Sir,—The situation has been well summed up by the junior member for St. James. The Director is making every effort to increase the number of units on the road, bearing in mind the severe inconvenience now suffered by the travelling public. Briefly, Sir, the position is this. Under Section 7 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, every motor omnibus registered after the 31st May, 1940, should have had an internal corridor of not less than 15 inches in width. These regulations have had to be suspended because, owing to the war, it was impossible to get the materials to conform with the regulations. In the meantime, the regulations were discovered to be neither popular nor completely satisfactory and although to-day we are sanctioning the extension of the length of an omnibus by three feet, yet the Government has decided to make it no longer compulsory for concessionaires to put units on the roads with internal corridors (Cheers). It will largely be a question of choice on the part of concessionaires with this qualification: If you want to put a bus on the road without a corridor, the over-all length will be kept at 22 feet, but if you want to get the advantage of an additional 3 feet you must construct a bus with a corridor. I think, Sir, that that ought to satisfy both the public and the concessionaires and at the same time afford us the opportunity to discover whether or not omnibuses without corridors are more generally advantageous than those with corridors.

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

CONSIDERATION OF DAIRY REGULATIONS POSTPONED

MR. SPEAKER: The next Resolution stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. George,—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—A Resolution to approve Regulations made by the General Board of Health under Section 3 of the Dairies Act, 1941, and approved and sanctioned by the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

MR. SPRINGER: Sir,—In view of the time at our disposal and in view of the fact that there are several of these regulations that are being considered by different bodies—for instance, I understand that

the Board of Health is going to meet to-morrow to consider them—I think it will be well if I ask leave to postpone the consideration of this and the next Order standing in my name.

There being no objection, the consideration of Orders Nos. 4 and 5 are postponed.

THE SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to take Order No. 8 as the next Order.

There being no objection, the honourable member is granted leave to take Order No. 8 as the next Order.

MR. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914 (1914-3) as amended by the Savings Bank (Amendment) Act, 1944 (1944-28).

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—This is a simple Bill. As honourable members will see from the "Objects and Reasons", the Savings Bank functions under a special Act and, therefore, clerks appointed to it are not automatically in the same position as other members of the Civil Service. The staff of the Bank is limited to a certain number; so when it becomes necessary to increase the number of clerks, the Act has to be amended. This Bill simply seeks to provide authority for the Governor, on the recommendation of the directors, to appoint additional clerks not exceeding two in number. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. COX: I beg to second that.

MR. MOTTLEY: I quite appreciate that the appointment of two additional clerks in the Savings Bank is necessary but can the honourable member tell me if they are going to be accommodated in the room which the Bank at present occupies? If so, it seems to me humanly impossible to accommodate two more clerks in that room. It is the most congested office in the Service and the clerks are practically working on the top of one another. I cannot imagine how they work day after day under those conditions. Anyone who passes by the Savings Bank will see people standing on the pavement in High Street awaiting their turn to be served, and while the Government is giving additional clerical assistance to the Bank I think that something should be done to relieve the congestion which takes place in it almost daily. That room has certainly served its purpose and I am certainly of the opinion that more clerks cannot be conveniently accommodated in it.

MR. ADAMS: The Government appreciates very much the honourable member's point. As a matter of fact, Mr. De Syllas, the architect, has already advised the Government on the re-allocation of all the government offices and he has suggested the advisability of removing the Savings Bank possibly to the office now occupied by the Post Office and remove the Post Office to a building to be erected; so that the honourable member's point is clearly before the Government. We are well aware of what the honourable member mentioned about the clerks in the Savings Bank working upon the top of one another and of depositors waiting outside on the pavement in High Street to be served. In the meantime, however, the depositors are so many that these additional clerks are necessary.

MR. GALE: Clause 2 of this Bill provides that the Governor may appoint from time to time additional clerks not exceeding two in number. Suppose in a couple years' time, it has been discovered that two additional clerks are not enough, the Government will have to come back here with a Bill to

amend the Act again. Would it not be better to word this Bill in such a way that the Governor may appoint such additional clerks that are necessary to carry out the work at the Bank? According to the wording of this Bill, it seems that every time an additional clerk is wanted at the Savings Bank, the Government has to come here and get the Act amended to enable him to appoint one.

Mr. SPRINGER: I heartily agree with the junior member for St. Michael—That has been my constant attitude but the traditional attitude of Barbadians towards the powers of the Government is psychopathic and that is what we have to face even in the Executive Committee. I should like to point out that this Bill was decided upon before the present Executive Committee came into being. The present attitude is this. You cannot allow the Governor to appoint anybody at all, not even a clerk or a messenger; you have to let the appointment pass through all the stages and have legislative enactment. That is the position and we cannot run a Government efficiently on those lines. I would rather suggest that now the attitude of the House is made plain we should pass the Bill as it is otherwise it will require a complete re-drafting of the section. We will have to delete Clause 2 and replace it with a new clause. My attitude towards the matter is the same as that of the junior member for St. Michael and I do not see how it could not be reasonable for the Directors of the Savings Bank to say how many clerks they want and for the Governor to appoint them.

Mr. RAMSAY: From the time I have learnt to know anything about Barbados I have always been told that the House of Assembly are the guardians of the purse string of Barbados. When that time arises for us to relinquish that guardianship I hope to be out of being. It is all right for the honourable senior member for St. George to say what he just said but when anything goes wrong the House of Assembly as a whole is to be blamed. We have given up our rights too readily in the past and we are going to be abused for so doing. I admonish this House to stick to our undoubted rights which have been handed down to us by our forefathers and do not give them over to any Governor or Government.

Mr. GARNER: I rise to support the remarks of the last speaker. I too counsel honourable members not to give up what power they have, never mind what they may be termed or how difficult the situation may be. When the conservative element was in power, nobody said anything about things being done stage after stage but now everybody is saying "Let me do this or that without going to the House of Assembly for its approval."

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the honourable member is going to have a debate on the point I think we can leave it at that. The question is that this Bill be now read a second time. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair, and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Clause 1 is read and agreed to.

Clause 2. Subsection (1) of section five of the Principal Act as contained in the Savings Bank (Amendment) Act, 1944 is hereby amended

(i) by renumbering the same "(1) (a)"

(ii) by adding thereto the following new paragraph to be lettered (b):—

"(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection, the Governor, on the recommendation of the Directors of the Bank, may from time to time appoint such additional Clerks not exceeding two in number as he shall consider necessary."

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

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—Before you put the question I would like to say that in my opinion the Government is too parsimonious.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to know what the honourable member is talking on. The Committee is dealing with Clause 2 of this Bill and the parsimony of the Government does not apply to this.

Mr. TALMA: I am saying that the Government never employs a sufficient number of people to do work which should be paid for. In so far as the Government Savings Bank is concerned I am objecting to the word "two" because I feel that two additional clerks—

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind the honourable member that the House of Assembly cannot lay any charge on the revenue of the colony. If the honourable member makes the number "one" that will be within the bounds of this Committee but he cannot make it more than "two."

Mr. TALMA: Yes, Sir, but I still have the right to express my sentiments. I am saying that I regard the Government's policy on the whole, not only towards the Savings Bank, as being parsimonious. By that I mean that the Government never employs enough people to do work that has to be done and the Government should set the example in this respect. With your permission I really got up to express those few sentiments and I hope that the Government will see fit, when it sends down Bills of this nature, to make provision for the employment of a greater number of people.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—Sub-paragraph (b) of Clause 2 is not quite clear to me. It says, *inter alia*, that the Governor, on the recommendation of the directors of the Bank, may from time to time appoint such additional clerks not exceeding two in number as he shall consider necessary. Does that mean that on each occasion he can appoint two additional clerks—for example two this month and two next month—or is the total number to be employed two?

Mr. ADAMS: It means that only two can be employed, otherwise it would have been worded "not exceeding two on each occasion."

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

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

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. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—There are Replies to some Questions ready and they will be laid by the honourable senior member for St. Philip.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Replies to Questions No. 8, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip, the Replies to Questions No. 15, standing in

the name of the honourable senior member for St. Andrew, and the Replies to Questions No. 5, standing in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter.

CONSTRUCTION OF BATHSHEBA—LAKES VILLAGE ROAD.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to discuss the replies given to my questions No. 2. The replies to these questions were laid on Tuesday last. My first question was: "Is the Government aware that a Resolution for £60,000 to reconstruct and construct certain roads in this island, passed this House on 19th December, 1944, and was assented to by His Excellency the Governor on the 7th January, 1945? The reply to that question is "Yes." The next question was: "That included in this Resolution was an amount of £13,730 to construct four miles of road from Bathsheba to Lakes Village, St. Andrew, also £875 to suitably widen Lakes Bridge, St. Andrew? The reply to that question is also "yes," therefore there is no need to make any comments on the replies to those questions. The third question was: "Will the Government state why this road and bridge have not been attended to yet; and in view of the widespread unemployment caused by the present drought, will they consider immediately putting this work in hand and thus alleviate some of the widespread unemployment above mentioned? The reply to that question is: "The Government proposes to review the whole scheme. Even if it were decided to proceed with it, however, and if the Department were in a position to begin work immediately, the Government is advised that there are approximately 79 landowners and 39 properties affected by the road and that, in the absence of a satisfactory land acquisition Act, the difficulties involved in separate negotiations for the purchase of the necessary land present an almost insuperable obstacle." To my mind, the reply to that question is in the usual Governmental terms. The question has been answered very vaguely, and I think, very incorrectly. The Government says that it proposes to review the whole scheme. That sounds very funny to me; why did they allow this Resolution to come down to the House in the first instance and now say that they will review the whole scheme? (Mr. ADAMS: Two different Governments). That may be so, but the Resolution was passed by the Legislature. When the Resolution was first introduced, the idea was to use the existing railway track which was handed to the Government by the late owners of the railway when they bought it. I have seen the plan in the Public Works Department; the track varies in width from 32 feet to 45 feet, it is properly graded and there is no reason why it should be altered in any way because, naturally, you have to grade land very carefully for railway purposes, and even more so for an ordinary vehicular road. There is no reason to say that you have to negotiate with the parties there; there is quite a lot of space there. I consider that the normal road would be 18 feet wide, allowing two or three feet on either side for trenches would be another six feet, making a total of twenty-four feet and there is still another six or eight feet to spare. I cannot see where they can bring up this red herring across the trail, so to speak. To my mind, that exposes the Government's attitude towards this question of road-making in Barbados. We were told on a previous occasion when someone had put some questions in this House relative to the roads, that the Government had no responsibility for mak-

ing roads in this island. Well Sir, as long as that attitude continues, we will never get anywhere with the extension of various roads which are needed throughout the island. It is not a question of my parish alone, but in other parishes as well there is the cry for roads and it is simply because the policy of the Government seems to be as it was in the past. We hope to see a change in the present Government. (A MEMBER: We are going to see it). It seems to me that there is the same attitude towards roads as in the past. This is a very serious Government. I read in the Press a few days ago, an article on tourism in which some American stated that tourism would be our second industry in Barbados. Well, Mr. Speaker, is there a more beautiful part of Barbados than the part which this road would serve to show to the various visitors as they come along? Apart from that, this land is absolutely barren now, and it is absolutely going to waste simply because nothing can be done with it. Sometime ago the Director of Agriculture was approached about planting trees in this district, and he pointed out that we could not re-afforest that district because it would be an uneconomic proposition, and he promised that he would make a minute to that effect. Another point is that it is necessary to maintain our coastline so that houses can be built and people can spend their holidays there. This coastline added to the road would open a wide scope for the building of houses, and the value of the land would be increased. The parish of St. Andrew repeatedly has to remit taxes on valuable bits of land in this district because there is no road to the land. The small owners get nothing out of it and therefore they cannot pay their taxes. I would like hon. members to realize that the Government's attitude is a very serious one. During the last Session, in order to get something done about the Workmen's Compensation Act, an hon. member moved the adjournment of the House for five minutes—and the motion was agreed to—as a mark of censure on the Government, and I noticed that something was done about the matter forthwith. (Laughter). I am going to move a similar adjournment to-day as a protest against the reply given in connection with the construction of this road. (MEMBERS: No, no). If we do not do something, we will not get any further with this matter. I consider it a very serious matter; it is not a question of wanting the money to construct this road; the money is there, but yet nothing is being done. It is most annoying to everybody; the matter does not concern only the people of the parish of St. Andrew, the petition for this road was drafted and circulated in the parishes of St. Peter, St. Joseph and St. Michael, and it was heavily signed by those parishes because the people realised of what value the road would be to the island as a whole. I repeat that as long as the Government adopts this attitude as regards the roads, we will never get any further with them. I suppose that I have talked in this House about roads more than anyone else, and we cannot get any further with them. In one month the Government says that they have no responsibility or no money to spend on the roads; in another month they have the money and nothing is done about the roads. Where are we? The position is an impossible one. I do not wish to take up the time of the House any longer; I am sure that hon. members will realise the seriousness of the matter, and I feel that we should certainly bring home to the Government the real necessity of taking action in the matter.

Mr. WARD: I beg to second the hon. member's motion. Following up where the hon. member

has left off, I feel that much as we would like to have this road around the island constructed—machinery for making roads is in short demand—there are in this island many more roads which are more in need of looking after than this road. The hon. member has said in effect that the construction of this road has been hanging fire for quite a while. When this road around the island is constructed, all the land-owners as well as the people will benefit from it. I presume that is why the hon. member is trying to push the matter. (Laughter). Although this road would be a great asset to the island, I feel that at the present moment, we should concern ourselves more with the private roads which are in very bad repair. We should allow the machinery to spend more time on these private roads. I agree with the Government that it is of no use trying to construct that road unless there is a land acquisition Act, because you will have an enormous amount of trouble in trying to acquire land. Although I am in favour of having this road along the sea coast, I still feel that there are many more roads which need immediate attention. In fact, I feel that the Government should pay attention to those roads which are already in existence in view of the fact that the machinery for road making is short.

Mr. SMITH: I, too, feel that it is time that the Government view this matter seriously. I see that the Government in their reply to the hon. member's question have said that they have been advised that there are approximately 79 landowners and 39 properties affected by the road, and that in the absence of a satisfactory land acquisition Act, the difficulties involved in separate negotiations for the purchase of the necessary land present an almost insuperable obstacle. Well, this House can have this land acquisition Act passed as quickly as possible; that can be done quite easily. (A MEMBER: Oh yes?) I feel so: I feel that this Act can be passed quite easily because I can remember an honourable member remark in this House that the only thing that we cannot do is to turn a man into a woman and *vice versa*. That is why this Act can be passed. The parishes of St. Joseph and St. Andrew will be losing revenue through not having this road done. It will be helpful to the land owners and the parishes because sea-side houses can be built, and as soon as these houses are built, the assessor will be able to assess more people and more money will thereby be collected. I do not think that it is fair that the Government should be holding back this money all the time. If the hon. member had not asked these questions we would still be groping in the dark; we would have been asking and wondering why they have not made any start with this road. I cannot agree with the hon. member's suggestion as to moving a vote of censure on the Government, because there is a new Government and we have to give them a chance to see what they are like. I will await the activities of the new Government, but not for very long.

Mr. GALE: I quite agree with the remarks of the hon. senior member for St. Lucy. While this road may be desirable from a tourist and a scenic point of view, while it would be desirable to have this road around the island from a picturesque point of view and so on, it is necessary for the Government to spend money on the more pressing needs. There are in different parishes, roads where people live and those roads are in a shocking state of repair. If the Government have not got at present the machinery necessary for undertaking this

big scheme, I think that they are quite right in postponing it and spending the time, material and money on the more pressing needs in the villages where people are living to-day. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has stressed the possibility of the land increasing in value by the construction of this road. However, that will not be helping the Government; that will be helping the people who own the land. I think that it is the duty of the Government in the first place to look after the people who are immediately concerned, and the tourist attraction can come afterwards. We want first things first. (Cheers).

Mr. WILKINSON: Far be it from me to defend the Government, but I would like to remind honourable members that when this money was granted by the Colonial Development and Welfare Department, the condition was made that the island should carry out its usual programme of work on the roads. That being so, more equipment had to be ordered. As far as I know, no rollers have arrived, and very little equipment so that it is almost impossible for the Department of Highways and Transport to undertake their normal work in addition to other work until material arrives.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want either on this occasion or on any similar occasion to anticipate anything that might be said by the member of the Executive Committee who is answering, on behalf of the Government, for a particular Department. I speak now purely as a member of the House, and not as a member of the Government. I agree with the honourable junior member for St. Michael that first things must come first. (A MEMBER: Quite so). Sometimes when there are grievances or reminders of unemployment and so on, Governments have a habit of adopting policies and perhaps carrying into execution some public work, purely *ad hoc*, without any reference to the necessary expenditure in relation to other things. It is quite conceivable that the previous Government which had agreed to undertake, especially seeing that it was backed by the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation, the construction of a round-the-island potential tourist road, did not have before its mind the expenditure on other items necessary for the betterment of the people of this island. Without committing myself to what my own contribution to the policy may be affecting this matter, I would like honourable members to reflect on how much we are spending to-day on roads, and how little we have spent on housing which is an A-1 priority. Honourable members should always remember the type of Government which is in power in Barbados to-day. Let there be no mistake about it, while we might not be able to get through both branches of the Legislature within a reasonably short time, the present project in which there will be legislation to prohibit the use of land by any owner for any purpose unless it has been licensed by the Government, this Government is inclined to introduce such legislation. I am heartened in the thought that if a road were put alongside land which is commercially not very valuable to-day, but would become really valuable as a result of the putting of that road—I am heartened in my view as to the necessity for legislation controlling the use of the land by the attitude of the honourable senior member for St. Andrew. The honourable member authorised me some time ago to tell the Government that if a road were put along the sea-coast in St. Andrew and thereby his land became improved in

value, he was prepared to give up the whole of the unearned increment of the land to the Government—a most outstanding and praiseworthy attitude on the part of a land owner. I hope that the honourable member will find others who will emulate his example. I am perfectly serious in this matter because it is morally indefensible for any land owner whose land is worth £10 per acre to sell it for £200 per acre when the Government puts a road alongside of it and keep it all. The £190 is money which is totally unearned, and it is the duty of the Government to take that £190 from him. I have no doubt that the honourable member is genuine in bringing to the notice of the Government that this road, which has been promised, is not yet built or reconstructed, but I wish to sound this note of warning that as long as this Government is in power, with the ideas of the members of the House who form the Executive Committee, let no landowners think that we are prepared to spend the taxpayers' money to improve their surrounding land without taking away from them the unearned increment. I repeat that it would be morally indefensible if we did that and not ask them for the unearned increment. I would just sound the warning that improvements by the Government carry responsibility, and the land owners must, of necessity, return to the Government the money that they would otherwise be putting into their pockets. I got up merely to make that point. It will probably take some time before we can have that absolute control of land which the Socialist Government of Great Britain is to-day trying to bring about; but we shall always bear in mind that just as it is in the interest of the community to see that we use agricultural land profitably, so it is in the interest of the community to see that every type of land should be used for the benefit of the community at large; and instead of this constant reference to private rights and the refusal of some consideration of private responsibility, we should consider our duty of service to the community as a whole.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I would like to assure the honourable senior member for St. Andrew that the Government is supremely anxious wherever possible to construct new roads and to improve the condition of existing ones. The honourable member can rest assured that the Government is just as anxious as he is to get this four miles of road constructed at the earliest possible date, but the honourable member has already been told that the necessary plant and equipment with which to undertake a job of this sort are not yet to hand. As the honourable junior member for St. James has said, we have had some rollers on order for some time and they have not yet arrived. The position now is that the present staff of the Department of Highways and Transport is unable to cope with the annual expenditure of £100,000. If we are to undertake the expenditure of this additional £60,000, we will obviously need a considerable increase in staff, not only unskilled but skilled staff, and that cannot be obtained overnight. The honourable senior member for St. Andrew well knows that the post of Assistant Engineer for which money has been voted cannot yet be filled. (A MEMBER: Why? We cannot get a man to fill it). (A MEMBER: Pay a decent salary). The salary is as much as the Government can afford, bearing in mind the salaries paid to other employees. I want to emphasize the difficulty in getting equipment and the absence of a trained staff to undertake work of this sort. The honourable

member says that the land up there is barren; I am sure he appreciates that if this road is constructed, that will increase the value of the land considerably. I am not suggesting that the honourable member has any personal interest in this matter or that he is forcing this question because he owns adjacent land there; I conscientiously believe that he is really trying to provide a road for his constituents in St. Andrew who returned him at the head of the poll by such a large majority in November last year. I want to assure the honourable member that the Government is also of the opinion that this road should be constructed. The honourable member claims that the Government owns the railway track and that it is sufficiently wide for the construction of this new road; but it is not. Where the Government retains or does not retain the right to certain land, additional land will have to be acquired for the construction of this new road, and that is the case in many parts, if not all. The honourable member has been told in the reply to his question that in the absence of a satisfactory Land Acquisition Act, the difficulties involved are almost insuperable. I do not share the optimism of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph that we can pass this Act as easily as he thinks; the passing of such an Act will take some time. There is going to be considerable opposition to such an Act even on the part of those who are now pressing this question; and we have not only to deal with this branch of the Legislature. I can assure the honourable senior member for St. Andrew that the list of persons who own land affected by this proposed new road is considerable. There are 75 names on the list and there are 39 properties; he must realise that it would not be any easy task to investigate the proper rights to the land and where possible to acquire the additional areas necessary for the construction of the new road. In any case, I think that if the honourable member reads the replies to question No 3 carefully, he will be more in sympathy with the Government's position. He has been told that the Department is not in a position to begin work immediately because there is no equipment, no trained staff and in addition to that, the question of the acquisition of the necessary land cannot be easily dealt with until such time as a Land Acquisition Act is passed, and we have the machinery necessary for the purchase of the land.

Mr. COX: I was not prepared to speak on this question, but I must make a few remarks in connection with the statement of the honourable senior member for St. Philip about not being able to get a staff, or an adequate staff, for the Highways Department. It really puzzles me to understand why you can find three or four rollers idling day in and day out at this Department. As far as I can see, even in this very Chamber now there is a roller driver who is not employed. I cannot understand the position. Until I see something tangible being done at the Department, I will maintain that the Department is not being run as it should be run. The Department is being badly managed. (A MEMBER: How long ago?) At least from the time that we had this last executive. Everybody will remember that in the days of Mr. Scott-Bushe, all the rollers used to be working all over the island; but nowadays, every now and then, the staff has to be laid off and the rollers are put up. We can get as much stone as we want, plenty material is available but the Director does not use

either the material or the staff as he should use it. I would suggest that we get behind the Director and get him to leave the office and do some work. I think that I can remember that since the year 1936 when the railway was scrapped, the people were promised a road in place of the railway, so that buses and cars, etc., could travel along the sea-side. I feel that it is time that some attempt be made to start this road. At any rate, I am in sympathy with the present Government because I am sure that it is prepared to everything that lies in its power whenever possible to remove the ills and evils that exist not only by way of the roads but in other directions as well.

Mr. RAMSAY: I have listened attentively to the various speakers, and I agree with all of them in part. There is one thing that has been impressed on my mind, and it is this: we have a very new Government, and only those of us who are in the habit of working miracles can expect this Government as yet to do anything tangible in respect of the roads. Yet I say this: the honourable junior member for St. James has remarked that there is no equipment. I agree. Another honourable member says that there is no staff, I agree. Yet another honourable member says that the Management will not do anything. I also agree with that; but I think that this Government must maintain, or rather, captivate the confidence of the general public; they must start and do something,—something that the public can understand, not anything behind closed doors. When they want surveyors they ought to advertise for them. They have £60,000 and they can arrange to pay these surveyors. No argument put up by anybody whomsoever can convince me that you cannot get surveyors in the West Indies to assist in surveying these sea-coast roads. (Cheers). I know that they cannot get rollers, and so on, but what about the levels which have to be taken by surveyors and the various bridgeheads which have to be built by masons? As regards the parish of St. Andrew, I am interested. I hope to buy land and build a house up there or build one up there for somebody. If the Government wants to do anything, they should employ some surveyors to take levels or they should hold meetings so as to let the public understand that they are doing something. I cannot associate myself with any vote of censure on the Government; I do not think that they are worthy of it. (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER: What exactly does the honourable member mean?

Mr. RAMSAY: I do not think that they should be censured, Mr. SPEAKER; my only criticism is constructive criticism, but some of us give destructive criticism. I think that this debate will do a lot of good to the entire island; everyone who has spoken has said something worthy of note. I hope that in the very near future, the Government will do something worthy of themselves.

Mr. HAYNES: I would just like to reply to the various honourable members. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has mentioned that there is no equipment so as to be able to do this work. I happen to know that the parish of St. Joseph has offered to the Department of Highways and Transport two rollers as well as the staff—the Inspector, the Superintendent and so on—so that the work on this road could be started under the supervision of the Department. I think that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph can bear me out with that. There is absolutely no excuse at all in connection with this equipment; it is simply that there is no

willingness on the part of the Government to work on the roads. That is the whole position. I was glad when the honourable senior member for St. Joseph made the remarks which he has made. I think that his remarks are perfectly clear, and the honourable member has on his file the letter which I wrote to him stating that rather than make any money out of the land, I would be quite prepared to give up 50% of the land to the Government if the road was made. As regards the question of personal gain, I am above that. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has referred to the fact that the land in this district is barren——

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

ADDRESS RE ERECTION OF FISH SHED AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES FOR FISHERMEN

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph,—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the erection of a Fish Shed and Sanitary Conveniences for the Fishermen of Tent Bay and Bathsheba, St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker,—This Address is a very urgent one. It reads as follows:

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly urge upon Your Excellency the urgent necessity of providing a Fish Shed and Sanitary Conveniences for the fishermen of Tent Bay and Bathsheba, St. Joseph.

Tent Bay is one of those beaches which are very insanitary. When the fishermen bring ashore their catches, they have to throw the fish on the beach among the rocks, and flies and excreta even from the dogs sometimes, are along the beach. I have seen these things for myself. There is no running fresh water so that the fish vendors can wash their hands after handling the fish. Every now and then, if one is there for five minutes, ten minutes or half an hour, he will see somebody dodging behind somewhere to answer the call of nature. I feel that the time has come when the Government should assist these fishermen at Tent Bay by giving them sanitary conveniences. I feel that they should have these conveniences so that they will be comfortable when they are at this beach. As regards Bathsheba, everybody knows that the sea there is always heavy, and the female fish vendors cannot go into the sea in order to wash their hands. They have to go to the lake where there is running water. The lake is always streaming, but it is in a bad condition. I feel that the Government should take the necessary steps to improve the conditions existing at these places by erecting a fish shed and providing sanitary conveniences for the fishermen. It gives me very much pleasure to move the passing of this Address.

Mr. COX: I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Address. In doing so, I do not think it is necessary for me to say very much since the honourable member has so ably put his case. However, I would go a little further and say that a fish shed and sanitary conveniences should be erected at every place where fishermen bring in their catches. We all realise that the fishermen are very useful to the community; they take risks which many of us are not likely to take, and I feel that it is fair that

we should provide them with places where they can sell their fish comfortably and also with sanitary conveniences.

Mr. GARNER: I am supporting this Address but I will move an amendment to read as follows: "The House of Assembly urge upon Your Excellency the urgent necessity of providing fish sheds and sanitary conveniences for the fishermen of Tent Bay, and Bathsheba, St. Joseph, Crane and Foul Bay, St. Philip." I feel that St. Philip is no less in need of such amenities than St. Joseph, and while the Executive are dealing with one parish, they can also deal with the other. It is true that earlier in the Session I gave notice of an Address asking that certain things to be done for the people, yet I feel that it is appropriate at this time to have incorporated in this Address these amenities for the fishermen of my parish. It is true that we are moving forward and what stood well for the past cannot stand well for to-day. I am hoping that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph will accept my amendment. I know that the honourable member is very liberal, and would like to know that the fishermen of St. Philip are benefiting to the same extent as those of St. Joseph. I ask the honourable member in all sincerity to accept my amendment so that the amenities which will be enjoyed by the fishermen of St. Joseph will also be enjoyed by those of St. Philip.

Mr. BRANCKER: So far as the amendment proposed by the honourable junior member for St. Philip is concerned, it is not as comprehensive as one would have expected it to be. I am proposing that the Address be amended to read as follows: "The House of Assembly urge upon Your Excellency the urgent necessity of providing fish sheds and sanitary conveniences for the fishermen of Tent Bay and Bathsheba, St. Joseph, and other bays of a similar nature around the coasts of this island." I commend that amendment to the honourable Introducer of the Address. That would include the Crane and obviously those other bays which are even more in need of these conveniences such as Cove Bay and Strouds Bay in St. Lucy. I know that the honourable member on my left is a most reasonable man, and I am thanking him in advance for accepting this amendment which is sufficiently comprehensive as to include the bays around the island. I beg to move that amendment which it is unnecessary to press.

Mr. SMITH: I accept that amendment.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not think that there is any place which is more in need of these facilities than Hometown. I beg to support the amendment of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put, I would just like to comment in passing on what I regard as the "Sunday School behaviourism" of the members of this House. This matter has been under consideration for the last three years. Every honourable member knows that. As a matter of fact, in 1944 I took the then Governor and the Labour Commissioner to visit some of these bays, especially in the parishes of St. Philip and St. Joseph, and it is an open secret that an extension of the fishing industry is being planned, and under the ten-year Development Plan it is proposed to erect fish sheds and things of that sort at all the fishing centres throughout the island. It may sound very well to say somewhere in the vicinity of Tent Bay to-morrow that the honourable member for Tent Bay is doing something for Tent Bay. We all know that something is being done, and I do not think that we should waste any time with these matters.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know if the honourable member wants me to add my little quota as regards

matters under Private Members' Business. I hope that, as having come from the honourable member and not from me, honourable members will realise that when the Government declares its policy on sundry matters, it has the definite intention of carrying out its promises. I would not have said this at the present time if the honourable member had not said what he has said. I hope that honourable members will see the necessity for extending the amount of time which is given to the consideration of Government Business, and condense their remarks, Addresses and Questions to a Government which is already converted to the thoughts of most of those hon members who have asked Questions or tabled Addresses. I hope that that will be taken in the same friendly spirit in which I have given it. If we are to do anything of a substantial nature in the way of public business in this House, I hope honourable members will see that asking the Government to do something which it has already pledged itself to do is merely wasting time. I am not blaming the honourable junior member for St. Joseph because every honourable member has done the same thing during the Session. I am hoping that honourable members will see that while it is true—as the honourable junior member for St. Peter would say—that we should preserve our rights as private member of the House, who can get through a lot more useful legislation if the time spent on Private Members' Business is curtailed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In short, what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has intimated is that we should let it appear that we are more a Congress of Ambassadors than a Council of State. It is bound to appear that I am an Ambassador for the City of Bridgetown. Last week we passed a Bill giving the Government power to make regulations relative to the fishing industry. I am sure that those regulations have been read by the general public. Now we have erected a new fish market and this amendment is asking that a fish shed be erected at the Reef, at Brapdons, at Land's End, and so on. Imagine that being asked after we have spent money to erect the new market! I cannot vote for this amendment as it stands; I think the Address should be further amended setting out a limit of two miles of Bridgetown in respect of the erection of these fish sheds, because if the Address is passed as it is, the Government must come to the conclusion that we want to abandon the idea of the fish market, which has just been erected, and we want to erect fish sheds at Bay Street, at the Reef, at Brandons, and so on. I ask honourable members to see the necessity of inserting the words "Outside two miles of the City limits" in the amendment, otherwise the Government will be in a very precarious position; having to consider this Address and having to make regulations which, I am sure, will deal with the taking of fish to the newly-erected fish market. I counsel honourable members to see the wisdom of agreeing to what I have suggested. If this Address is passed as it is, the Government will be faced with having to erect fish sheds within a quarter of a mile of the new fish market. I know that among the regulations, provision will be made for persons within the City limits, compelling them to take their fish inside the market; otherwise we will have thrown away the money which we spent in erecting the market.

Mr. RAMSAY: After listening to the remarks of the honourable senior member for the City, I think the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip about "Sunday School behaviourism" can well be applied. I think that the Government are hard-headed business people; we have a fish

market in Bridgetown, and we are now talking about fish sheds. When honourable members decide where a fish shed must be put as far as mileage is concerned, that is wrong. The Government is being called upon to put a fish shed wherever it is necessary, whether it be half a mile or a quarter of a mile from the City. If fish are brought in at Browne's Beach and the Government feels that a sufficient quantity of fish is brought in there, they should put a shed there as a matter of accommodating the people who bring in the fish. I think that the Address as adopted by the honourable mover and backed by the honourable junior member for St. James, is worded in a commonsense way, and we need not worry any more about it. It is left to the wisdom of the Government to see that what they are doing is right and for the benefit of the people. Of course, the amendment of the honourable senior member for the City has not been seconded and therefore, I take no notice of it.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to get a definite assurance with regard to a similar Address which has already been passed. In fact, I would like to know if it is the policy of the Government to erect fish markets. Judging from what I have seen, it does not seem that an Address of this sort will do any good. I want to know if the Government intend to erect any fish markets at all. I had the privilege two years ago of moving the passing of an Address in relation to the erection of a fish market, but up to now I have not seen anything being done. I do not know how soon these markets will be erected.

Mr. SPEAKER: That information can be obtained by way of asking a question.

Mr. TALMA: Having presented the Address one would have expected something to be done.

Mr. HAYNES: I did not intend to say anything in connection with this matter, but the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip and those of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph have brought me to my feet. We all know that fish sheds are most essential, but apparently these two honourable members seem to say that Addresses will not mean anything to the present Government because they do not want anything to be told them. I thought that they would have taken the other view of the matter and realise that these Addresses are brought to the notice of the Government as the wishes of the people whom honourable members represent. I consider that an Address of this nature should certainly be considered by the Government. I am surprised to hear these two honourable members take that view, because it looks to me that we are only wasting the time of the House to bring in Addresses. I hope these honourable members will take notice of my remarks and try and take a different view of Addresses in the near future.

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

The Address as amended was passed.

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

Mr. SMITH: As Your honour pleases.

ORDERS POSTPONED.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. James, to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the increased cost of Rice to the Consumer. With regard to this Order, I do not think that I can accept its being dealt with in the House at the present time. Not very long ago this House dealt with a Resolution which

was in terms similar to those covered by this Address. I do not think that I can do better than quote from *May's Parliamentary Practice* on the subject. This is what "May" says:—

"It is a rule, in both Houses, which is essential to the due performances of their duties, that no question or Bill shall be offered that is substantially the same as one on which their judgment has already been expressed in the current session."

Only two or three meetings ago this House dealt with the subsidization of foodstuffs, and this House decided that, so far as rice is concerned, the price of that commodity should remain as it was and not subsidized until the 31st of March. The House voted a sum of money to cover the cost of foodstuffs excluding rice, until the 31st of March. Therefore, in my opinion, the House has already dealt with the question of rice, and have provided for it until the 31st of March. I think that the honourable member would be quite in order after the 31st of March to make a motion for the passing of this Address. I have no objection to a motion to that effect being made after the 31st of March; but discussion on the matter to-day would be out of order.

Mr. WILKINSON: Does that mean that the matter will be taken off the Order Paper?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that it will be a question of postponing the matter.

Mr. WILKINSON: I gave notice of this Address on the 10th of December.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite agree, but since you gave notice of it, the question has been dealt with.

Mr. WILKINSON: I ask leave to postpone consideration of this Order.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for the City,—Second reading of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of the Parish of Saint Michael in this Island to raise a loan not exceeding £8,000 to purchase a property for the establishment of a home for the accommodation of the destitute and orphan children of the said parish. As regards this Bill, I do not think that it has appeared in the *Official Gazette* for two weeks. It first appeared on the 30th of January.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas,—to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to a Social Security Scheme similar to the Beveridge Plan. The honourable member is not in his place.

ADDRESS *Re* NATIONALIZATION OF THE BARBADOS ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Andrew,—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor requesting him to take steps to nationalise the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation Limited.

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

The House of Assembly To His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly note with grave concern the fact that only about one-third of the Island of Barbados is at present serviced by the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation in spite of the fact that this

Corporation has been functioning for over 37 years and has enjoyed Government preference on all imported equipment throughout its existence.

2. The House therefore respectfully ask that His Excellency the Governor will take immediate steps to nationalise this Corporation and thus help to remedy this serious state of affairs.

This is a matter which I think most honourable members will realise as a very serious one in this island of Barbados. At present we have an Electric Supply Corporation run as a private Company with the idea, as obtains with all private Companies, of making a personal gain. One can quite realise that that is the only reason why private Companies are being run, and that is the essence of my Address. As long as the supply of electricity is looked upon in this island as a money-making concern, those people who are mostly in need of it will never get it. I, for one, consider that electricity is no luxury. I happened to be in the parish of St. Lucy a couple of days ago, and I turned in to see the Parochial Medical Officer for a minute. He had just returned from a call—there was a child which was suffering from pneumonia and the Medical Officer could not get any penicillin in the parish because he had no refrigeration, and it was about two or three hours before penicillin could be obtained for that case. Taking that as an example, are we to consider electricity as a luxury? Undoubtedly, electricity is as much a necessity as water is to modern living. It is true that this Company have in their Contract a proviso that they will extend their mains for three miles a year, but it is not stated in the Contract where these three miles will be. They simply pick out certain districts where they will sell plenty of electricity, and they advance rapidly in those districts. The other parts of the island which need electricity just as much as these districts are side-tracked and nothing is done. That could not happen if this Corporation was owned by the Government. Another point is this: a Utility Service is different from a shoe-making or any other type of service. Anybody who carries on a shoe-making or a mineral water service, for instance, has to sell the shoes or the mineral water at a price in keeping with that at which the articles can be imported. When it comes to the question of electricity, there is no possibility of importing or exporting it. The value of the supply of electricity is what it is worth to the consumers of it in this island. Hence, money should not be any object as regards the retention of these lines; that should be a side issue, providing of course that it is within economic limits.

We know that the present water supply is run by the Government; it does not make any money, but I think that honourable members will agree that, although we want some more extensions, every part of the island is served. We have pipes running through most of our roads, and there is a public pipe at every quarter of a mile in the island. We cannot say that in connection with electricity. Some time ago the Manager of the Electric Company wrote in the Press a letter in which he definitely said that there were only two parishes in the entire island which he would call fully equipped; and there were the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church. He then went on to say that there were seven other parishes which were partly equipped and the other two did not have any electricity at all. I replied to that letter and made it pretty clear that judging from the last census, if you worked out the service

supplied to the nine parishes, there would be one service to 130 persons. I ask: Is that service? I do not think so. To my mind, unless something is done, unless you point a pistol at the head of the Electric Company and then force them to sell out the concern to the Government, nothing will be done. It is a standing disgrace. In his letter to the Press, the Manager of the Company said that they were considering extensions to St. Philip and St. Lucy. Imagine that state of affairs! He then goes on and covers the faults of the Company by stating that there is no material available at present. We hear that all the time, but the Manager forgets that they had the power to extend their mains island wide in 1936. The power was granted them by this House; but they could not see any profit in spending £5,000 on extensions so as to make a profit of £50. I hold that it is for that reason that we can never get a proper supply of electricity. I am moving the passing of this Address in the hope either that the Government will spur the Company to immediate action, or, as I have suggested in my Address, that immediate steps will be taken by the Government to take over the concern and run it as a Government concern. That has been done in Trinidad, and I have been told that whereas one unit of electricity was sold for 21 or 22 cents, it is now sold for 16 cents. I have been told that in the Bahamas the Government runs the electricity supply, and that electricity is sold there at 5 cents a unit for lighting and a penny a unit for power. We would not mind paying for electricity if we could get an island-wide service. This state of affairs must be stopped. As I said before, electricity cannot be called a luxury; it is a very prime necessity in life to-day. (A MEMBER: Have you got it at Parks?) I beg to tell the honourable member that I have electricity there, and I run it much cheaper than I would buy it. This is not a personal matter, and I would like to allay the feelings of honourable members in this respect. Judging from the letter published by the Manager of the Electric Company, it would appear that we would never get an island-wide service under the present regime. I have said quite a lot on this matter, and I am sure that honourable members also have a lot to say on it I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second the motion or the passing of this Address. I feel that this matter is long overdue. If you travel around the island you will see, in the strictly residential districts where there are a large number of houses, that the people are suffering, through no fault of their own, from the want of electricity. It is true that we have in this island an Electric Company who enjoy certain facilities from the Government, but they are not carrying out the terms of their Contract. That the feeling is that the Contract should be taken away from them is no secret. I make bold to say that. That the Corporation should be nationalised, I say "yes" emphatically. It is a fact that electricity is no luxury. I have to speak for a very long time on this matter, Mr. SPEAKER, and it has been hinted to me that honourable members want to adjourn at this stage so as to meet Dr. Taylor. I therefore beg to move that further discussion on this Address be postponed until the next meeting of this House.

Mr. GALE seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for St. Philip will have the first opportunity of speaking on the resumption of the debate, and the

honourable junior member for St. Michael, who seconded the motion for the postponement, will also have an opportunity of speaking. If those honourable members miss that opportunity, they will not have an other chance of speaking.

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 18th day of February, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to meet on Tuesday, the 18th day of February, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.