

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 28th January, 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. D. D. GARNER, L. E. SMITH, M. E. COX, H. D. BLACKMAN, W. A. CRAWFORD E. D. MOTTLEY, 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 meetings held on the 14th and 21st January, 1947, having been circulated, are taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

Message No. 7/1947 from His Excellency the Acting Governor informing the Honourable the House of Assembly of arrangements for the filling of the post of Architect and Planning Officer which will shortly become vacant through the retirement of Mr. L. de Syllas, and enquiring whether the Honourable House is in agreement with the proposals.

Account of transactions in Rum for the quarter ended on the 31st of December, 1946.

PETITION

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Vestry of St. Michael praying the House to pass a Bill granting them permission to purchase a property adjoining the Parochial Buildings, Cheapside, Bridgetown, for the purpose of establishing a Food Centre. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

Mr. MAPP enters the House and takes his seat.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. CRAWFORD: Resolution for £8,095 to supplement the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 under Head XX, Education, (ii) SECOND GRADE EDUCATION, Item 19, Grant-in-aid:— (1) Combermere School, by £1,652; (2) Alleyne School, by £154; (3) Coleridge School, by £207, (4) Parry School, by £205; (5) Alexandra School by £310; (6) The Boys' Foundation, £457; (7) The Girls' Foundation, by £206; (8) St. Michael's Girls' by £668; (iii) FIRST GRADE EDUCATION, Item 21, Grant-in-aid:— (1) Harrison College, by £2,047; (2) Lodge School, by £1,128; (3) Queen's College by £1,061; to pay a cost of living allowance from the 1st April, 1946, and until the 31st March, 1947, to

- (a) teachers of First and Second Grade Schools
- (b) teachers of First and Second Grade Schools who retired at any time between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this Resolution in circumstances rendering them eligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity; and
- (c) teachers who were transferred from the full time service of the Crown in this Island to the full time service of the Crown elsewhere between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this Resolution;

at the rates, and subject to the terms, conditions and exceptions set out in the Schedule to the Resolution.

A Bill to amend the Governor's Act, 1890—5.

A Bill to encourage the Hotel Industry in this Island.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, Item 41, Conferences, by £375.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Resolution to place the sum of £1,100 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of supervising the weighing of canes during the 1947 crop.

Mr. MOTTLEY gives notice of a Bill to authorize the Vestry of St. Michael to buy a property adjoining the Parochial Buildings, Cheapside, Bridgetown for the purpose of establishing a Food Centre.

QUESTIONS

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

(1) Is Government aware that the country shopkeepers are dissatisfied with the margin of profit allowed them by the Competent Authority, especially in view of the high cost of freight and the increase in their staffs made necessary by the 42-hour week imposed by the Shops Closing Order.

(2) Will Government investigate the position and make such adjustments as may be necessary to produce an equitable arrangement?

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

1. Is Government aware that the fares charged for conveying passengers to and from ships by boats in Carlisle Bay are not in keeping with present day standards?

2. If the answer is "Yes", will Government give immediate consideration to the increasing of such fares?

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

Is Government aware that special permits have been granted by the Department of Highways and Transport to Concessionaires from Bridgetown for the purpose of running excursions in St. Joseph, while St. Joseph Concessionaires have been refused permits for a similar purpose?

If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government please say why?

SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to hand in the Report of the Select Committee appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 30/1946 relating to the supply of rice from British Guiana.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, A Bill to amend the Governor's Act, 1890-5 is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, a Bill to encourage the Hotel Industry in this island is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. GALE, a Bill to authorize the Vestry of St. Michael to buy a property adjoining the Parochial Buildings, Cheapside, Bridgetown, for the purpose of establishing a Food Centre is read a first time.

RICE AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH GUIANA

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—Before the Orders are called, I want to ask leave to move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor embodying the terms of the Report of the Select Committee which was laid a few moments ago with regard to the Rice Agreement

with British Guiana. I hope, Sir, that the House will grant the concession because this is a matter of extreme urgency. We have to notify the B. G. Government by the end of this month of our acceptance of the Agreement, so I hope that the House will grant me leave to move the passing of this Address before we proceed to any further business.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: The Address which I am moving reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 30/1946.

The House concur that an Agreement should be entered into with the Rice Marketing Board of British Guiana by the Government of Barbados for the supply of rice on the conditions set forth in the Report of the Trinidad Conference and Your Excellency's Message above mentioned.

As I said just now, it is of extreme urgency that we pass this Address to-day. This Conference met in Trinidad since November last year and I think the failure to give the House more time to consider the Report of the Select Committee is really the fault of the Select Committee themselves. A meeting of that Committee should have been held on Monday last but there was no quorum. Honourable members have already had time to consider the Governor's Message and I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that. The Select Committee accept the terms suggested in His Excellency's Message. Two meetings of the Committee were convened but unfortunately only one was held. The Committee went carefully into the matter and although we consider that we are being compelled to take a larger quantity of the super rice than we will require, yet on enquiry we have found that our representatives took that point up at the Conference in Trinidad and had to accept it. As the senior member for St. Philip said, this Agreement is to be entered into by the end of this month; so we have only three days more and that is why the honourable member has asked the House to pass this Address to-day. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Philip to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. CRAWFORD: As Your Honour pleases.

LEAVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF ORDERS.

Mr. CRAWFORD asks for and is granted leave to take charge of the Orders standing in the name of the senior member for St. Joseph.

COST OF LIVNIG ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip,—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—

Resolved that with effect from the 1st April, 1946, and until the 31st March, 1948, a cost of living allowance be paid to

- (a) officers in the full time service of the Government who receive their salaries from the Public Treasury,
- (b) officers who retired from the full time service of the Government at any time between the 1st of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this Resolution in circumstances rendering them eligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity, and
- (c) officers who were transferred from the full time service of the Crown in this island to the full time service of the Crown elsewhere between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this Resolution.

at the rates, and subject to the terms, conditions and exceptions, set out in the schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: This Resolution, Sir, is for the purpose of providing a cost of living allowance to officers in the full time service of the Government who receive their salary from the Treasury, to officers who retired from the full time service of the Government at any time between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of the Resolution in circumstances rendering them eligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity, and to officers who were transferred from the full time service of the Crown in this Island to the full time service of the Crown elsewhere between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of the Resolution. The rates of the allowances for the various categories of employees in the Civil Service are set out in the schedule and I would like to say that this Resolution is submitted to-day, pending the final scheme for consolidation which is calculated to remove existing anomalies in the Service and to secure any essential re-organization. I can assure honourable members that acceptance of this Resolution to-day does not necessarily mean that the House has committed itself to accepting the further grading of the salaries of Civil Servants at the same level as contained in this Resolution. The rates, as set out in the schedule, are as follows:—

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

I think honourable members are aware, Sir, that the proposals, as at first put up by the Whitley Council which is more or less the Trade Union of the Civil Service, were to the effect that these rates should be on a slightly higher basis. The Whitley Council asked that there should be an allowance of 50% on the first £100, 30% on the second £100, 25% on the third £100, 20% on the fourth £100, 15% on the 5th £100, and 10% on the sixth £100; in other words, Sir, the only difference between the rates contained in this Resolution and those suggested by the Whitley Council is a matter of 10% less on the first £100. If the proposals put forward by the Whitley Council had been accepted, the additional annual expenditure of the colony would have been over £96,000 and after excluding the war bonus, the amount would have been £76,000. The present proposals, on the other hand, will result in an additional expenditure of about £81,000 a year and after excluding the war bonus the net

additional cost will be in the vicinity of £61,000 a year. I think, Sir, that honourable members will be gratified to learn that if we pass this Resolution to-day the ratio of the total cost of the Civil Establishment to the revenue of the colony will be about 24 per cent. This is somewhat below the level of pre-war years. Up to 1939, the ratio of the cost of the Civil Establishment to the revenue of the colony was something like 33.9 per cent; so that I think there is cause for satisfaction, on the score that the revenue of the colony has increased so appreciably, that we shall be able to accord this considerable increase to our Civil Servants and at the same time decrease the ratio of the cost of the Civil Establishment to the revenue of the island. It is stated in the schedule that these rates are not applicable to the Governor, to persons who are members of the Police Force or who retired from the Police Force on or after the 1st day of April, 1946, to Government servants and unestablished staff whose salaries were adjusted under Resolution No. 64/1946 or who retired on or after the 1st day of April, 1946, and there are one or two other minor exceptions. But I think it is important that I should emphasize that this Resolution does not apply to either policemen or members of the subordinate unestablished staff because their rates of pay and war bonus were consolidated less than three or four months ago. There has been, of course, a slight increase in the cost of living since then but the Government to-day is paying attention to the affording of a cost of living allowance to only those members in the Service who, so far, have not had their salaries and war bonus consolidated under a comprehensive scheme.

Now there has been, Sir,—it is a fairly open secret—a little dissatisfaction on the part of the members in the junior grades with these proposed rates. It is felt, Sir, that those in the higher brackets of the Government Service are receiving, perhaps, more attention than those in the lower grades. I want to remind the House that these proposals have been accepted by the Whitley Council which is more or less the Trade Union of the Civil Service and I take it for granted that all sections of the Service are adequately represented on the Whitley Council but it does not necessarily follow that anything the Whitley Council recommends or anything the Government agrees to on the basis of a recommendation by the Whitley Council will be like the laws of the Medes and Persians. As a matter of fact later on to-day I hope we shall be considering a further Resolution to provide an increase in the rates of pay for members of the unestablished staff whose salaries and conditions of work apparently deserve more attention than was given to them when in September last we consolidated their salaries and cost of living allowances. For instance, I refer to the lighthouse keepers who last year got an increase of only \$2.00 per month; their case has been reconsidered by the Whitley Council and the House will be asked to pay some further attention to it. I said that in order to show this: if those members in the junior ranks of the Civil Service feel that their claim to be first and foremost in this matter of a cost of living allowance has been overlooked, I submit that it is up to them to take the matter up as strongly as possible with the appropriate Division of the Whitley Council but in explanation of the Government's proposals it may be said that members in the lower ranks of the Civil Service who are working for less than £200 a year were given, throughout the years of war, a war bonus in order to assist

them in meeting the increase in the cost of living and that war bonus now stands at 30 per cent. On the other hand, the Civil Servants who receive salaries of £200 a year and over have been given no war bonus or cost of living allowance to enable them to tide over the increase in the cost of living; so that if some honourable members feel that we are paying too much attention to-day to the needs of the Civil Servants in the brackets of £200 a year and upwards I want them to bear in mind that it is felt with justification that these persons in the higher brackets have had no attention paid to them and have been given no assistance whatever to meet the rise in the cost of living. As a matter of fact I am assured by people who ought to know that if we pass this Resolution to-day and provide these allowances for these Civil Servants, almost every cent will go towards the liquidation of debts accumulated during the period in which they received no assistance to enable them to meet the rise in the cost of living. And if we fail to pass the Resolution I am further assured that the bailiffs (Laughter) are waiting at the doorsteps of some of these unfortunate people. I think, Sir, that, on examination, it will be found that it was not an easy matter to do very much better within the limit of the amount of money which it was felt the Government should be allowed to spend on these increases and I hardly need to remind the House that if this Resolution is not passed to-day and there is any proposal for increasing any of the rates in any brackets, there is going to be considerable delay because the matter will again have to be referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The scheme, Sir, I submit, is not 100 per cent. perfect but I am told that it is the best that can be done in the circumstances. Having regard to what I said earlier about the proportion of the expenditure on the Civil Establishment to our financial position I think that (1) we can afford these increases and (2) that the people to whom they apply are more or less deserving of them. With regard to the Secondary School Teachers, earlier in the day I gave notice of a Resolution, which I sincerely hope will meet with the same easy passage next week as this will meet with to-day, to provide increases for them on the same basis. I beg, Sir, without any further ado to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—Although I sympathize with the honourable introducer of this Resolution—the Deputy Leader of the House—and his desire that it should have any easy passage in this House, yet it would hardly be fair to other honourable members if we do not afford ourselves of the opportunity of even analysing the Resolution by formally moving, as I do now, that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Resolution.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The question that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Resolution is put and resolved in the affirmative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes. Mr. RAMSAY, Dr. WILSON, Messrs. BRANCKER, SMITH, COX, MAPP, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. GARNER, MOTTLEY, and HAYNES.—10.

Noes. Messrs. BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, and WILKINSON.—6.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—This Resolution is imperfect principally because of its omissions. Now, Sir, I observe the warning or what is tantamount to a threat by the honourable introducer that if we attempt to-day—

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is a threat; it is an admonition.

Mr. BRANCKER: That word is so long, Mr. Chairman, that I think it is easier for me to say “warning.” I observe the warning, Sir, of the honourable introducer of this Resolution that if we attempt to postpone the consideration of it to-day it will mean considerable delay in the eventual passage of the Resolution. But, Sir, in spite of that warning—we realize that nothing can prevent us from making it retrospective—it may be necessary for us to risk that considerable delay about which we have been admonished, in the hope that we may secure what some of us consider to be something more adequate for the parties concerned. In the “terms, conditions and exceptions” which are mentioned in the schedule, paragraph 1 (b) states that no allowance shall be payable under this Resolution to “persons who are members of the Police Force or who retired from the Police Force on or after the 1st day of April, 1946.” Well, Sir, so far as I can gather, when we dealt with the Police (Amendment) Act last year the Police were made to understand at the time that there will be no bonus for them because there will be no bonus for anybody else; that it was proposed to abolish the cost of living bonus altogether. That is what they understood and they accepted that decision. But when this Resolution comes providing a cost of living bonus for certain persons who draw their salaries from the Public Treasury and the Police find that they are an exception to it, they are wondering and asking if it is not felt that the cost of living increase applies to them as well as to other persons who are now receiving remuneration from the Public Treasury. Then sub paragraph (c) of paragraph (1) of the “terms, conditions and exceptions” states that no allowance shall be payable under this Resolution to “Government servants and unestablished staff whose salaries were adjusted . . .”—that is a very nice word; if a person gets, perhaps, an increase of a shilling or a \$1.00 in his wages or salary, it is considered that his wages or salary is adjusted—“under Resolution No. 64/1946 or who retired on or after the 1st day of April, 1946.” Now, Sir, the unestablished staff, I take it, includes persons like casual labourers employed by the Department of Highways and Transport, and the Public Works Department, whose princely salary is \$1.12 per day, inclusive of everything, after adjustment has been made. Can you tell me why it is that this cost of living allowance should not be applicable to them and why they should be one of the exceptions to this rule? After all, Mr. Chairman, you will appreciate what those persons who are getting \$1.12 per day work for in 5½ days; some of them have other persons dependent on them and it is impossible to conceive of their not being in the direst need of a cost of living allowance to enable them to meet the increased cost of living; by the way most of us who buy groceries daily cannot help smiling at the Government's figures which place this increased cost of living at 200 per cent. How can you expect members of the unestablished staff in the employ of this by-no-means impecunious Government of Barbados to subsist on

\$1.12 per day which comes to \$6.16 a week of 5½ days? You tell them blandly "Your salaries were adjusted under Resolution No. 64/1946 and you come under one of the exceptions in the schedule to this Resolution which provides a cost of living allowance to certain Government servants." We go on, Mr. Chairman. There are in the lowest grade not mentioned in this schedule, a certain number of persons who, as the honourable introducer of this Resolution has had to concede, are not entirely satisfied; there is dissatisfaction among the junior grade of the Service and that dissatisfaction, I understand, is acute. Now what is to be done in their case? The senior member for St. Philip says that they can take the matter up with the Whitley Council. It has been said that too much attention has been paid to the officers in the higher brackets but I do not contend that too much attention has been paid to those officers. My contention is that too little attention has been paid to the officers in the lower brackets. My contention has been and will always be that in considering adjustments of salaries, you must start from the bottom and if when you get near the top you find that there is nothing left which you can spare, then extend your sympathy to those at the top and say to them "Hard luck, old boys; you will be able to get by next time; you must grin and bear it." Let us start from the bottom. Let the Whitley Council start from the bottom and realize how essential a part of the machinery of Government the subordinates are. Do not let the idea gain ground that only the senior officers are necessary. Everybody is necessary. A wheel is no more necessary for a vehicle than a battery nor is a battery any more necessary than an engine. You must have them all. Do not let the juniors feel that the idea is that they must wait their time. And, after all, wait on what? I have no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that you have gone into this matter even more carefully than I have done and you will have found that it is proposed to give a 40 per cent cost of living allowance to those who now receive a war bonus of 30 per cent. Well now, that is not, as some people think, an increase of 40% on what is now being paid. You take away the 30%, war bonus and give a cost of living allowance of 40% which means only a 10 per cent. increase. In some instances, employees in the lower grades will receive an increase of 10/- per month while those in the higher grades will receive as much as \$56 per month more to enable them to pay the same six cents per pint which the man who gets an increase of 10/- per month pays for rice. I quite realize that when you are working on a percentage basis, the figures in connection with the big salaries must look very overwhelming when compared with those in the small brackets and that is why when you are working on the percentage basis you must make sure that the percentage is substantial in the lower brackets. Now, Sir, is this 40% what was recommended? I gather from the senior member for St. Philip that the Whitley Council recommended 50%. Well, they are not as bad as I thought they were. No one would suggest that 50% is other than perfectly reasonable and yet even that has been whittled down to 40%. Of course, it may not be perhaps fair to the Council if they were charged with the whittling down of that percentage. A number of the members in the Service seem to think that the Professor is to some extent responsible for it and one hears some of them suggesting that either

the letter "T" should be inserted after the fourth letter of the gentleman's name or the letter "M" be substituted for the first letter "B" of his name. But whoever is responsible—whether it be the learned Professor or the Government—they fail to appreciate the acute needs of the men at the bottom of the economic ladder who are in the employment of the Government of this country. In the commercial life of the island, the employers are contemplating adjusting the salaries of their junior clerks and fixing them at a minimum of \$40 per month. Well now, what encouragement do they get to do that, when they learn that in the employment of the prosperous Government of this country we have people who, with a cost of living bonus, will only be getting \$32.62 per month and who have been recommended for an increase of 50% by the Council of their Union but the Government has sent down a Resolution providing for a 40% increase? This, Mr. Chairman, is not good enough. I am sure that we in this House would gladly support a Resolution providing not for a 50% but a 60% increase for the juniors in the employment of the Barbados Government. When considering an increase for these people, it is better not to think of it in terms of a percentage but to look at in relation to the amount of money which they will be receiving. Say to them "You are receiving \$30 now and we are going to give you an increase which will bring you \$50 per month." Do not say that you are going to give them a 40% increase and when you work out the percentage you find that it comes to only 10/- a month. In spite of the admonition about the considerable delay which will take place I propose to move that this Resolution be referred back to the Government with the view of having further consideration given to the increases in the two lowest grades in the schedule and also to afford it another opportunity of considering the "terms, conditions, and exceptions," especially in relation to (b) and (c) I move, Sir, that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. I feel that we will be justified in affording the Executive Committee another opportunity of giving a better deal to those in the lower brackets. The Resolution will be operated retrospectively and another week's delay will make no difference. If we send it back to the Executive Committee the Executive Committee will realize that we, as the House, will be prepared to pass a greater increased rate of pay for the junior branch of the Service—those who are right at the bottom of the scale—and then the Executive Committee, enforced by that knowledge, will have no hesitation in making the necessary adjustments in this schedule, so that justice may be done not only to those in the higher brackets but to everyone who is included in this schedule.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman,—It's only a short time ago that I shook the dust off my feet in the lowest bracket of the Civil Service and entered another sphere of activity; but although I may have forsaken that branch of the Service I certainly have not forgotten them. While I agree with many of the remarks of the junior member for St. Lucy I cannot agree to his motion for the postponement of this Resolution. I look upon this Resolution as a temporary Measure; in fact, the deputy leader of the House has told us that it is a temporary Measure, and the Whitley Council has been most careful to point that out. For that reason, Sir, I cannot support the honourable member's motion.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no motion before the Committee; it has not been seconded.

Mr. MAPP: I do not regard this Resolution as a luxurious financial arm-chair in which Government servants can sit back in ease and comfort and provide themselves with those requirements which are necessary if they are to live up to the demands of the present-day standard of living. I desire to say most emphatically that the Government should have sent down the proposals which were put forward by the Whitley Council. Even a 50% increase for those in the lowest bracket is small. These proposals, Mr. Chairman, show one thing; they show that the 1939 rates are regarded as a norm to be increased by just adding a percentage but that idea is entirely out-moded to-day; that idea is fantastic because 50% of 0 is 0 while 10% of 300 is a great deal. Actually, Mr. Chairman, these proposals amount to this: A Civil Servant receiving £50 per annum will receive, with a bonus of 40%, an increase of \$8 per month. Can anyone tell me that that will amount to very much as far as the present day standard of living is concerned? A Civil Servant receiving £100 per annum as basic salary will receive, with a 40% bonus, an increase of \$16 a month. Suppose he is a married man, can anyone tell me that that increase will amount to very much in these days? I am very glad to see that the Civil Servants in the £200 bracket will get an increase of \$28 per month; they have not been receiving any bonus before and this additional amount will be very useful to them. But it is ludicrous to think that a man with a family can exist to-day on £200 per annum. The Civil Servant who receives £300 per annum will, at the rate of 31 2/3%, receive an increase of \$38 per month; the Civil Servant who is receiving £400 per annum will, at the rate of 28 1/4%, receive an increase of \$46 per month; the Civil Servant who is receiving £500 per annum will, at the rate of 26%, receive an increase of \$52 per month; and the Civil Servant who is receiving £600 per annum will at the rate of 23 1/3%, receive an increase of \$56 per month. I agree with the junior member for St. Lucy that the increases in the higher brackets are not too large because if the standard of living has been increased for those in the lower brackets it has also increased in respect of those in the higher brackets and these up to now have not had any increase in their salaries. These proposals prove one thing, that is, that the basic salaries must be changed and I can assure the junior member for St. Lucy that the Whitley Council has already assured the Civil Servants, especially those in the lowest brackets, that their basic rates of pay will be changed in the very near future and I hope that this Government will give any proposals to that end its serious consideration and will view them very favourably. May I go on to say, Sir, that I hope, too, that such people like domestic servants and many other people who were very faithful to these Civil Servants during the war years will benefit from these increases and this cost of living allowance and back pay. Civil Servants, as a rule, always look for some snag in any scheme which the Government sends to the Legislature on their behalf and I observe a very big snag in these proposals; it appears in sub-paragraph (b) of the Resolution which states that this cost of living allowance will be paid to "officers who retired from the full time service of the Government at any time between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this Resolution in circumstances

rendering them eligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity." I cannot understand why civil servants who gave service to the Government and resigned in circumstances which rendered them ineligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity should not be given this back pay. This reminds me, Mr. Chairman, that when a short time ago, the elementary school teachers were given increases and back pay, those teachers who had resigned and gone to Curacao were not given their back pay. Why? They had already given their services and why should they not have been given their back pay? Why should Civil Servants or teachers or subordinates who have resigned be ineligible for back pay, simply because they resigned in circumstances which rendered them ineligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity? As I say, there must be some snag in whatever scheme the Government puts forward on behalf of its employees. I can see no reason why this Government should not adopt a more liberal policy towards its employees and I look forward to the time when the Civil Servants will see government proposals for increasing the basic rates of pay in the highest to the lowest brackets.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—Whatever the Whitley Council may recommend, it is still the duty of the honourable members of this House to let the Government know the true state of affairs and where there is existing dissatisfaction. (Hear, hear). While I do not agree with the junior member for St. Lucy that this Resolution should be postponed I believe that any constructive criticism which is offered will pave the way for Government's revision of the salaries of Civil Servants as a whole. Mr. Chairman, what is done in connection with this Resolution will be a guide for all the parochial bodies and quite a number of private employers in this matter of a cost of living allowance. A civil servant who is at present drawing \$39 per month will, in truth and in fact, receive only \$3 per month more under these proposals and while I agree that persons in the higher brackets should also receive this cost of living allowance, yet there must be cause for dissatisfaction when a Civil Servant who gets \$240 a month will receive an additional \$56 per month and the Civil Servant who gets \$39 per month will receive only \$3 per month additional. According to the senior member for St. Philip, quite a number of these employees have already either spent this money or the bailiffs will be waiting at their doors for it and if that applies to the people in the higher brackets, then according to the process of reasoning those people in the lower brackets must already be in prison. (Laughter). I, Sir, should have preferred to see a proposal from the Government for the consolidation of the salaries of its employees but I am told by the senior member for St. Philip that it was a question of time and that it was impossible to get a proposal of that nature ready for presentation to the Legislature at this time. I am going to support this Resolution but I hope that the Government or the Whitley Council or whoever is responsible for so doing will appreciate the fact, when they are dealing with basic salaries, that these percentages carry the same sound but do not have the same value. I hope that they will give very much consideration to people in the lower brackets, especially the elementary school teachers, some of whom now receive \$16 and \$18 per month respectively after being qualified to teach in the schools. Mr. Chairman, I know that I will not be permitted to speak on that point now but I feel very strongly upon it and the Government will be well advised to see to

it that persons who enter the Service in the lower brackets are given greater consideration in the matter of increases in their basic salaries.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to second the motion of the junior member for St. Lucy. Sir, I feel that there is a number of things wrong in connection with this Resolution. I am very sorry that the Leader of the House is not here because there are some very scathing things I want to say but as my colleague happens to be the Leader to-day I am sorry I cannot say what I would like to say. (Laughter). Be that as it may I feel, Sir, that what happened in the past when the Conservative element was in power is happening now that there is a Labour Government and it seems to me that whether it is a Labour Government or a Conservative Government, you cannot get things done; that is the point on which I want to speak. People in the higher brackets who receive £600 a year are well considered, while people in the lower brackets who are not getting anything to speak of are not. Everybody is saying that the people in the higher brackets are more responsible and should be well paid but I submit that when a man in the higher bracket sends to the grocery to buy a pound of flour, it costs him 7 cents and when the man in the lower bracket sends to buy the same pound of flour it also costs him 7 cents! We have been thinking too much of the big man and too little of the small man. We have not been doing things proportionately. We go too far East and then we cannot go equally as far West. I expected more from the present Labour set-up, but I see now that there is no difference. I am here for justice and fairplay to all the people of Barbados. When it comes to exempting the policemen from receiving this cost of living allowance I feel strongly about that because I was one of the first members who got up in this House and said that the policemen and the fire brigaden should have been given a cost of living bonus. It was said then "Oh, no; we are not giving the policemen a cost of living bonus we are increasing their basic salaries." What is this now but a cost of living bonus and why should the policemen not share in it? Since Superintendent Calver made his report, the cost of living has gone up and we owe it to the policemen and the fire brigaden who risk their lives for us to give them something tangible. You look to the policemen to guard your houses and to the fire brigaden to rescue you and your families as soon as fire breaks out but when you come to share money you say "Oh, no; we do not think of those fellows." It is unfair. I do not see why the policemen and the fire brigaden should not be included. Now, that brings me to this point. This Government should put forward a comprehensive scheme in connection with matters of this nature and if they did that, they would not be so severely criticized. If you are going—

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt the honourable member but I would refer him to sub-paragraph (3) of the addendum which states:—"It is proposed that a cost of living allowance at the same rates should be granted to Secondary School Teachers and a Resolution to provide the necessary funds will be submitted for consideration."

Mr. GARNER: That is specific, Sir. That refers to the Secondary School Teachers but I was speaking about the policemen and the fire brigaden, who, I consider, should be included in this Resolution. Now, Sir, there is something else I want to say. Paragraph 5 of the "terms, conditions and exceptions" of this Resolution states "No officer shall receive an allowance under this Resolution at

a rate of more than £140 a year." If we are going to carry this to its logical conclusion, an officer will be getting £140 a year more while some of the juniors do not receive £140 a year as a salary. Give those officers in the lower brackets a little more; that is the way I feel about the matter. I may be wrong. I do not expect everybody to see my point of view but that is how I feel about it. The Government has always taken into account the Heads of Departments who already receive big salaries and has always neglected those in the lower brackets. I say that is a bad policy and I only hope that this Labour Government will do something more tangible than what the Conservatives did in the past.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No." I think the "Noes" have it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think, Sir, that if at this point I can clear up a misapprehension it will do a great deal to eradicate some of the opposition which honourable members are inclined to offer against this Resolution. Now, in the first instance, let us make up our minds clearly on this point: this is not a cost of living allowance. The junior member for St. Lucy and the junior member for St. Philip have endeavoured to emphasize the point that we passed a Resolution consolidating the war bonus and the rates of pay of the subordinate and unestablished staff and of policemen and that we made it clear, at the time, that nobody would get a war bonus. Now, what has happened is this. In October last year, the Whitley Council appointed a sub-committee to do for the Civil Servants what has already been done for the unestablished and subordinate staff and the policemen, that is, to consolidate their war bonus and basic rates of pay. It would take not less than two years for that Committee to report; it has a big task to perform; it has first and foremost to remedy all the anomalies in the Service and also to concern itself with the re-organization of the Service. What we are doing to-day is giving the Civil Servants an interim allowance until such time as the Committee of the Whitley Council has reported on the proposal for consolidation along the lines already agreed to for the policemen and the subordinate and unestablished staff. If that is borne in mind, it will be seen that we are not starting any new principle to-day when we grant an interim allowance to members of the Civil Service. We are not breaking faith with what we said last year. All we are doing is taking full cognizance of the fact that the cost of living has gone up and that during the two years while the sub-committee of the Whitley Council is working on the consolidation scheme, these Civil Servants will have to face bailiffs and the prison, perhaps, in consequence of accumulated debts which their salaries do not afford them to liquidate. I do not think that if that point is borne in mind, there will be further reason for continued opposition. I was very glad to hear the junior member for St. Lucy say that he was satisfied with the proposed rates for the higher brackets because if we adopted the suggestion of the Whitley Council and agreed to increase the rates for the lowest brackets by 50 per cent, it would automatically mean that we are going to increase the rates in the higher brackets, just as is done in the case of the income-tax. If, for instance, we were to increase the rate on the first £100 by 50%, the rate on £600, instead of being 23½% as it is now, would be something like 25%; therefore, if the honourable member is satisfied with the rates in the higher brackets I do

not see how he can expect us to raise the rate in the lowest bracket. As the Junior member for St. Thomas has pointed out, the basic rates of pay in the lower grades are too low. I am not saying so on behalf of the Government. I make that statement in my private capacity as a member for St. Philip in this House. I think that everybody will concede that considering the present cost of living the basic rate of pay for people who enter the Government Service is too low; so what we shall have to do in the future is, to increase the basic rate and I have no doubt that the Committee which is now working on the consolidation scheme will concern itself with recommendations along those lines. In the meantime we have to bear in mind that for seven years these Servants have had no increase in basic salaries; some have had no cost of living allowance and we are trying to do for them what has been done for others in the past.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—The honourable member who has just sat down gave the explanation that I wanted to give but I want to take this opportunity to reply to the junior member for St. Philip. First of all, I had a father who taught me to tell him he was wrong if I thought he was wrong. I do not care who the Leader of this House may be; if he was present or absent, if he was my brother and I thought he was wrong I would tell him so. I wish honourable members would pay more heed to the utterances that fall from their lips in this House. I have been approached by several policemen who thought that they should be included in this scheme and I felt it my duty, as a responsible member of this community, to point out to those policemen where they were wrong and not to cater to their whims and wishes. It was made definitely clear, when the salaries of the policemen were considered by this House, that there was a consolidated increase in their basic salaries and that the war bonus was removed. As the senior member for St. Philip has just said, I was told by some of the officials of the Whitley Council that it will take a long time to compute the basic salaries of these Civil Servants; hence this adjustment is put forward. That, as I said, was my reason for rising to speak but I want to repeat that members of this House are in the responsible position of leading others in the community and I hope that that duty will be observed.

Mr. COX: There are only one or two points I would like to raise. The first is in support of the remarks made by the junior member for St. Thomas in connection with sub-paragraph (b) of the Resolution which states "officers who retired from the full time service of the Government at any time between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this Resolution in circumstances rendering them eligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity." What I gather from that is that officers who more or less retired during that period are not eligible for consideration in this Resolution. Well, Sir, that is wrong in principle; it is unkind, unreasonable and unjust. The Government ought to set the example in matters of this sort; it is simply asking other employers to rob people of what they have already worked for. These people have been working from the 1st April, 1946, and all those who may have retired in September or October are entitled to this back pay because they have already worked for it. I feel that this Resolution should be referred back to the Executive Committee so that they may know how we feel in respect of this sub-paragraph (b). One further

point. I agree with the explanation given by the senior member for St. Philip because I, like other honourable members, have had the privilege of talking with some of the people whom this matter interests and I have been told that it is only a palliative, so to speak; that it will take quite a long time to prepare a salary scale and that the reason why this proposal is put forward is to help the Civil Servants. I have also had to tell members of the Police Force that this proposal really does not concern them and that as soon as a salary scale is approved for the Civil Servants, this cost of living bonus will automatically go out of existence. I should like to make a further comment and it is this. I think it would have been wise on the part of the Government to have stopped at the salary of £500 per annum and put the 10 per cent, which is given to salaries of £600 on the first £100 of salary or part thereof. They should have given a 50% cost of living bonus on the first £100, as was suggested by the Whitley Council, to the people who need it most and then carry on with 30% on the second £100, 25% on the third £100, 20% on the fourth £100 and 15% on the fifth £100, stopping there.

Mr. BRANCKER: I have one brief word to add to what I have already said. So far as the junior member for St. Thomas is concerned, he says that we must regard this as a temporary expedient whilst the Whitley Council is working on the consolidation scheme. Well, Sir, that optimism is an optimism which I myself, when I was a new member of this House, might have shared but after a certain number of years' experience in this Chamber as the result of dealings with the Executive and the Government of Barbados I have ceased to be an optimist. In paragraph 2 of the addendum it is stated *inter alia*:—"The allowance will be payable from the 1st April, 1946, until the 31st March, 1948, by which date the Government hopes to be in a position to submit proposals for consideration. The allowance will not, however, create any claim to ultimate salary grading at the same level." Well I will not repeat the time worn saying "While the grass is growing the horse is starving" but should just like to point out that the Government hopes, in 1948, to be in a position to submit proposals for the consideration of the salaries of Civil Servants. There is only one other point. If I understand the Deputy Leader of the House correctly, he said that this is an interim allowance. May I commend to him the wording of this Resolution which is before us! It says:—"Resolved that with effect from the 1st day of April, 1946, and until the 31st day of March, 1948, a cost of living allowance to be paid to (a), (b) and (c)." And lastly, the senior member for St. Thomas said that it was made definitely clear, when the salaries of the policemen were discussed, that they would not be getting anything more by way of a war bonus or cost of living allowance. Yes, Sir; that was made plain but it was also made plain that all cost of living allowances would be finished with. Now that there is this proposal to give a cost of living allowance, the policemen are saying "Since you are not abolishing the idea of an allowance to assist in meeting the cost of living, put us in."

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I did not intend to speak again on this Resolution but the senior member for St. Thomas made certain remarks and I think, Sir, that in order to even up the Record I should say something before this Resolution is passed. It is very nice to talk about what one's father or mother taught one to say or not to say but I would like very much to tell the honourable mem-

ber that the people of St. Philip sent me here and it is not what his father taught him that matters but what the people of St. Philip have sent me here to do.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am with some reluctance, Sir, going to vote for this Resolution to-day. My reluctance is due to the fact that I had been hoping that by this time we would have had before us a complete scheme for the re-grading of salaries; that is the whole trouble. As far back as 1945 I advised the Government to stop this war bonus and re-grade these salaries and I was told that it could not be done in time for the laying of the Estimates. I presume, Sir, that the Estimates for 1947-48 will be laid in about two weeks' time. A whole year has elapsed and we are now told that it is going to take another two years to complete this scheme. After all, we have increased the staff of the Colonial Secretary's Department. We have a Colonial Secretary, two Assistant Colonial Secretaries, an Assistant Secretary and probably very soon we shall have an Assistant to the Assistant Secretary and I certainly thought that they would have endeavoured to put before us a completed scheme before the 31st March, 1948. As you know, Sir, two or three classes of Government employees have had their salaries increased while the rest have been left alone and I do urge the Government to try and get the figures before us before the 31st March, 1948.

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

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Chairman reported the passing of this Resolution in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. GALE, the Resolution is passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. CRAWFORD asks for and is granted leave to take charge of Order No. 2 standing in the name of the senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip.—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. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. COX, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE TO INCREASE SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

Mr. CRAWFORD: This Resolution, Sir, is for the sum of £19,582 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the amounts provided under the various Heads of the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 to provide for increases in pay for the members of the staffs of the several Government Departments and Institutions mentioned in the schedule thereto attached for the period from the 1st April, 1946, to the 31st March, 1947. It is to provide funds to supplement Resolution No. 64 of the 27th September, 1946, by the amount of war bonus that has lapsed to the Treasury as a result of the passing of that expenditure. We have so recently dealt with that Resolution, Mr. Chairman, that it should be fresh in our minds but if there are any questions which honourable members would like to ask I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

The Schedule.

Head I, Governor, (a) personal emoluments, item 6, Two watchmen, £25, (b) Other Charges, item 11, Upkeep of Gardens, £33, total amount required £58, is read and agreed to.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Heads 2 to 41 inclusive of the schedule stand part of the Resolution.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—In respect of Head 23, (3) Lunatic Asylum, Item 9, thirty five Male attendants £402 and Item 13, Forty-five Female attendants £585 I want to give a word of warning. I believe that a Committee was appointed sometime ago to investigate affairs at the Mental Hospital. How far that Committee has progressed I do not know but I want to say that the state of affairs down there, so far as the attendants are concerned, is, to put it mildly, chaotic. I want to tell the Government that it is faced in the very near future with a sit-down strike if affairs at that hospital are not gone into immediately. As a result of the increase of pay which has been given to these attendants, it is felt that they should do work of a menial nature which they were not called upon to do before and as I have said, the state of affairs down there is chaotic. I also want to make a few remarks under Heads 32 and 34.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

On re-assembling,

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—There are no replies to any questions ready, and I am asking leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business.

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

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

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am not objecting to the suspension of the Rule, but I want to point out that the replies which I had asked to be printed and circulated are not yet to hand. I would suggest that the necessary steps be taken to have them printed and circulated forthwith. That is another argument in favour of having a Government printery.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will deal with that matter in future.

The question that Rule 61 (a) be suspended in order to resume Government Business was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply, we were considering a Resolution to place the sum of £19,582 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the amount provided under the various Heads of the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 to provide for increases in pay for the members of the

several Government Departments and Institutions mentioned in the Schedule attached to the Resolution for the period from the 1st April, 1946, to the 31st March, 1947. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas was speaking.

Dr. CUMMINS. Mr. Chairman, I was referring to Head XXXII of the Schedule, Item 34 (iii) Maintenance of Highways. It is felt by some members of the Staff of the Highways and Transport Department that, because they have got increases in their wages, they must do more work. I was told by three mason Foremen of the Department last Saturday week, that they were told by one of the senior Overseers that they are getting more money and they must do more work. These mason Foremen are now required to get their tools and work alongside of the men. Whereas they formerly laid out the work and supervised it, they tell me that now they also have to do clerical work at home at night. Because they are getting a few cents more, they must work alongside of the men! If they have to work alongside of the men, they must be relieved of some of their duties; they cannot lay out and supervise work and work alongside of the men at the same time. I want to let it be known that these things hurt the men both physically and spiritually and they will lead to intense dissatisfaction.

Mr. COX: I support the remarks which have been made by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas. I, too, would like to draw to the attention of the Government that the situation existing at the Lunatic Asylum is very tense, and if something is not done immediately, the Government can expect trouble at the Institution at any time. It has been reported to me that the attendants are being called upon to do things which they did not have to do in years gone by. I understand that whereas the inmates used to do a certain amount of cleaning, the attendants have to wallow in dirt and filth since their salaries have been increased. I have been told that already some of the attendants have tendered their resignations, and some are petitioning the Government with a view to having their grievances redressed. I am hoping that the Government will investigate the matter. As a matter of fact, it seems to me that there are a few people in every Department who need to be pushed out. Quite a lot of trouble is being created at that Institution owing to the lack of efficient people and people with understanding at the semi-head of affairs. I hope that the Government will immediately take steps to investigate the circumstances as have been explained in this House, and see that the grievances are redressed. I have been told that as a result of some carelessness on the part of some individual or individuals down there, a female attendant called Nurse is to be buried this afternoon. All this goes to show how serious the situation at the Lunatic Asylum is. I will go a little further and say that when the Committee which was appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message dealing with the increase of salary for the Matron—the honourable senior member for St. Thomas and I were members of the Committee—we recommended that the Government should take immediate steps to send some local person abroad for training to be able to undertake those duties. The Committee sat and reported since 1945 and nothing has been done up to now. The taxpayers have to face expenditure every now and then; they have to pay the passages to and fro when people have to be imported to perform these duties, and I feel that the time has come when some steps should be taken to train our local people to do this work.

I also want to make some comments in respect of the Department of Highways and Transport. I want to say at the beginning that this Department is being run all but satisfactory. Quite recently I have seen a number of rollers laid aside, the men have been turned off and it is difficult to find out what really happens at that Department. As a matter of fact, I have not seen things as they are to-day from the time the Department was formed, the entire Staff of the Department usually works at this time of the year. This time, from the month of November, or December a large number of employees was laid off. God knows how the Director runs the Department. As a matter of fact, he does not care whether the people eat or drink. You have people working in this Department for very small wages for a very long time, and when, at Christmas time, they should have a few shillings in order to provide for their families, they are laid off! I am prepared to move for the appointment of a Committee to investigate the working of this Department. I say that because I happen to know quite a lot of what is happening there. The people are dissatisfied with the existing conditions. The Director sits in his office and just writes; in fact, the amount of stationery which he requires is about 200% to 300% more than was formerly required. Whatever he does in the office is done on paper, and a lot of stationery is being wasted there. He seldom goes out to visit the various roads and to give instructions as to repairs. I repeat that this Department is run on a very unsatisfactory basis, and it would do the Government well to carry out an investigation there in order to have matters adjusted.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—I can heartily join in this chorus of criticism in respect of Heads XXIII and XXXII of this Schedule. I myself have been approached in connection with Head XXIII (1) (a) Lunatic Asylum, and had certain grievances among members of the Staff pointed out to me. Apparently, the principal source and seat of the trouble is the Matron. I have no idea as to who the Matron is, of what nationality, colour and race of religion she is, but I know that she is the source of any amount of dissatisfaction among the members of the Staff. The nurses are called upon to scrub in the patients' rooms and dormitories, and whenever they are remonstrated with for not performing such duties which should never be performed by qualified, professional people such as nurses, they are asked: "Did you not get increases in your salaries?" In other words, inasmuch as they have got a trivial increase in their salaries, they are required to perform menial duties which they had never to perform in the past. This is a matter which cannot be too strongly emphasised. Certain officials, because they are placed in authority for a brief while, play tricks such as to cause intense dissatisfaction to those who are under them. I hope that this will be permitted to see the light of day in the Press, otherwise a copy of the *Official Gazette* will be posted to the lady in question. The nurses are very dissatisfied, and although this latest order has been given some two months ago, they have not started to perform those duties yet. I have no hesitation in saying that there is no reason why the nurses should perform those duties, and I am sure that honourable members will uphold them in that. We have power to deal with the salary of the Matron, and I doubt whether she will be permitted to continue to draw this salary.

As regards Head XXXII of the Schedule, I am dealing with Item 23, Unestablished Staff, and Item 27, Marking and Maintenance of traffic lines and signs, road signs and bus stops. I cannot under-

stand how the position of these 'bus stops is arrived at, on routes of certain concessionaires you get as many 'bus stops as you like, however distant the route is, like the Top Rock route, Christ Church, and when you come to Paynes Bay and other routes, you do not get any 'bus stops. The honourable junior member for St. James will bear me out that years ago the Transport Board decided that some of the 'bus stops should be extended beyond the Walmer Lodge route to the St. James route. That has not been done for some reason or other, and there are some inconsiderate people on that route. The 'bus drivers are called upon to stop very frequently because the passengers will not get out of the 'buses and walk for reasonable distances so as to display some sympathy for the 'bus drivers. If the Director would refer to the Minutes of the meetings of the old Transport Board, he would see that it was decided that stops and signs were to be placed not only on the favourite concessionaires routes, but on the other routes as well. There is a feeling—and I hope that it is not justified—that certain concessionaires are very popular with the Officials of this Department while others are not. Certain routes are much looked after, while others are not considered at all. Only this morning a question was posed by an honourable member in connection with the treatment accorded a concessionaire in St. Joseph. As a matter of fact, there are only two concessionaires who happen to get this privileged treatment by the Department of Highways and Transport, and they are the concessionaires in respect of the General and the Leeward 'Bus Companies. In connection with the Unestablished Staff, I am still waiting to hear what is being done relative to putting these people on a weekly basis of employment so that they will get the benefit of their Bank Holidays, Sundays and other days. I thought that the Deputy Leader of the House would have thrown out some intimation as to some adjustment in the condition of employment of the unestablished staff of this Department. (A MEMBER: He says that he will do so). I understand that he says in a *otto voce* remark, thereby not committing the Government, that he will do so. (Mr. CRAWFORD: I am saying that I want to get the Resolution passed). You will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that it is manifestly unfair that if these meritorious and extremely hard working servants are unable to carry out their duties for one day, they are not paid for it. As a matter of fact, there is under investigation a case in which an employee who has been working for sixteen years in St. St. Michael is ill. Dr. Emtage says that he is ill, and the doctor does not know when this employee will be able to resume work, and this employee has been given half pay for two weeks and less than half pay for the third week! I hope that the necessary steps will be taken to see that this employee gets full justice, otherwise the matter will have to be brought before the House. I quite agree with the honourable senior member for St. Michael that the work of this Department is by the present Director measured, not in terms of the number of miles of road done, but by the realms of paper used in the office. If the great man at the top wants to find out what is happening at the bottom, he sends down a minute which goes down the rungs of the ladder and then the reply comes back to him by which time a lot of paper is used and time which should be better expended is wasted. That is the case instead of these people going out and building bridges and doing something so as to improve the roads along which people have to travel they

are parked off in an office doing unnecessary clerical work. I support the proposal that a Committee be appointed to go into the working of this Department before we pass the expenditure under this Head of the Estimates. We have warned them and have given them this short space of time to put their house in order before the Estimates come up for consideration.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not want to stifle any discussion on this Resolution, but I would like to remind honourable members that the longer we debate the Resolution, the longer will the unestablished staff remain unemployed. Work has been stopped for the last seven or eight weeks because there is no money with which to pay the staff, and if we continue to debate the Resolution and do not pass it, the staff will remain unemployed. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas, the honourable senior member for St. Michael and the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, all belong to the Government, and instead of giving ammunition to the opposition, all they had to do if there was anything wrong, was to see the Ministers for the respective Departments within their own Parties. (Cheers). I had hoped to-day to get through with several of these Resolutions. The Department of Highways and Transport has had to suspend work for some weeks because the money ran out.

Mr. BRANCKER: Why did it run out?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The money ran out because we passed a Resolution granting increased pay to the staff and now this money is required to pay them. There is another reason why there has been unemployment, and it is this; the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has been very insistent that the unestablished staff should be put on a permanent weekly basis of employment as soon as possible, and the moment you put your staff on a permanent weekly basis, you have to lay off some of the staff. We are trying to find work for all the casual labourers: I can assure honourable members that the Department is endeavouring to provide work on a permanent basis for nearly all those who are employed on a casual basis. As regards the Mental Hospital, the same remarks apply. If those honourable members who have spoken had taken the trouble to enquire from the Ministers of the Government as to the position, they would have been told that the Government is aware of the conditions down there, that a Committee is investigating the matter and that it will be settled on Friday. (A MEMBER: An unlucky day). The honourable junior member for St. John is a member of that Committee. Honourable members will remember that during last year the honourable member drew to the attention of the Government the necessity for appointing a Committee to investigate the conditions existing at the Institution, and honourable members can rest assured that conditions will be rectified and grievances redressed. I am sorry that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has made what is, to my mind, a very unfortunate reference. In his position as an elder statesman of this House, and having a full sense of responsibility, I am sure that the honourable member appreciates the necessity for not making in this Chamber remarks which might serve as an incendiary to the inflammable conditions which exist at the Mental Hospital. The honourable member has said that the Government is threatened with a sit-down

strike at this Institution. We are naturally grieved over the conditions existing there and will do everything to see that they are improved. We should not, to my mind, make it appear as if the Government is countenancing or viewing leniently anything like a sit-down strike at that Institution and the consequences which would result. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas will appreciate that his reference was untimely and unfortunate. I hope that in future we will do our best, especially those of us who are part and parcel of the Government, those of us who by reason of our length of service in this House are entitled to be regarded as elder statesmen, not to make any remarks which may be regarded as tolerance or support of any strange action on the part of any section of employees. I do not think that there is anything more that I need say in answer to the points which have been raised, except to say that I hope that none of my remarks will be construed as meaning that the Government is not at all times willing and eager to listen to criticisms which will assist in adopting a policy that will give satisfaction to all concerned. I hope that at least to-day, if no other day, honourable members will reduce their criticisms to a minimum and enable us to get some work done. (Laughter).

Dr. CUMMINS: I think that I should reply to the honourable senior member for St. Philip. I do not know the personnel of the Committee which was appointed to investigate the conditions existing at the Mental Hospital. I do not know the Ministers in charge of the various Departments, they have not been published and I am not informed. I would like to inform the honourable senior member for St. Philip that I have not added anything inflammatory to the situation which already exists at the Institution. I want to draw to the attention of the Government that the situation down there is tense. I have made reference to a sit-down strike; I am not saying this from any sense of pride, but I would like to say that I am the person who prevented that strike from coming off. (Mr. CRAWFORD: We are very grateful to you). Those are the facts, and I put them before the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The House is very grateful for the honourable member's action.

Mr. SMITH: I do not want to be accused of being one of those who are holding up this Resolution, but it has been drawn to my attention—and I am drawing it to the attention of the Government—that the country postmasters and postmistresses are very much dissatisfied in respect of their salaries which are less than those of the postmen. I am insistent in warning the Government not to sow the seed of discontent. Imagine a boss drawing less than his workman! You cannot get work done properly in that way. The Government must always keep their eyes open and watch the activities of those who are responsible for fixing these rates of pay. I warn the Government for the last time not to encourage such actions, and things can only be done satisfactorily by rendering to Caesar the things which are Caesar's. The time has come when there is widespread dissatisfaction among the people.

Mr. BLACKMAN: In reply to the honourable junior member for St. Joseph, I would like to say that the matter to which he has referred is receiving the attention of the Government. (Cheers).

Mr. CRAWFORD: For the benefit of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, I should like to say that when the Estimates shall have been pre-

sented to the House, he will be very gratified to know that some attempt is being made to include almost all of the casual employees of the Department of Highways and Transport on a permanent weekly basis. (Cheers).

The remaining 40 Heads of the Schedule were passed.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, the postponement of one, and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

The House resumed.

On motions of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each, the Resolution passed in Committee of Supply was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL CLERKS FOR WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—A Resolution to authorise His Excellency the Governor to appoint two additional Clerks to the Clerical Staff of the Clerical Service in accordance with the provisions of Section (3) (2) of the Clerical Service Act, 1944 (1944-27).

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution seeks to authorise the Governor, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 (2) of the Clerical Service Act, 1944 (1944-27,) to appoint two additional Clerks to the Clerical Staff of the Clerical Service. The addendum to the Resolution shows that the clerical work in the Cash and Accounting Branch of the Waterworks Department has considerably increased during the past ten years. There has been an increase of 6,400 in the number of Water Rate Bills rendered, an increase of 167 in the number of Meter Rate Bills rendered and the increase in the number of Plumbing Bills rendered is 2,036. The increase in the number of receipts given is 8,832 and the increase in the amount of revenue received is £12,947. It is now necessary for the Chief Clerk, the Steno-Typist and one other clerk to assist in the cash-receiving branch, and the object of this Resolution is to increase the number of clerks in this Department so as to put an end to that. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

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

The Resolution was passed.

ADDRESS Re SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS TO THE BELLE PUMPING STATION.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to Order No. 12 as the next Order of the Day.

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

The next Order of the Day was called:—To move the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee appointed to Reply to Message No. 2/1947 relating to an agreement with the British Union Oil Co. Ltd. for the supply of natural Gas to the Belle Pumping Station.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move the consideration and adoption of the Report of the Select Committee which was appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message No. 2/1947 relating to the supply of Natural Gas to the Belle Pumping Station. After careful consideration, the Committee has recommended the passing of the following Address in reply:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Acting Governor*

1. The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 2/1947 relating to the supply of natural gas to the Belle Pumping Station.

2. The House of Assembly concur that an Agreement should be entered into on the terms set forth in the Draft Agreement attached to Your Excellency's Message abovementioned.

I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: As Your Honour pleases.

**PROPOSED EXTENSION OF WATERWORKS
IN ST. PETER.**

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to approve of the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of Waterworks in the parish of St. Peter.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—From the Book of Reference it will be seen that the proposal is to lay a 3" diameter cast iron pipe from the existing main of the Department in Mile & Quarter along and under the public road to terminate near the Government Farm at Jerusalem for a distance of 400 yards and fix thereon a standpipe. The Experimental Station at Jerusalem is very badly in need of Government water supply. At present water has to be transported for a considerable distance, and even before it was decided to put the Experimental Station there, it had been claimed by the Parochial Authorities that a standpipe in this vicinity was essential. It is very important to have a standpipe there now that the Government has a big Stock Farm in that vicinity. Water facilities should be readily available and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: Speaking on this question of water—water is a necessity all over the island, but it is a very acute necessity in the parish of St. Peter. I say that with a full sense of responsibility and there is no doubt as to the veracity of such a statement. Going from Mile & Quarter towards the neighbouring plantations and villages you will find that there is a pipe which unfortunately passes through the plantations' land, and the tenants are moved from one place to the other—

At this stage, it being now 3.30 p.m. of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER stated that he had no other alternative than to call Private Members' Business.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 B

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) for the purpose of completing the consideration of this Resolution.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be suspended for the purpose of completing the consideration of this Resolution.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Rule is suspended for the purpose of dealing with this Resolution only.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I see that some honourable members are of opinion that we should also proceed with Order No. 11 on the Order Paper, and naturally, I shall be only too pleased to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the question for the suspension of the Rule was put, it was put with the understanding that the House should proceed with the consideration of this Resolution alone.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I only wanted to complete the consideration of this Resolution and then proceed with Private Members' Business, but there is agreement that we should deal with Order No. 11.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry but I have already explained the position, and we have to keep to that. The honourable member can move the suspension of the Rule again.

**PROPOSED EXTENSION OF WATERWORKS
IN ST. PETER**

Mr. SPEAKER: When the time for the consideration of Private Members' Business arrived, the House was considering a Resolution to approve of the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of Waterworks in the parish of St. Peter. The honourable junior member for St. Peter was speaking.

Mr. RAMSAY: I do not want to attach any blame to the Government for putting the water where it only serves the wealthy people, but I should like to draw to their attention that when you go past Mile & Quarter and Welch Town and go towards Indian Ground, the people up there cannot get any water during certain hours of the day. I understand that because of air pockets and the high levels, water cannot always be there. It is strange that the Government can put water at Jerusalem, which they only bought about two years ago for the purpose of establishing a big Farm, and the people of St. Peter have been suffering from the lack of water for the last six or seven years! They have seen the necessity for putting water only at Jerusalem! It seems to me that the Government is not particularly interested in human beings. I hope that the Government as it is at present constituted—I am not conveying the impression that they are incompetent to deal with their various tasks—but I am throwing out a warning to them to see that water is put at the school at Indian Ground and also at the various schools for the benefit of the children so that they can be brought up in a proper sphere of life and that they can appreciate a certain amount of cleanliness.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am looking forward to a similar Resolution being introduced in this House in respect of the parish of St. Lucy. I agree with the honourable junior member for St. Peter that nothing is more necessary than water. The Commissioners of Health for the parish of St. Lucy are

almost tired of making representations to the Government in connection with the extension of the water supply in that parish. I hope the honourable senior member for St. Philip will tell the Government that we are looking forward for similar Resolutions being introduced in this House in the near future in respect of the extension of the water supply in other parishes, not the least of them being the parish of St. Lucy.

Mr. MAPP: I rise to support what the honourable junior member for St. Peter and the honourable junior member for St. Lucy have said. The honourable junior member for St. Peter has made mention about air pockets, and I well remember that that was the reason given some time ago for the scarcity of water in certain districts. As far as I understand from certain experts, you can only get air where there is space. Something is wrong with the pressure and there is the necessity for increasing the pressure in those districts. The way in which the Waterworks is being run in certain districts has brought about that low pressure in those districts. I am not entirely satisfied as to this question of air pockets, and I hope that the Government will soon increase the pressure in those districts.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am hoping that what I am saying now will allay the apprehension of the honourable junior member for St. Peter. Some time ago the Government circularised all the Vestries of the island asking them for recommendations with regard to the erection of new standpipes in the respective parishes, and the Vestries have submitted reports. We hope that in the very near future the Manager of the Waterworks Department will submit concrete proposals along the lines of the recommendations made by the Parochial Authorities.

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

The Resolution was passed.

FURTHER SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B).

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (b) for the purpose of considering further Government Business.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be suspended for the purpose of considering further Government Business.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PLAN *Re* SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS TO THE BELLE PUMPING STATION.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 11 on the Order Paper as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John:—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—A Resolution to approve the attached plan marked "A" showing the route along which the British Union Oil Company Limited propose to lay mains or pipes, in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the British Union Oil Company Gas (Facilities for Development) Act, 1941.

Mr. BLACKMAN: This Resolution is to approve the plan showing the route along which the British Union Oil Company Limited propose to lay mains or pipes in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the British Union Oil Company Gas (Facilities for Development) Act, 1941. The Addendum to the Resolution states that arrangements have been made between the Executive Committee and the British Union Oil Company Limited for the supply of natural gas to the Belle Pumping Station, and this Resolution seeks to give effect to that. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

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

The Resolution was passed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not propose to proceed with any further Government Business, and I beg to thank honourable members for their co-operation.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on the motion for the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor requesting that steps be taken for the establishment of a Sub-Post Office in the vicinity of Hastings Rocks, Christ Church. When this matter was being considered on the last occasion, the honourable senior member for St. George moved that further debate on the motion be postponed and that motion was seconded by the honourable senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for Christ Church who moved the passing of the Address is absent to-day, and the honourable junior member for St. Philip is asking leave to proceed with Order No. 68 as the first Order of the Day. It is a matter of some urgency.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was only explaining that if honourable members want to go on with the debate they have a perfect right to do so.

HIGHWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. GARNER. I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 68 as the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

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

The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business was called,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Highways Act 1900 (1900-5).

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—This Bill seeks to allow the Highway Commissioners of the various parishes to appoint Assistant Inspectors of Highways and to increase their rates of pay. It is true that the Highway Commissioners of St. Joseph and of Christ Church have been fortunate enough to have such amendments placed on the Statute Book during the last Session. Since then it has been felt that the same thing should obtain in respect of all the parishes, and this Bill seeks to incorporate all the amendments along this line. It gives the Commissioners of Highways of the various parishes the right to increase the salaries of their Inspectors and at the same time to appoint Assistant Inspectors of Highways where such posts do not exist. I am sure that honourable members will agree with that. This is a matter which is long overdue, and it can be done by the various Highways Commissioners who

want to have it done. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. I am sure that honourable members will vote for it.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

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

The second reading was passed.

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

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive of the Bill were read and passed.

Mr. GARNER. I ask leave to add to the Bill the following Clause to be numbered 6:—"This Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and forty-six."

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

Clause 6 was read.

Mr. GARNER: I beg to move that this be Clause 6 of the Bill.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

The question that this be Clause 6 of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 6 was passed.

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

The House resumed.

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

ADDRESS RE INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS TO THE HOUSE

Mr. GARNER: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 66 standing in my name as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. WILKINSON: I object; I think that the honourable member is jumping about too much.

Mr. SPEAKER: An objection having been taken, I shall have to obtain the feeling of the House in the matter. The question is that leave be granted the honourable member to proceed with Order No. 66 as the next Order of the Day. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

The next Order of the Day was called,—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the inadequate seating accommodation for visitors to the House of Assembly Chamber.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of the Address which reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully begs to draw to the attention of Your Excellency the inadequate seating accommodation for Visitors to the House of Assembly Chamber and pray that Your Excellency will take the necessary steps to improve the seating capacity.

I do not think that this matter is controversial in any way. Anyone who is entering this Chamber at any time will see the Messengers removing chairs from room to room, sometimes at a very great dis-

advantage to strangers who are visiting the Colony for the first time, and who would like to hear the deliberations of the House. Visitors to the House are embarrassed when there is no seating accommodation for them. I am sure that anyone who takes a careful view around this Chamber will see that there are persons who are in very uncomfortable positions. This is the highest tribunal in the land, and the inhabitants are entitled to come here and listen to the discussions. I see no reason why we should not have proper seating accommodation in this Chamber, not only for visitors to the Colony, but for the inhabitants themselves. I feel that it is incumbent on the Government to provide proper seating accommodation for everybody who would like to listen to the deliberations of this House from week to week, and I think that this accommodation should be made available as soon as possible.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. It must be apparent to everybody that the people of this colony are becoming more politically-minded and now that there is very little newsprint available, they cannot get the speeches of honourable members of this House reported as they would like them reported. It seems a necessity that a gallery should, in truth and in fact, be erected so that visitors to the House would be able to sit comfortably and listen to the speeches made by the various Representatives of the people. I do not think that this is any controversial matter at all, and I am in agreement with what the honourable Mover of the passing of this Address has said.

Mr. GALE: I am in sympathy with this Address, and I would like to see more seats provided in this Chamber because nowadays we have many people coming in to listen to our debates. The seating accommodation in this Chamber is very inadequate, but I would like to point out that the acoustic accommodation is worse than the seating accommodation. It is very difficult to hear what is being said in this Chamber, and I think that we should amend this Address with a view to improving the acoustic properties of the Chamber as well. I should like to draw to the attention of the House that if and when we have proper seating accommodation, people will be asked to remain in their seats and not to stand in the corridors. It looks very undignified for people to be standing there and looking inside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the question is put I am wondering whether the House have not got this matter in their own hands. It seems to me that the House should send up a proposition and ask the Executive to carry it out. That seems to me to be the proper way of dealing with the matter.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think that we should postpone further consideration of this Address and appoint a Select Committee to investigate and make recommendations for improving the seating accommodation in this Chamber, and for the installation of equipment which will make the speeches of honourable members more audible. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Address be postponed.

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed for the purpose of making recommendations for the improvement of the seating accommodation in this Chamber and for the installation of equipment which will make the speeches of honourable members more generally audible.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: If the honourable member will agree with me, I think that it is also necessary to have the lavatory accommodation of the Chamber improved. There is only one W.C. in this whole place, and if anything goes wrong, you will never know what will happen. (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER: I suggest to the honourable member a very short wording of the motion to the following effect: "That a Select Committee be appointed for making the necessary recommendations to improve the seating accommodation of visitors and better acoustic properties as well as other general improvements to this Chamber."

Mr. CRAWFORD: Very well, Mr. Speaker.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The senior member for St. Philip (Mr. Crawford), the senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Adams), the junior member for St. James (Mr. Wilkinson), the senior member for St. Andrew (Mr. Haynes), the junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. Brancker), the senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox) and I associate myself with the Committee.

Mr. RAMSAY: I should be a member of this Committee inasmuch as I know something about building. I beg to associate myself with the Committee.

Mr. GARNER: I also want to be a member of that Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I apologize to the honourable member; you should have been appointed as a member of the Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I suggest also the honourable senior member for the City (Mr. Mottley), who seconded the motion for the passing of the Address.

The names of these honourable members were added to the Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. COX: I ask leave to move that Order No. 6 be taken as the next Order of the Day. I do not think that there is anything controversial about it; it is a Bill which seeks to amend the Highways and Transport Act, 1945, giving the Director power to repair tenantry roads whether their surface is good or not.

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

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Order No. 6 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that Order No. 6 be taken as the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. RAMSAY, BRANCKER, SMITH, COX, MAPP, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY and HAYNES—11

Noes: Messrs. BLACKMAN, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT and WILKINSON—5.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye", and five honourable members voting "No". The next Order of the Day therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael.—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Highways and Transport Act, 1945.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—In moving the second reading of this Bill, I repeat that I do not think that there is anything controversial about it. Honourable members realise the hardships which most of the tenants in the various districts suffer as a result of the bad condition of the roads. This Bill merely seeks to amend Section 31 (1) of the Department of Highways and Transport Act which says this:—

"No road in any such parish made, or hereafter to be made, by and at the expense of any individual or private person, or body politic or corporate, shall be deemed or taken to be a highway which the Director shall be compelled or liable to repair, unless the person, or body politic or corporate, proposing to dedicate such highway to the use of the public shall give three months previous notice in writing to the Governor-in-Executive Committee of his or their intention to dedicate such highway to the use of the public, describing its situation and extent, and shall have made or shall make the same in a substantial manner, with proper drainage and surface gutters of sufficient width."

I may say that this was an oversight on the part of the members of this House when the Bill was being passed. The Bill was dealt with a few months after I became a member of this House, and I considered that it had been well gone into before it was presented to the House. If I had seen this Section, I am sure that it would not have been passed, because I know that there are many tenantry owners who are not in a position to bring these roads up to the standard required by the Government, and the roads could never have been taken over under the existing Act. There are tenancies, which I describe as landlord tenancies, such as Carrington's Village, Kensington, Delamere and others in respect of which I do not think that it would be fair to compel the Government to repair the roads. These tenancies are considered as gold mines to the owners, and the Vestry allows them one-third of their returns free from taxation for the purpose of keeping these roads in repair. I think that honourable members will agree that we should add a proviso to Sub-clauses (1) and (3) of the Principal Act so that the Governor-in-Executive Committee may waive compliance with any of the foregoing requirements or obligations in the circumstances of any particular case. Therefore, when there are tenantry roads which the owners are not in a position to repair, the Government can repair them. The majority of honourable members of this House are in sympathy with the conditions existing among the various free-hold tenancies, and for that reason I hope that they will support the passing of this Bill. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second the honourable member's motion. I do not think, however, that the honourable member has made the position fully clear to honourable members. As the Act stands at present, in fact before the coming into being of the Department of Highways and Transport when the Highways Board of the parish of St. Michael was still functioning, it was the custom for people in free-hold tenancies to make application to the Board for the taking over of the roads. They waived certain rights under the law, and the Highway Commissioners of St. Michael—and I take it the Highway Commissioners of the other parishes—took over the roads and the Commissioners in turn would make recommendations to the Central Road Board for the taking over of the roads. With the coming into being of the Highways and Transport Board, it was dis-

covered that the Highway Commissioners acted *ultra vires*; there was a slight technicality in the law, and the Director of Highways and Transport felt that as his Department was directly under the control of the Government, they could not take over any of these roads as long as the letter of the law was not observed, that is to say, as long as the roads were not in a proper state of repair. What the honourable member is seeking to do is to add this proviso to Sub-clauses (1) and (3) of the Principal Act:—

Provided always that the Governor-in-Executive Committee may in their discretion waive compliance with any of the foregoing requirements or obligations in the circumstances of any particular case.

I take it that that will give the right to the Department of Highways and Transport when considering their Estimates for the repairs of roads in St. Michael, to be able to say that the necessary requirements in respect of these roads have been carried out, the period of three months has passed, the rights have been waived, and they can use money for the purpose of putting these roads in a proper state of repair. I am supporting the motion for the second reading of this Bill. Throughout the period of the General Elections the question of the taking over of these roads was a very burning one, and I feel that although this legislation may appear to be hasty to some honourable members, I assure them that there is absolutely nothing controversial in it. It merely seeks to give the Department of Highways and Transport authority to provide the money for repairing these roads. In respect of all the applications which have been made to the Department of Highways and Transport, they have not, so far, spent one cent in putting the roads in a proper state of repair. As a matter of fact, before the Highways Board of St. Michael became defunct, it was drawn to the attention of the Department of Highways and Transport that several tenantry roads had been handed over, and it was expected that the programme which was taken over from the defunct Board would have been carried out by the Department of Highways and Transport. It was made clear to the Highways Board of St. Michael that that was not practical because of the Section of the Act which made it quite clear that these roads will have to be in a proper state of repair before they are taken over. In short, if the owners of these roads made application to the Department of Highways and Transport Board for the taking over of the roads, the Department cannot do anything unless the roads have a good surface. I do not think that we should postpone consideration of this Bill this afternoon: I implore honourable members to see the matter from this angle: for the past three or four years nothing has been done in respect of putting any of these roads in a proper state of repair, and if this Bill is not passed, the Estimates in relation to the Department of Highways and Transport will be laid, and nothing will be included in those Estimates for the repair of these roads because of this peculiar Section of the Act which says that these roads must have a good surface before they can be taken over by the Department.

Mr. GALE: I am in sympathy with this Bill. As the last speaker has said, for many years now people have been seeking to get certain roads taken over, but they have been told that under the law, the roads cannot be taken over unless they are in a certain condition. It is well known that land which previously formed part of estates, has been sold without any proper roads being provided for the various districts. Haggatt Hall and several other estates

like that have been sold out from time to time, and the roads which are there were the old estate roads. The people at fault at that time were the Board of Health, because they passed the applications for the sale of the land and it was sold out without any proper provision being made for roads of any kind. The roads were made by just throwing down a few stones! These roads have subsequently become in a deplorable condition, and this Bill seeks to help the people in these places. The intention of this Bill is that the roads in those districts which have been sold out, and where there are free-hold properties on each side of the roads will be taken over by the Department of Highways and Transport. I am sure that in this Bill there is no intention of repairing roads in private tenancies from which people are receiving revenue. This question of roads has been a vexed question for many years, and this amendment will help the people concerned. I think that honourable members will support it.

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

The second reading was passed.

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: This is a very important Bill. The law has to be gone into, it is now late in the afternoon and I think that the further consideration of this Bill should be postponed. A little law has been read across the Table, and I think that legislation of this sort should be dealt with at an early hour. I therefore beg to move that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed and let the matter be dealt with as the first Order of the Day at the next meeting of the House.

Mr. DOWDING: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: If that is the wish of the House, I have to abide with it, but it does strike me that there are some members of this House who do nothing but criticize measures which have been brought by others after hard thinking and hard work by day and by night.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not wish to interrupt the honourable member, but I do not think that it is fair to assume that in respect of honourable members. There may be reasons against the postponement of the Bill, but there is no reason for reading into the minds of honourable members.

Mr. COX: These Bills are not introduced into the House by guess; they are gone into and discussed. This Bill is as clear as anything and anybody can understand it. It is an amendment giving the Government power to waive compliance with any of the requirements in respect of the taking over of these roads. In the case of a tenantry like Carington's Village, which is a landlord tenantry, the Government says that the roads cannot be taken over unless they are in a proper state of repair. Well, this Bill merely seeks to give the Government power to go into the circumstances of any particular case. If application is made for the taking over of roads in a district where poor people are living, the Government will take over the roads and repair them after the district has been visited. The Bill merely seeks to waive compliance with any requirements, just as in the case of the Schemes of Government for the first and second Grade Schools where compliance can be waived in respect of the £5 bond into which parents must enter before pupils can be

admitted to these Schools. I have not suggested that the matter should be made compulsory, because the Government may have to repair Delamere and any of these landlord tenancies which yield vast sums of money from the tenants and for which the owners do nothing in return. I have merely suggested that the matter should be optional, so that the Government can go into the circumstances of the case and act accordingly. There is nothing difficult or unreasonable in this Bill; any boy who has reached the 7th standard in the Elementary School can understand it.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I am unable to understand it. I think that it has been said that these roads belong to the people who own land on either side of them. I want to be satisfied that the Government will own these roads before the Government's money is spent to repair them.

Mr. MAPP: I wonder whether the honourable junior member for St. John has read Section 31 (1) of the Principal Act carefully. It says: "No road in any such parish made, or hereafter to be made, by and at the expense of any individual or private person, or body politic or corporate, shall be deemed or taken to be a highway which the Director shall be compelled or liable to repair....." and at the end of the Section it says: "And shall have made or shall make the same in a substantial manner, with proper drainage and surface gutters of sufficient width." That is the Section that we are arguing about this afternoon. That Section should be amended in such a manner that the Government may not require these things to be done. As has been pointed out by the honourable senior member for St. Michael, the owners of these roads may not be in a position to repair them and the Government can do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wanted to point out to the honourable member that he is now debating the original Bill whereas the question is whether the further consideration of the Bill should be postponed or not.

The question that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed was put and resolved in the negative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs RAMSAY, BLACKMAN, GARNER, HAYNES, DOWDING and S. A. WILCOTT—7.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs SMITH, BRANCKER, COX, MAPP, CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY, GALE and WILKINSON—9.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before Your Honour leaves the Chair, I beg to move that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER) be Chairman of Committees for the remainder of the day's sitting.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRANCKER being in the Chair.

Clause 1 was read as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Highways and Transport (Amendment) Act, 1946.

Mr. COX: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The original Act is called the Department of Highways and Transport Act, and I suggest to the honourable senior member for St. Michael that the words "Department of" be inserted before the word "Highways" in this Clause.

Mr. COX: I accept that amendment.

Clause 1 was passed.

Clause 2 was read and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Cox, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee with an amendment.

The House resumed.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed, the House was, on the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. Cox, adjourned to meet on Tuesday next, the 4th day of February, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.