

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8th July, 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*), Messrs. A. E. S. LEWIS, L. E. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, H. W. SPRINGER, M. A., H. D. BLACKMAN, C. E. TALMA, E. D. MOTTLEY, J. A. HAYNES, B. A., V. C. GALE, and S. A. WALCOTT.

After prayers, Messrs. CRAWFORD and MAPP enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 1st July, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed with an amendment.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker,—On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph I have the honour to lay on the table of the House the following Papers:—

Report of the Commissioner of Enquiry into expenditure in connection with the building of new Pay Ward "A" at the Barbados General Hospital.

Statement of expenditure of the Housing Board to the 31st of March, 1947.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. CRAWFORD: Resolution to place the sum of £5,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to provide for the purchase and installation of additional pumping machinery and mains for the Waterworks Department, and for expenses incidental thereto.

Mr. SPRINGER (On behalf of Mr. Adams): Resolution to advance the sum of £107 from the Public Treasury (to be subsequently refunded as a free grant under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on terms and conditions stated in the Message from the Honourable the House of

Assembly to His Excellency the Governor dated the 14th of December, 1943) to supplement Resolution No. 39/1946 to cover the cost of a course of training in the United Kingdom for the Chief Clerk of the Labour Commissioner's Department.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution to place the sum of £300 at the disposal of the Hospital Board to enable the Board to pay wages to the artisans employed at the General Hospital during the period 1st April to 11th September, 1946, at the approved rates of pay.

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

Mr. ADAMS enters the House and takes his seat.

QUESTIONS

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

1. How many vacancies at present exist in the Barbados Police Force unfilled as a result of the Calver Recommendation for reduced personnel?

2. Will Government cause such vacancies, if any, to be filled immediately and the Force brought up to full strength?

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

Has the Governor-in-Executive Committee refused to grant the application of the Governors of the Parry, Coleridge, and Alexandra Schools to enable a cost-of-living, or interim, allowance of forty per cent to be paid to the non-teaching, non clerical staff of those three schools?

If so, will the Government give their reasons for such refusals?

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

Will Government give favourable consideration with a view to the introduction of legislation for placing female and male teachers of public elementary schools in this island on the same salary scale?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MR. LEWIS

Mr. LEWIS asks for and is granted two weeks' leave of absence from his duties as a member of the House as from the 12th July, 1947.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE MARSHAL

Mr. SPEAKER: Before proceeding to the Orders of the day I should like to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Marshal asking for three months' leave of absence and that Mr. Thomas, the Deputy Clerk, be allowed to act for him..

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that the Marshal be granted three months' leave of absence and that Mr. Thomas, the Deputy Clerk, be appointed to act for him.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: Before the question is put I should like to make an observation on the matter. I really do not know how the Deputy Clerk feels about it but I certainly do not feel that the Deputy Clerk of this House should be reduced to the status of a Marshal. I do not think it is fair to him. If the Marshal goes on leave for three months, I think it would be well for this House to get somebody from outside to act for him during that period.

The question that the Marshal be granted three months' leave of absence and Mr. Thomas be appointed to act for him is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

EXCUSE FOR ABSENT MEMBER.

Mr. BRANCKER offers an excuse for the absence of the honourable senior member for St. John (Dr. Wilson).

BARBADOS GENERAL HOSPITAL BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order is to resume Committee on the Bill to make provision in relation to the Barbados General Hospital.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Mr. GARNER enters the House and takes his seat.

Clause 12. The functions of the Advisory Committee shall be to advise the Medical Superintendent;

- (a) as regards the provision of supplies and services (other than medical supplies and services) which are necessary for the Hospital.
- (b) as regards the provision of accommodation and the erection of new buildings in connection with the Hospital;
- (c) on any other administrative question which the Medical Superintendent may refer to the Advisory Committee.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman,—In moving that this be Clause 12 of the Bill I should like to make one or two remarks. During the course of the debate on Clause 11 of this Bill which deals with the appointment of the Advisory Committee, there seemed to have been some misunderstanding in the minds of honourable members as to the meaning of this Bill. I will quote from a Despatch written by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which he states that the declared aim of British policy is to quicken the progress of all colonial peoples towards the ultimate goal of self-Government. "I take this opportunity to re-affirm that basic aim in relation to the Caribbean area," the Secretary of State for the Colonies goes on to say. That was a despatch written on the 14th March, 1945, by Mr. Oliver Stanley, a Conservative Secretary of State for the Colonies, and on the 14th February this year the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, a Labour Secretary of State, took the opportunity to say that he was in complete accord with what Mr.

Stanley had written. The reason why I am making these statements is because the idea seems to have gone forth that some of us who were in favour of the House appointing members of these Boards have changed our view. But what has happened is that we, today, are really being given the opportunity to practise Responsible Government. As you know, Sir, there are three modes of Government in the British Empire—Responsible Government, Representative Government and Crown Colony Government. For a couple of hundred years this country has been enjoying Representative Government and according to these Despatches which have been written we are now being given the opportunity to practise Responsible Government and if we satisfy the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the British people, generally, that we are deserving of it we will be given Responsible Government. What we are doing now is just what we would do if we had Responsible Government, only that the Governor is responsible now and not the Executive Committee. But the Governor has told the members of this House who are members of the Executive Committee that he is prepared to take the policy of the Government from the members of the House of Assembly and if the members of the House of Assembly are to dictate the policy, if the members of the House of Assembly on the Executive Committee are actually nominated and appointed by this House, then, as I said on a previous occasion, it is equal to the electors of the island appointing the Hospital Board. Right now, the House has seven members on the Hospital Board—seven out of sixteen—and so we have only a 43 per cent membership on the Board but when we appoint the whole Board, even though they be only five members, we have a 100 per cent membership. The Executive Committee will be appointing the whole Board and the policy of the Executive Committee is controlled by the members of the House; therefore, I take it that the electors of this country will be appointing the entire Hospital Board instead of part of it. The senior member for Christ Church, in the course of the debate, said in referring to me that he was sorry that a former colleague of his had changed his opinion in the short space of six months. Well, I mentioned what I did just now in order to show that I have not changed my opinion but that the very same thing which we have been all fighting for in the past several years is right within our grasp now; that is how I feel about it. It is for us to show that we are deserving of Responsible Government by the way we carry on in our acting, so to speak, in that capacity. Another honourable member, the senior member for St. Philip, took the opportunity to say that during the last session he was absolutely opposed to giving up any rights and privileges which the House enjoyed and that nothing had taken place to cause him to change that view. At the last meeting he actually said that he was not in favour of the present constitution of the Executive Committee. Well, in view of the fact that the Leader of the Party which has the largest number of seats in this House is the man who chooses the members of the House on the Executive Committee, it can hardly be the senior member for St. Joseph to whom the senior member for St. Philip is taking exception nor his colleague, the senior member for St. George. Of course, he could not have been taking exception to himself; therefore, I must come to the conclusion that his dissatisfaction with the Executive Committee, as far as the members of this House who are on it are concerned, exists only in regard to myself. He is dissatisfied that I happen to be a member of the Executive Committee; he said so and that is the reason why I am taking this opportunity to say what I am going to say

now. I do not know exactly what he is to do with my membership of the Executive Committee and, therefore, I do not quite see why he should be dissatisfied about it. In a way, I thought I should make that explanation and I beg now to move that Clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Although I appreciate the argument raised by the honourable member who has just sat down, yet in truth and in fact there is no assurance that the members of the House who are members of the Executive Committee will be there in the future. When the honourable member gets up and says that he has not deviated from his previous position—

The CHAIRMAN: Inasmuch as the junior member for St. John has referred to the senior member for Christ Church, the latter has the right to reply but the Chair will not allow the honourable member to make a tremendously long speech.

Mr. TALMA: It is for that reason I have risen from my seat. I was saying that there is no assurance that the Executive Committee will be comprised of Labour Members in the future because it seems to me that this Coalition Government has not done anything constructive yet.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member will not be allowed to refer to the Coalition Government because it does not come within the scope of this debate. I gave the honourable junior member for St. John a little latitude in that respect because he was making an explanation.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—Before the question is put I want to make a few remarks on Clause 12. It relates to the functions of the Advisory Committee and having regard to what the junior member for St. John has told us and what has been spoken by the Leader of the House in respect to the Executive Committee I feel that the duties of this Advisory Committee should not be restricted, as they seem to be restricted by this clause. For instance, one of the functions of the Advisory Committee, according to sub-paragraph (a) of this clause, is to advise the Medical Superintendent as regards the provision of supplies and services, other than medical supplies and services, which are necessary for the Hospital. I would like to suggest that the words "other than medical supplies" be deleted for the reason, among others, that you should not restrict the duties of the Advisory Committee to merely telling the Medical Superintendent where he could buy salt fish, for instance. I do not want it to be thought for one moment that laymen cannot in many instances give expert advice on things that appeal to people generally. As this Hospital deals with employees and patients who go to it, I think that the duties of the Advisory Committee should not be restricted as they are in this clause. I beg to move that the words "other than medical supplies and services" be deleted from sub-paragraph (a) of this clause.

Mr. LEWIS: I, for similar reasons and with the experience gained in the working of the Hospital, beg to second that motion. I have discussed the matter with some people who would know and may be said to be inclined the other way and they think that since the Board will be advisory they should be given the opportunity to advise in the matter of employing foreigners and admitting foreign patients into the hospital, for instance.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member does not suggest that they are going to employ somebody from Russia. An Englishman is not a foreigner, as far as Barbados is concerned.

Mr. LEWIS: I did not have in mind, Mr. Chairman, any particular person when I made that statement. I feel quite sure that no Medical Superintendent will object to someone who knows conditions in Barbados better than he giving him a hint in a certain direction, especially when it is not necessary for him to accept it.

Mr. ADAMS: As this is not a matter of principle I am just expressing my personal view. I hope that whoever is appointed on this Advisory Committee, even though these words may be deleted, will take care to see that he keeps himself to himself when it comes to advising the Medical Superintendent on medical supplies. It is tantamount to a layman giving advice to the Attorney General as to a particular type of text-book he should have in his office.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This deals with supplies and services and without stating anything that is secret — the junior member for the City can vouch for it — only last week the members of the Hospital Board dealt with and are still dealing with a matter that relates to medical services at the Hospital. It is not a matter of advising what particular type of text-book should be used but it is a matter of the interests of the people who go to the Hospital for treatment. The occurrence that took place at the Hospital quite recently forces me to the conclusion that you must have people, other than the experts, to state what should be done in certain instances.

The question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of Clause 12 is put and resolved in the negative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes. MESSRS. GARNER, TALMA, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, WILKINSON, and Mr. SPEAKER — 7

Noes: MESSRS. LEWIS, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, DR. CUMMINS, MESSRS. MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, and S. A. WALCOTT. — 11.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I beg to move that a proviso be added to Clause 12 as follows:—"Provided that in the absence of such reference, it may draw the attention of the Governor to any aspect of administration which in its opinion requires attention." That is the proviso contained in the Education Amendment Act, 1943, in respect of the Education Board. I would like to say that there will be many instances in which this Advisory Committee will, at least, register some protest and it should be placed in a position in which it cannot be blamed for anything that may go wrong. The hospital authorities are dealing not only with a critical public but with sick people and I feel that the Board might come in for a certain amount of criticism and it should be given the right to say that a particular matter was not referred to its members but that it thinks that in the interest of the Hospital, it should be done in a particular way. The Governor can then act upon that advice or not.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

The question that the words proposed by the junior member for the City be added to this Clause is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The question that Clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 13. The Medical Superintendent may at any time summon a meeting of the Advisory

Committee, and shall do so at least once in every three months.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to move that that be Clause 13 of the Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Before that question is put I would like to add to this Clause two sub-clauses to be numbered (2) and (3) respectively. Sub-Clause 2 will read as follows:—(2) The Chairman may at any time summon a meeting of the Committee and on a requisition signed by any three members he shall summon a meeting within seven days after the receipt by him of the requisition.

Mr. ADAMS: Instead of having two different persons summoning meetings I suggest to the honourable member to amend Clause 13 by stating at the end of it "He should also summon a meeting on a requisition signed by any three members within seven days after the receipt by him of the requisition."

Mr. LEWIS: We want to have somebody with the right to summon a meeting if there is any obstinacy on the part of the Medical Superintendent to do so. Then I should like to add sub-clause 3 as follows:—"(3) Such requisition shall state the object for which such meeting is required to be summoned.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second both amendments of the junior member for the City.

Mr. ADAMS: I would like to suggest to the honourable member to give the matter a little more attention. It is customary to provide that the object of a special meeting shall be to discuss the subject alone for which the meeting is summoned.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

The question that the further consideration of Clause 13 be postponed is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 14 and 15 are read and agreed to.

Clause 16. All fees received whether for X-ray examinations or otherwise shall be paid into the Public Treasury to the credit of general revenue.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to move that that be Clause 16 of the Bill.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that the consideration of this Clause be postponed. The reason for doing so is that the effect of this Clause will be that all fees received by the Hospital for medical services performed by the Visiting Surgeons—if they are retained or as long as they are retained—will have to be paid into the Treasury. It seems to me that that is a needless implication of functions and I think that some amendment should be provided to avoid that impasse. At present, under the Hospital Act, the fees received on behalf of the Hospital Board are paid into the Treasury and that specifically by implication exempts the fees paid in the office on behalf of the Visiting Surgeons. Well, this Clause would be perfectly satisfactory if all the Surgeons were full-time officers receiving salaries but as long as it is necessary to appoint Visiting Surgeons, the money received on their behalf would have to be re-voted after it has been paid into the Treasury and that will cause complications.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second the motion.

The question that consideration of Clause 16 be postponed is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 17 to 20 inclusive are read and agreed to.

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to move, in view of the postponement of Clauses 13 and 16 that you do now

report progress, Mr. Chariman, and ask leave to sit again.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,— Before you report I should like to say that I understand that the junior member for St. John accused me of having some personal objection to his seat on the Executive Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the honourable junior member for St. John made any accusation; he made a statement in reply to what the senior member for St. Philip may have said on a previous occasion.

Mr. CRAWFORD: In other words, he made an accusation in the form of a statement. Well, Sir, I certainly want to say that there is absolutely no justification at all for an observation of that sort because the junior member for St. John knows better than anybody else in this Chamber that I have no personal objection to his being on the Executive Committee at all (Cheers). What I object to is the manner in which he was put there. If he wants to condone the irregularity, that is his business but he should not give any other reason or draw any other inference to justify his observation. There is nothing at all I said during the debate on this Bill which could give him the impression that I had any personal objection to his being on the Executive Committee—nothing at all and he knows that himself. I am really surprised that a man whom we credited with such intelligence and impartiality could get up here and make a statement for which he knows there is absolutely no justification. The junior member for St. John knows as well as I do that the objection which I take, and which others in this Chamber take, to the present members of the Executive Committee is due mainly to the fact that the members who sit on the Executive Committee from the Party to which I belong are not the members who it was decided should sit on that Committee when the Coalition was arranged. He knows that and he knows that the entire objection to the present set-up is due to the fact that the members whom we nominated to seats on the Executive Committee were appointed. If because he happens, in consequence of the new arrangement, to be there and it pleases his vanity to be there and for no other reason he wants to be there, let him be a man and say so but do not let him accuse me of saying that he should not be there. I have no objection to his being there as such. What I object to is the manner in which the members of the Executive Committee were nominated. It is an open secret—I take this opportunity to make the position quite clear, in view of the unwarranted statement of the junior member for St. John—that one of the Parties to the Coalition nominated the junior member for St. Lucy and myself to serve on the Executive Committee. It is also an open secret that we particularly stated that we had no objection to the junior member for St. John.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like you to rule whether this is in order because if a number of absolutely untrue, unadulterated statements are made against me I shall have to deny them.

The CHAIRMAN: The question before the Committee is that the Chair report progress and ask leave to sit again but in view of a certain statement which was made by the junior member for St. John in reference to the senior member for St. Philip, the Chair has allowed the latter a certain amount of latitude in reply. The same fairness that actuated the Chair to allow the junior member for St. John

to speak, actuates it in respect of the senior member for St. Philip.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The point is this: when the senior member for St. Joseph claims that those statements are untrue, they can be proved and I challenge him to say here or anywhere else that they are untrue.

THE CHAIRMAN: This Committee is not going on with anything that the senior member for St. Joseph may have said to be untrue. The question before the Committee is that the Chairman do now report progress and ask leave to sit again. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

The CHAIRMAN reports and the House resumes.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: The first Resolution with which we shall deal is for the sum of £37.10 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1947-48 under Head XXXII, Department of Highways and Transport, item 8, Foreman Mechanic. In the addendum it is explained why this additional amount is asked for. The post was advertised in the local Press and it was specified that candidates should have certain qualifications and be mechanics with a certain amount of experience.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member, but on my Order Paper the first Resolution to be dealt with in Committee of Supply is for £78. 2. 6. as an *ex gratia* grant to the Cashier in the G.P.O. and stands in the name of the junior member for St. John.

THE CHAIRMAN: The honourable member for St. Philip is in order as long as we are in Committee of Supply.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I should like to emphasize paragraph 3 of the addendum which states:—"Only four of the applications received were from persons who were at the time employed in a supervisory capacity and as practising mechanics. An oral questionnaire was set these four applicants concerning the duties, qualifications and mechanical knowledge required by the advertisement and none of them could meet the requirements. It is accordingly proposed to increase the salary of the office from £250 to £300 x 20—£400 a year in order to attract more qualified candidates." I think this addendum is quite explanatory and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to ask the senior member for St. Philip, before I vote for this Resolution, if he has with him these oral questions that were asked these mechanics and if in the advertisement it was stated that the things which were asked them would form part of the qualifications required for the post. I would like to receive that information before I go any further.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The information, I think, is given in paragraph 2 of the addendum. The required qualifications were specified in the advertisement and the number of years' experience required was also specified.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: But it will be noted, Mr. Chairman, that one of the requirements in paragraph 3 was not advertised. Paragraph 3 states:—"Only four of the applications received were from persons who were at the time employed in a supervisory capacity and as practising mechanics." That is in accordance with the advertisement. But the paragraph goes on to state:—"An oral questionnaire was set these four applicants concerning the duties, qualifications and mechanical knowledge required by the advertisement and none of them could meet the requirements." It states that an oral questionnaire was set the applicants and I asked the honourable member if he could give me the questions that were asked in the questionnaire. While he is looking for the information I would like to say that I have no objection to this post of Foreman Mechanic because when it was first created we appointed a Select Committee and the Director of Highways and Transport explained to that Committee the necessity for this post; before the last Estimates were passed another Select Committee went into this question and recommended an increase in the salary attached to the post. But here is where we are having difficulty now. From this addendum, we are to conclude that it is very difficult to find someone in Barbados to fill this job for the salary which was advertised although I have been made to understand that some of the best mechanics in this island applied for the post. I say that that is a reflection on the motor mechanics in this island. We either have motor car engines and various other motor machinery in this island not working properly or it seems to me that what they require in this Department is a genius as a motor mechanic. In this Department there is a policy now, it seems, of doing things of which this House does not approve. The senior member for St. Philip will note that they have some big rollers now—

The CHAIRMAN: I would like the honourable member to give his hints and pass on. We should not discuss the question of rollers in connection with the Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: But, Mr. Chairman, the supervision of the rollers and their repair form part of the work which this Foreman Mechanic will be required to do. There are employees of this Department not working now owing to the fact that these rollers are to be repaired.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that because they cannot get a Foreman Mechanic?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It would seem so.

The CHAIRMAN: That is why we have this Resolution before us to-day.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: My point is that the best motor mechanics in the island applied for this post and not one of them was found suitable for it. It is not to say that applications were not received for the post.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It would appear to me that if this addendum is carefully read and understood, it will be seen that the information which the senior member for St. Peter is asking for is therein stated, except, perhaps, the oral questions in the questionnaire. I am not apprised of the questions that were asked.

THE CHAIRMAN: If it will not procrastinate, would the honourable member postpone the further consideration of the Resolution and get the information from the Department?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not see that the oral questionnaire which was set by the Director of Highways and Transport concerns this House. The

point is this. From the addendum, it is clear that only four of the applicants who applied for this post were at the time employed in a supervisory capacity and as practising mechanics. In addition to that, the Director of Highways and Transport has pointed out that these four were questioned concerning the duties, qualifications and mechanical knowledge required by the advertisement and could not satisfactorily answer the questions. Apparently, the questions in the questionnaire revolved around the duties to be performed and the qualifications and mechanical knowledge of the applicants for the post. I do not see anything difficult about the matter. As they could not answer the questions satisfactorily, the Director could not recommend any applicant for the post. After that, a Select Committee went into the matter and I think that that Committee commended that in order to attract more qualified persons for the post, we should increase the salary and that is what is proposed to be done by this Resolution. The salary was originally fixed at £250 a year—\$100 per month; now it is proposed that the salary should be begun at £300 a year—\$120 per month—and go by annual increments of £20 to £400 a year \$160 per month. Frankly, I thought that this addendum was so clear that I did not bother to bring any further information.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I asked the honourable member a specific question. In the addendum it is stated that an oral questionnaire was set for these four applicants and no Government in the world is going to set an oral questionnaire without keeping a copy of the questions. I am asking what are the questions? It is not a matter of his thinking that the addendum is clear. If he considers that the addendum is so clear, why are the questions which were set not in it? If the honourable member does not have the questions with him he can ask that the Resolution be postponed and get them.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not prepared to promise to bring the honourable member the questionnaire at all; that may be a question for the Director of Highways and Transport. It may be entirely a matter in connection with the general administration of the Department and the Director may not want the questions in the questionnaire to be made public. What he has stated in the addendum is that the questionnaire concerned the duties, qualifications and mechanical knowledge required by the advertisement and I submit that that should be quite simply understood.

Mr. COX: I just want to reply briefly to a statement made by the senior member for St. Philip. He said that a Select Committee recommended an increase in the salary attached to this office in the hope of attracting applicants who knew more about the work to be done than the ones who applied. Let me assure you, Sir, that that is not what happened. What really happened is that in that Select Committee we were of the opinion that the individual whom the Director wanted for the post was not yet born, since the cream of the mechanics in this island applied for it and were turned down. One of the men who applied has a Certificate from the Motor Institute of America and he is also a Member of the Technical Society in America. He was asked many questions which he answered, as he felt, satisfactorily with the exception of the one relating to the viscosity of oil which I think, is on a chart sent down with this oil. As I was told, he was asked to go outside the chart which he could not do. When we take into consideration that we have been having these mechanics in this island all these years supervising and repairing all types of motor vehicles and

they applied for this post and not one of them succeeded in getting it, the only conclusion we can come to is that the Director of Highways and Transport does not really want a Foreman Mechanic. Heaven only knows what he wants! I would like to say that the Select Committee questioned him on that point and he told us that he was going back to his Department and see whether an employee he had there was willing to take this job and that if he was willing to take it we would have to increase the salary. At the next meeting of the Committee, he came back and told us that the individual had agreed to accept the post—I do not know if it is true or not—and the Committee decided there and then to recommend that the salary of the office be increased to the amount which this employee was getting or even more. We did not decide to increase the salary because a suitable man could not be found in this island for the post. I am convinced that one of the applicants is an individual who taught the present Superintendent Mechanic his job; the present Superintendent Mechanic learnt his trade under that applicant and, therefore, you can very well understand that that applicant, with so many years' experience in this type of work, knew something about what he had applied for. This is a very delicate question. It is not fair to say that they are carrying out the recommendations of the Select Committee. We recommended that many other things should be done and those recommendations have not been carried out. For instance, we recommended that when employees of this Department work overtime they should be paid for overtime work but that has not been done. I am not prepared to vote against this Resolution but I am going to vote for it with the understanding that the Director of Highways and Transport will again advertise for applications for the post and that when these same men apply again for it one of them will be successful. I must tell the truth that if he has somebody put aside to be placed over the heads of these experienced men—

The CHAIRMAN: That remark is uncalled for.

Mr. COX: I am saying that if he has anybody put by for the post, he will be sorry in the end.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to say that I too was a member of that Select Committee to which the honourable member who has just sat down referred and although a few of this points are accurate yet he made a few inaccurate statements, if my memory serves me well. I want to bring to the attention of this Committee the fact that the post of Foreman Mechanic does not necessarily mean that the holder of the office must do mechanical work alone. The Director of Highways and Transport was at pains to point out to the Select Committee that he wanted someone with not only mechanical knowledge but also with certain additional qualifications,—one who has a knowledge of cost accounts and who can do technical office work so as to be able to fill the breach in case the Superintendent Mechanic happens to be ill or on leave. It does not stand to reason that the candidates who applied, brilliant as they may be from the mechanical point of view and even admitting the fact that one of them may have taught the present Superintendent Mechanic his job, can fill the breach in the absence of the Superintendent Mechanic. I am saying that the post of Foreman Mechanic does not entail the mechanical side alone; it entails also book-keeping and cost accounts. I am not attempting to assist the honourable mover of this Resolution but in view of the fact that I happened to have been a member of the Select Committee and happen to be acquainted with the matter too I think it is only right that I say something. A few moments ago we

passed a Bill to make the General Hospital a Government institution with a Medical Superintendent in charge under the Chief Medical Officer but that hospital can never function efficiently, as a government institution if it has people in charge who know nothing about their particular line.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Chairman,—The honourable member who has just sat down said that he was a member of the Select Committee that considered this matter but the honourable member did not attend all the meetings of that Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: What has the attendance of the honourable member for Christ Church at the meetings of the Select Committee to do with this Resolution before this Committee?

Mr. MAPP: It has everything to do with it because his remarks hinge on the questions asked by the senior member for St. Peter and the remarks of the senior member for St. Michael. I do not see that a knowledge of cost accounts has anything to do with this post at all. All the advertisement stated was that the applicants should be mechanics with at least ten years' experience in motor mechanics and workshop practice, should have some knowledge of the theory of internal combustion engines and should, at the time of their application, be employed in a supervisory capacity and as a practising mechanic. The Select Committee which considered this matter—and the junior member for St. Lucy can bear me out—discovered that a local man can be found with the requisite knowledge and qualifications to fill this post but it seems that there is some prejudice in this Department against a local man getting this job.

Mr. TALMA: I am not suggesting that a local man cannot be found to fill this job because the Superintendent Mechanic is a local man.

Dr. CUMMINS: In view of the argument which has been adduced, in view of what has been said by the senior member for St. Michael, namely, that the increase has been asked for merely to attract a certain individual who is already in the Service and also in view of the statement by the senior member for Christ Church that this individual has been asked questions relative to the keeping of accounts—which in my opinion is not the duty of a Foreman Mechanic but is a part of the duties of the clerical staff—I think we should postpone the further consideration of this Resolution and find out exactly what the Director of Highways and Transport wants. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question—

The CHAIRMAN: I want to draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that a motion for postponement takes precedence. The honourable member may proceed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Frankly, Sir, I am amazed to hear the senior member for St. Thomas suggest that to ask a Foreman Mechanic to do some clerical work is beyond the scope of his duties. What does the honourable member want the Government to do? Does he want it to come here and ask for £400 to pay a Foreman Mechanic and another £400 to pay a clerical assistant? The Superintendent Mechanic carries the whole brunt of the supervisory work in the workshop of that Department and takes charge of certain clerical work in connection with the workshop. We want a Foreman Mechanic a man who can take his place when he is absent. If we are going to bring in a man who is solely

a mechanic, we will have to employ another individual as well. I think I know something about this particular post. The present Superintendent Mechanic was taught his trade by his father and used to be an engineer at Chelsea Garage for years. I must know something about it because Mr. Sayers succeeded my father. When it comes to the particular Resolution we are discussing, my information is that the members of the Select Committee themselves asked that the salary be made what the Director asked for in order to attract a candidate who could fill the post of Foreman Mechanic in a capable manner and if a member of the Select Committee says that that is wrong information, then I am surprised to hear it because the Director does not say so. The junior member for St. Lucy was Chairman of that Select Committee and I would be glad to hear what he has to say in the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I have one observation to make on the questions which have been asked.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the honourable member to speak on the motion for the postponement of this Resolution. If he is in favour of it, let him say so; if he against it, let him say so.

Mr. LEWIS: I am against the postponement of the Resolution and I would like to get the information I am going to ask for now.

The CHAIRMAN: Possibly the postponement will enable the honourable member to get that information better.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to say that the questions which have been asked in connection with this Resolution—

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the honourable member to stick to the point. The Chair is not going to allow the honourable member to perambulate. Say whether you are in favour of the postponement or not.

Mr. LEWIS: I would not like the Resolution postponed. There is a member of the Advisory Board present in this House and I would like to ask him whether all these phases of the matter have been put before the Board and what was their decision about it.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member's question will not be answered.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to support the motion for the postponement of this Resolution. I think, Sir, that it must be plain to everybody that those of us who have inside knowledge of the working of this Department are not satisfied that everything goes on there as satisfactorily as it might; consequently we are very critical and require a great deal more information in connection with this Department than other Departments which appear to us to be more efficiently and ably run. I notice that the addendum states that the required candidate should be a mechanic with at least ten years' experience in motor mechanics and workshop practice and should have some knowledge of the theory of internal combustion engines. Well, there can be no objection to that. But it goes on to say that he should, at the time of his application, be employed in a supervisory capacity and as a practising mechanic. Now, suppose that at the time of his application the applicant happens not to be employed because he may have been doing war work and had just been repatriated?

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules that a discussion along that line cannot be allowed to continue.

Mr. BRANCKER: Those of us who are in favour of the postponement have to be sure that our advocacy is such as will enable us to carry the day. For instance, why I am supporting the motion for the postponement is that I see in paragraph 3 of the addendum that an oral questionnaire was set and, naturally, I want to find out what is the nature of the questionnaire.

The CHAIRMAN: And, therefore, when you postpone the Resolution, you will get it.

Mr. BRANCKER: The addendum goes on to state that none of the four applicants could meet the requirements of the advertisement. I hope that if the Resolution is postponed we shall be able to get information as to who applied for the job and what were the questions in the questionnaire. Tell us whether there was any attempt to prevent a good local man from getting the job and whether the qualifications asked for were not necessarily to get an efficient local man but to give the job to somebody else.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, — I am speaking specifically on the motion for the postponement of this Resolution. We appointed a Select Committee, of which the honourable member who has just sat down was Chairman, to consider this matter and that Committee questioned Mr. Skinner, not even in an amicable way, and took everything out of him. What do they want to postpone this Resolution for? Surely they must have asked Mr. Skinner everything they wanted to know or else they completely neglected their duty to the House by not putting the necessary questions to him. Nobody should want to hold up the passing of this Resolution because we are going on the recommendation of the Select Committee of which, as I said, the junior member for St. Lucy was Chairman. They asked the Government to increase the salary of this post in order to be able to get a good man; now we have done so and passed on their request to the House, they are asking that it be postponed.

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

Ayes: Messrs. LEWIS, BRANCKER, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, BLACKMAN, and Dr. CUMMINS,—9.

Noes: Messrs. SPRINGER, ADAMS, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, and Mr. SPEAKER—11.

Mr. ADAMS: Before the question is put for the passing of the Resolution I would like to say that all the criticisms which have been made will be borne in mind by the Government and if there is anything in the suggestion — I am not saying that there is — that the Director had asked questions of an academic nature that bear no relation to the efficiency of a Foreman Mechanic, either because he did not give sufficient thought to it or because he had somebody in view for the post I think the honourable members on my right can feel absolutely sure that this Government is not going to support any favouritism on the part of the Head of any Government Department.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I warn the members of the Government that if they think that the passing of this Resolution means that all is well in this particular Department they are wrong and I give them timely warning that if quick methods are not

set about soon and very soon, they will hear something else coming from that side of the river.

Mr. CRAWFORD: While I do not profess to know whether or not everything is absolutely correct in the running of this Department I want to say that every time we have, in this Chamber, a discussion on anything in connection with the Department, we hear a lot of misinformed statements and criticisms. Some of the criticisms may have been justified but often they are not. Within the last three months the Government has actually called upon the Director of the Department for an answer to the allegations made in this Chamber from time to time; those allegations have been answered in detail and I am going further to suggest that, although it may be contrary to well-established practice, the refutations to those allegations which have been made from time to time should be made public, at least to honourable members of this House, to let it be seen how misinformed many of them are. I do not see how honourable members who have been taking up the time of this Committee to-day can really expect to get any more information in this matter when they have already had the source of information before them for a long time. From whom else can they get the additional information? I do not know.

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

EX GRATIA GRANT TO THE LATE WALTER HALL'S ESTATE

Mr. CRAWFORD: The next Resolution is for the sum of £78 to provide an *ex gratia* grant to the estate of the late Walter Hall, a former employee of the Waterworks Department. Hall was employed as a water-tap releatherer in the Waterworks Department from the 21st April, 1937, to February, 1947. He retired on the latter date and died on the 14th May, 1947. This proposal is to make an *ex gratia* grant to his estate and the amount is fixed on the basis of one month's salary for each completed year of service. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass..

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

DEEP WATER HARBOUR SURVEY

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,— I am proposing that we deal with the Resolution for the sum of £3,000 to meet the cost of a survey in connection with the construction of a deep water harbour. For some years now suggestions have been mooted that we should do certain improvements to our harbour. Those suggestions have never reached any further stage than that of mere suggestions but is to be hoped that when we begin again to-day with this matter it will reach finality. This Resolution is merely to meet the expenses to be incurred in investigating the possibility of improving the harbour. It is pointed out in the addendum that this survey will take fully five months and, therefore, I hope that honourable members will deal with the matter as expeditiously as possible, so that a start can be made as soon as possible. I should like to mention, Sir, that as far back as 1869 proposals have been put forward in connection with improving the harbour. I do not propose to mention now the schemes which were put forward because I think the appropriate time for so doing is after this investiga-

tion shall have been completed and we have concrete plans before us; it may then be appropriate to compare the previous proposals put forward with those which are the result of this investigation. But bearing in mind that this is a very important matter and, if undertaken, will commit this country to the expenditure, perhaps, millions of pounds I do propose to mention, merely in passing, the proposals which have been put forward in the past, the dates and the authors of them, so that honourable members and other interested members of the community will be in a position, if they want further information on this matter, to make enquiry in the proper quarters. So far as we have been able to ascertain, not less than eleven schemes for improving the harbour have been put forward.

I pause here, Mr. Chairman, to move that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

The question that the Chairman do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and ask leave to sit again is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The CHAIRMAN reports and the House resumes.

On the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Blackman in each case, the two Resolutions are read a first and a second time and are agreed to.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

On re-assembling,

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

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

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

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 26 on the Order Paper as the next Order of the Day and after that Order No. 27. I also ask leave to proceed with Orders Nos. 23 and 24 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John, as Orders Nos. 3 and 4 inasmuch as they deal with the new postal rates which are to come into effect from tomorrow.

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

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The next Order of the day was called:—To move the consideration of amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill to amend the Education (Amendment) Act 1943 (1943-3).

Mr. ADAMS: The amendments of the Other Place to this Bill are to the effect that the appointment of officers and servants in addition to the Director shall be approved from time to time by special Resolution of the Legislature. Honourable members are aware of the nature of these amendments and I beg to move that they be now read a first time.

Mr. SPRINGER seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES BILL

The next Order of the Day was called:—To move the consideration of the amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill to establish a Department of Medical Services for this Island.

Mr. ADAMS: With regard to these amendments, honourable members will see that it is more a question of re-arrangement than serious amendments to the Bill as passed by this House. In the Bill as passed by this House it was set out that in each case the Director of Medical Services and the Senior Medical Officer of Health shall be a duly qualified registered medical practitioner and shall hold a degree or diploma in Public Health administration. The Other Place has left out the provision of these officers being duly qualified registered medical practitioners. I presume that there is no intention that any person should be appointed to either of these posts who will not become, even if not at the date of his appointment, a registered medical practitioner. These senior appointments may be made from other colonies and the appointees may not be locally registered; but these amendments are not intended to mean that a person can hold either of these posts without being a registered medical practitioner. I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

REDUCTION OF AIR MAIL RATES FOR POSTCARDS

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 a Resolution to provide that from the 15th July, 1947, the airmail postage on postcards, not exceeding the maximum size of 6 inches by 4 inches, addressed to any destination set out in Column One of the Schedule thereto shall be at the rate set out immediately opposite such destination in Column two thereof.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—At present there is no scheduled rate for airmail postage in respect of postcards, the rate being the same as in the case of letters. The object of this Resolution is to make the airmail postage on postcards one-half the rate payable in respect of letters, and this will assist the mercantile community in their correspondence. The Addendum states:—

“Owing to a reduction of the onward conveyance charges for airmails from Trinidad it will be possible to reduce air mail rates by amounts varying from 1d. to 1/- per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter. Opportunity has been taken to introduce an air mail rate for post cards to the places mentioned in the Schedule to this Resolution which is submitted in accordance with Section 19 of the Post Office Act 1911 (1911-8).”

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

The question that this Resolution do now pass

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON SPECIAL AIR LETTER FORMS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John:—To move the passing of a Resolution to provide that from the 15th July, 1947, the postage on the special air letter forms provided for that purpose addressed to any destination set out in Column One of the Schedule thereto shall be at the rate set out immediately opposite such destination in Column two thereof.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The Schedule to this Resolution speaks for itself. The Addendum says:—

“Owing to reduction of the onward conveyance charges for air mails from Trinidad it will be possible to reduce the rates on air letter forms to Great Britain and Ireland, the British Dominions and Colonies. It is also proposed to extend the air letter service to those Islands in the British West Indies in direct communication with Barbados by the Service afforded by British West Indian Airways Ltd.”

I do not think that there is anything more that I need add to that. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution. This morning I received a letter from Bedford dated the 3rd of July. I have one suggestion to make; the paper of which these forms are made is not of the best quality and I am wondering if the Post Office will allow firms to have their letter heads printed on paper in compliance, of course, with the Regulations. I think that that would be a great convenience to firms if they are allowed to do that. I ask the honourable junior member for St. John to consider that request; I think that it is a reasonable one.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I will bring the honourable member's suggestion to the notice of the Government.

Mr. RAMSAY: Before the question is put, I should like to say that there is a certain amount of revenue to be obtained from the sale of these forms. The honourable member's suggestion may seem to be all right on the surface, but we may lose some money before we know where we are.

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

The Resolution was passed.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 2 on the Order Paper as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

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

RESOLUTION RE SERVICES AT RUM BOND IN THE PUBLIC MARKET

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman is to place the sum of £477 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for services required at the Rum Bond in the Public Market. The services required are as follows:—

Purchase and installation of Fire Proof safe and Fire Extinguishers £385

Salary of Night Watchman at the rate of £76.0.10 per annum from the 1st July, 1947, to the 31st March, 1948 £ 58

Telephone rental at the rate of \$3.75 a month from the 1st July, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948 £ 8

Cost of lighting electric lamps at the rate of £34 per annum for the 1st July, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948 £ 26

The Addendum states:—

“By resolution No. 87 of the 31st October, 1944, the sum of £9,036 was provided to meet the cost of converting the Public Market building into a Government Spirit Bond and of providing alternative market accommodation.

2. In order to keep books and documents as well as the building safe against the hazards of fire, it is considered necessary to install a fire-proof safe and fire extinguishers on the premises. There are unexpected funds on hand from resolution No. 87 referred to above, but the Government is advised that expenditure of these funds for the purposes set out in this resolution would not fall within the scope of resolution No. 87.”

The Addendum then goes on to set out the other services required as I have already mentioned. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In agreeing to the passing of this Resolution I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable junior member for St. John and to the Government—I do not know how many members of the Government or of the House have visited the place—that it is almost impossible for people to work there. On one occasion I happened to go there in the interest of people who were bottling rum, people who belong to the Organization with which I work, and I saw that this building is by no means an open air building. As we know, rum is not too cool an item. You can imagine what can happen in this place. On one day I think there was a temperature of 93 degrees in the shade and you can therefore imagine what the situation there was like. It is not right that such a large number of people should be employed in a place where there is not sufficient ventilation. We have not heard anything from the merchants because the rum is not affected; I am sure that we would have heard a lot from them if the rum were affected. When human beings are affected it takes longer to see after them than in the case of material things. I do not know if the members of the Chamber of Commerce have said anything about this matter, but I feel that something should be done to make the place more comfortable if you want people to work there. I am sorry that there is nothing in this Resolution stating that the place is going to be made cooler. It is definitely hard to make people work in a building such as this. Anything can happen to people when they work inside that place and then come out in the open air. I am sure that honourable members will be of the same opinion if they visit this place.

Mr. GALE: I agree in part with what has been said by the honourable member who has just sat down. This building was erected for a market and it has been converted into a rum bond. (A MEMBER: It is unsuitable for either of these purposes). It was never suitable for the purpose for which it was built. As the honourable mem-

ber has said, it is a building in which there is intolerable heat and it must be very difficult for people who work there to carry on their work. I think that the Government should consider building a proper storage rum bond because the rum trade is increasing daily and the place which is being used as a rum bond at present is absolutely unsuitable for what is being done there. There is plenty room behind the market where a proper rum bond can be built. Rum is a very inflammable commodity and if it takes fire in the building where it is being dealt with at present, many places in the vicinity might be destroyed. It is advisable to have a spirit bond as far away from other buildings as possible. The present building is quite unsuitable for the purpose for which it is being used.

Mr. BLACKMAN: All that has been said has already been dealt with by the Executive. A Sub-Committee was appointed to deal with the matter and their Report was handed in to the Government last Thursday.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to take this opportunity to raise a point which has been raised on a previous occasion. Does the Government consider making regulations governing the quality of the rum used in and shipped from this island? On the last occasion I drew to the attention of the Government that it is in the interest of the colony to have this rum matured before it is shipped from or used in the colony. It is likely that it would be very detrimental to the health of the people of this colony and to the trade carried on outside the colony if that aspect of the matter is not controlled. I should like to know if any information can be given to the effect that this matter is under consideration; by that I mean if there is sufficient storage so that this rum can be kept and become matured before it is used in or shipped from the colony.

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

The Resolution was passed.

COST OF RECONSTRUCTION OF A DEEP WATER HARBOUR

Mr. CRAWFORD: The next Resolution, Sir, is the one which we were considering before we adjourned for lunch, namely, that for the sum of £3,000 to meet the cost of a survey in connection with the construction of a deep water harbour. As I said earlier, we have had several plans in connection with the improvement of the harbour over a long period of years, and it is hoped that this one will be pursued to a final stage. I do not propose to-day to rehash any of the many plans which have been put forward from time to time in this connection, but I certainly am prepared to give a brief summary of the plans and the dates on which they were made public in order that honourable members of this House and interested members of the public who may be desirous of getting all available information in this matter will be able to do so in the proper quarters. This Resolution is merely to meet the cost of this initial survey and it is proposed to ask Messrs. Coode Wilson, a firm of English Consulting Engineers, to undertake this investigation. Incidentally, I think that I am correct in saying that this was the same firm of engineers which was responsible for the construction of the deep water harbour in Trinidad, and the engineer whom it is proposed to send to Barbados has already had experience in work of an almost similar nature

in the tropics. He it was who investigated the reclamation of the Laventille and Caroni swamps in Trinidad. I said earlier that a more appropriate time for discussing the various schemes that have been put forward is when we actually have before us the schemes which are promulgated as a result of this proposed survey, and we can discuss them with our limited ability in the matter if we care to do so. However, for the purpose of this Resolution, I should like to mention that from 1869—almost one hundred years ago, seventy-eight years ago to be exact—this matter has been receiving the consideration of the Government and the public. In 1869 we had a scheme put forward by Mr. Bourne, who was Foreman Superintendent of Public Works, and then in 1883 we had one put forward by Sir John Conde. In 1884 there was the Messervy scheme, in 1887 proposals were put forward by Mr. Payne Galloway and these were followed in 1889 by Mr. Edward Easter, and in 1893 by Mr. Harrison Hayter. In 1892 Mr. Brady had added his quota to the schemes in this connection. Mr. Steven's plan followed in 1895 and in 1912 Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews were asked to submit proposals. Mr. Bowen's plan was published in 1913 and in 1921 Mr. Auld, engineer in charge of sea defences in British Guiana put forward certain proposals for improving the harbour in Carlisle Bay. I mention all this because interested members of the public who want to check up on the available data will be able to refer to them in the proper quarters. Current interest in this matter has been the result of a suggestion made by the Chamber of Commerce sometime in October last year. At that time the Chamber of Commerce passed a Resolution requesting that the Government take steps to send down to the Legislature a Resolution to grant a sum of money to meet the cost of obtaining the services of a harbour engineer from Great Britain for the purpose of investigating the possibility of improving the harbour in this island. The Government has acceded to this request and the matter was referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and, incidentally, it is worthy of note that in spite of the fact that these proposals were submitted all down these years, not since 1883 has the matter gone as far as to be placed before the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The last despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with this matter was that by the Marquis of Ripon in 1883. As I have said, the Government has acceded to the request of the Chamber of Commerce; the matter was referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and this Resolution is the result. It is proposed that the Engineer shall visit this island for five months to undertake this investigation and then submit his report to Messrs Coode Wilson who will prepare the final Report and give the necessary expert advice. I do not think that honourable members will require any more information at this stage. I think that I am correct in saying that there is now widespread interest in this matter, and even if there is in the community a section which feels that it would not be of advantage to the colony to have a deep water harbour, I think that that section will be prepared to agree that this survey can do no harm and it may serve a very useful purpose. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the honourable member sits down, I would like to hint that he should ask honourable members to put in writing anything

they require and hand it to the Clerk so that the information can be obtained. I think that that is a first-class suggestion.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I know that we have some very able construction engineers around the table; I do not anticipate any deluge of questions.

Mr. WILKINSON: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution. Some people may be surprised to see people from the Opposition doing this. However, I should like to refresh the memory of honourable members of an Address of which I have given notice, asking the Government to send down a Resolution of this nature I do not know whether it is a compliment or not but the honourable member has mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce has called attention to this matter. I do not think that anybody can dispute the fact that unless Barbados becomes up to date and offers more facilities and quicker facilities for loading and unloading ships, we shall become what is known as a schooner port. In years to come you will find that the big steamers will pass Barbados and send the cargo up here by schooners unless we improve our harbour facilities for loading and unloading ships. To me this is a very serious outlook and that is why, on November 26, 1946, I gave notice of this Address asking that a Resolution such as this be sent down. If we have a harbour where steamers can come alongside, we shall put a large number of lightermen out of employment; but I submit that if we do not have this harbour, they will be out of work anyhow because we shall become a schooner port. If we can get this scheme carried out, just imagine the amount of employment that will be provided! Do not let us look too hard at this matter. I think that this Committee would be wise to pass this Resolution without any further discussion and let us get our harbour schemes and then we can decide to raise the money to improve our harbour. I can assure honourable members that unless something is done, we are going to lose our steamer trade.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member who has just sat down has given notice of an Address relating to a harbour scheme; he has not discussed it and I hope that he will not mind my making a few remarks in connection with this Resolution. I do not think there will be found anybody who would disagree with this Resolution; but we have had Resolutions of this kind before in which not only the salary but the daily allowance of the investigating officer has been stated. I feel that we are letting ourselves in for a great deal in saying that it is not possible to estimate the expenses incurred in connection with this investigation with accuracy because the engineer will not be in a position to say, until he arrives, how extensive an investigation is necessary. The Government has decided to have this investigation and it has said that £3,000 will cover the cost of the investigation. In the case of Superintendent Calver, many things were set in the Resolution. Nobody will deny that this initial survey is necessary, but I feel that some more detailed information should have been given and not merely state the salary which we will pay this Engineer. We should have been told something about the daily allowance.

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

The Resolution was passed.

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

The House resumed.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B)

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I object.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs RAMSAY, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN and Dr. CUMMINS—9.

Noes: Messrs LEWIS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT and WILKINSON—10.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the negative, nine honourable members voting "Aye" and ten honourable members voting "No". The House will now proceed with Private Members' Business.

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH LOAN BILL

The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business was called:—To move the House into Committee on the Bill to authorise the Vestry of the parish of St. Michael in this Island to raise a loan to enable them to purchase a property which adjoins the Parochial Buildings, Cheapside, Bridgetown, for parochial purposes.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Before I move the House into Committee on this Bill, I crave Your Honour's indulgence to make one correction. There has been a typographical error in connection with the tax of the honourable member—

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is anything which affects honourable members I do not mind your making the correction.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am referring to a typographical error in a statement which I have in my hand in respect of the tax of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, and I should like to take this opportunity to correct it. I think that it is fair and right to do so. I did say, in good faith, that the honourable member's taxes have not been increased, but in truth and in fact they have been increased. I think that it is my duty to draw that to the attention of the House. I now beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: I hope that the honourable member will withdraw the implication that I lied.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that it is with that object that the honourable member made the correction and that is why I allowed him to make it.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second the motion of the honourable senior member for the City.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—Before you put the question, I rise to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee of this House and I will give my reasons for making this motion. In the first place the questions which I asked when the second

reading of the Bill was under consideration were not satisfactorily and fully answered. The second reason is that I should like to give the Vestry of St. Michael the opportunity of discussing with the Select Committee whether the particular building or situation is suitable for at least one of the purposes mentioned in the Bill. The next reason, Sir, is that in view of what was said by the honourable introducer of the Bill to the effect that over-expenditure had taken place and it was the inevitable result of the increased cost of labour and materials in building and repairs during the past year, I feel that the estimate given in respect of this property should be revised. I think that I have seen it stated that Parliament should not be a playground for Parties but an Assembly in which persons can think and act as they consider best. It is in that spirit that I not only seconded the motion but voted that this Bill should be read a second time at some other time rather than on the last occasion. If we depart from that high standard and allow any political gangsterism to direct our thinking, speaking and voting in a free Assembly, then the Assembly will undoubtedly become a place to be vacated by decent people. I should like to say that there is nothing personal in what I say in connection with this Bill. With Your Honour's permission I will give some other reasons as to why this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. There has been a great deal of misunderstanding which has gone around with regard to this Bill. So far as I have been able to discover, this Bill was never introduced by my late colleague, Mr. Peirce. This Bill was introduced by the honourable junior member for St. Michael on the 9th April, 1946, and it was read a first time—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the question as to who introduced the Bill has anything to do with the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: We were told that the House was in agreement with the Bill when Mr. Peirce introduced it, but not when somebody else introduced it so as to show personal reasons for having it read a second time last Tuesday. I crave your indulgence—

Mr. SPEAKER: The Bill never came up for consideration by the House.

Mr. LEWIS: It was introduced by the honourable junior member for St. Michael and it may be questioned: why did the honourable member forsake the Bill and allow another honourable member to take charge of it? Was it snatched from him for propaganda purposes?

(Mr. GALE: The House died).

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that that has anything to do with the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: I am asking you to allow me to put my point in the way in which I am putting it so as to show why this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. Your Honour received a petition from a dead Vestry in connection with this Bill and you had to turn it down. The Bill was sent up but the Vestry did not exist. The next petition was sent in on the 28th January this year by the present members of the Vestry and in this petition it was stated that at a meeting of the Vestry held recently the question of purchasing this property was discussed. The Vestry was elected on the 13th of January; they held their first meeting on the 20th of January and I have been told that nothing was discussed about the purchase of this property. The Vestry did not consider the matter as an item on their agenda. The next meeting of the Vestry was held on the 10th of February and the petition had been presented on the 28th of January and the Bill was introduced and read a first time on that date. The next point is that disclosures by the present Vestry themselves have caused anxiety in the minds of the taxpayers, and

no one knows if the taxpayers would object to the raising of this money. I should also like to correct the impression that this Bill has something to do with the buying of food for the people. The people are being fed but it is a question of the place where they are to be fed. I question whether it is a proper thing to take children to a place in a busy part of the City to feed them. I understand that there are only about twenty-five children from one school being fed and I think that some effort should be made to take the meal to the school. If it is not a question of ostentatious charity, it is, in my opinion, cruel not to find a more secluded spot where the people can go for their meal rather than be exposed to the gaze of the public. I should like the Select Committee to put every point to the Vestry—

Mr. SPEAKER: What you want done can be done by the Select Committee. Your reasons for the appointment of the Select Committee are quite in order but I do not want you to debate them.

Mr. LEWIS: The only way in which I feel I can convince people is to give them reasons.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you do not want to dilate on them.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to make this statement and I hope that no honourable member will characterise it as being malicious or otherwise. I hope that the opportunity will be taken to correct what is being publicly talked, that some member of the Vestry is the legal personal representative or agent in respect of the properties adjoining the Parochial Buildings, and that is a regrettable feature. Mr. Speaker, the documents which have been put in to disprove the charges—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that I can allow the honourable member to dilate on those documents; they are in connection with the evidence which the Select Committee will be taking.

Mr. LEWIS: If honourable members have inspected those documents I think that I would be in order to show where they fall short of the requirements.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can say that the documents have been put in for the consideration of the Select Committee. I see no object in the House going into them.

Mr. LEWIS: Putting in documents to show that there is an over-expenditure of \$4,000 in an estimated expenditure of over half a million dollars proves nothing when you remember that there is this flexibility or shifting from one thing to the other under several heads of expenditure — a practice with which this House is not familiar. I would mention that under five heads of expenditure — and these things were published in the newspapers — approximately \$34,000 was overspent. There may be some criticism in respect of over-spending or under-spending and it is in the interest of honourable members to make investigations. Sometime in April members of the Vestry spoke of keeping themselves solvent and one member said that if the taxpayers were present and saw how they laid the rates, not one of them would get six votes. As being responsible people, are we not going to investigate this matter before we authorise the Vestry to borrow money? I think that we should be lacking in our duty if we did not investigate it. The newspapers cried for a change in the system—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that this has anything to do with the system.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to say that this House should be extremely careful in this matter because last Tuesday we had it thrown at us that we had told the Vestry to raise \$66,000 for Retrospective Pay and Cost of Living Bonus. The House gets the blame for the resultant increase taxes and the Vestry gets the praise for the increased salaries.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the Bill being referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. LEWIS: Honourable members can take care of their point of view. I cannot see any reason for some of the things that were said, and I should just like to say that Your Honour has allowed some very strong statements to be made in connection with this matter and I think that I should be given the opportunity as another reason for referring this Bill to a Select Committee, to say this: This is not the first loan Bill that has come before this House and malicious statements have been made—

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with this matter.

Mr. LEWIS: I should just like to say that I am prepared to follow up the statement that \$54,000 has been over-spent. It was admitted that that did appear in one newspaper at least and it appears as if it suited a purpose to leave it there so as to mislead the public. When honourable members find that the statement is not disputed and is used here after some time—I say that if a statement is made in public that money has been over-spent that statement be refuted at the time when it is made and not left to give a wrong impression of the over-spender. If the proper document is put in showing all the items dealt with that should be sufficient to prevent me from asking for what I am asking. In view of what I have said, I beg to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee of this House. I repeat that the taxpayers of St. Michael are uneasy in their minds about the happenings at the Vestry from the mouths of Vestrymen themselves, and it is in the interest of the taxpayers that an effort be made to clear up these things before the Vestry is allowed to raise another loan. I think that I have said enough in this matter, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the latitude which you have allowed me.

Mr. COX: I beg to second the honourable member's motion. I am hoping that I will be given an opportunity to explain my position and my reason for supporting the motion made by the honourable junior member for the City.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can give reasons as to why the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee, but I have to decide whether those reasons are reasons or not.

Mr. COX: I realise that this is a ticklish question and much covering will have to take place, but at the same time it would be fair if we are attacked as being wicked and malicious—

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow that; that is not a reason for the Bill being referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. COX: I want to give some justification for referring this Bill to a Select Committee with a view that the members of the Select Committee having information as to the working of the Vestry, will be able to arrive at a conclusion as to whether they could support the Bill for the raising of this loan or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you will remember I suggested that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. I do not want honourable members of this House to submit to-day the evidence which the Select Committee may take. You can give reasons why the evidence should be taken.

Mr. COX: I want to give reasons for referring this Bill to a Select Committee here and now because I realise that there are members of this House who deviate from their policy according to the conditions which arise. If we are going to take our responsibility seriously, we ought to be able to stand up to what we do and say at all times. I remember that when the matter in connection with the Hospital was before us, honourable members on the other side spoke very strongly against it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that that has anything to do with this Bill. The whole point is that certain things have transpired—things to be enquired into—and the Select Committee will make investigations which the House cannot do to-day.

Mr. COX: I should like to mention that the Vestry estimated that \$11,000 would be required for reconstructing the kitchen at the Almshouse and building the Superintendent's office, and when the work was done the amount went up to over \$24,000 and that is not all. I have seen the estimate for the painting and washing of the Almshouse and other buildings, the sum of \$2,680. I do not think that anybody who was spending his money would spend it in this manner at all. In the first place, there is a stupid and wicked practice going on. You call in a contractor to tell you how much it will cost to erect a building; you give him 2½% or 5% for telling you what that will cost and whether the contractor gets the job or not, he will push the estimate as high as he possibly can because he knows that as soon as he concludes his estimate he will draw his money.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can put that very shortly; you can say that this method of awarding contracts is not a good one.

Mr. COX: I quite see your point, Mr. Speaker, but I want to try and convince honourable members of the necessity for referring this Bill to a Select Committee. If I do not quote cases where, in my opinion, there was some squandering of the taxpayers' money, I will hardly get the support of honourable members.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is now mentioning things which will be put before the Select Committee and I do not see how I can allow you to do that.

Mr. COX: I will have to bow to Your Honour's ruling, but if I cannot show any reasonable grounds for referring the Bill to a Select Committee—

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that you have shown some grounds for doing that.

Mr. COX: If these matters are not discussed in the House, they will have to be discussed before the Select Committee. I am only giving reasons why the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee, but if Your Honour rules me out of Order I must bow to your ruling. I was saying that I saw some figures relative to the paintings etc., of certain parts of the Almshouse and other buildings and they amounted to \$8,450.20. The contractor was paid \$211.30 and he has not done the job yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is quite in order to say that the contract was not properly carried out, but I do not think that he is in order to mention item "A" and item "B" or contract "A" and contract "B" in this discussion.

Mr. COX: I just want to say finally that I think that the House should know these things in order to decide whether there is any justification or whether sufficient grounds have been given for referring this Bill to a Select Committee or not. Let us

take the Steel Shed in Queen's Park; the Vestry called in a contractor—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is now doing exactly what I said he should not do.

Mr. COX: I quite see the position; it is not likely that these facts and figures will be presented before this House. I hope, however, that when this Bill reaches the Committee stage we will have the privilege of ventilating all these corruptions as clearly as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the honourable member takes his seat I should like to suggest to him that he has the power to submit evidence to the Select Committee instead of submitting it here. As a ratepayer, the honourable member has the same right of attending the Select Committee's meetings as anyone else.

Mr. COX: Provided that a Select Committee is appointed; honourable members may not vote in favour of having the Select Committee appointed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot debate that point again; it has already been debated.

Mr. COX: I should like to say that since this Bill was discussed I made every possible effort to get certain information from the Vestry. It seems very strange to me that the honourable senior member for the City can produce figures *ad lib* here and when another honourable member asks for information he is told that the accounts are in the Auditor's possession and God knows when you can get them.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In supporting the motion for referring this Bill to a Select Committee I would like to state my reasons as broadly as I can, because I believe that the day must come when public men must be able to discharge their duties without any consideration for their friends or, may be, their enemies. As Edwin Burke once said: "It is therefore our business to cultivate in our minds, to rear to the most perfect vigour and maturity every sort of honest and generous feeling that belongs to our nature, to bring the dispositions that are lovely in private life into the service and conduct of the commonwealth."

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member to get to the point.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I will do that, Mr. Speaker. This is an important matter and we want the public to know that you must have in public life people who cannot be afraid of the glare of certain things being shown up. Even if you have a minority, that minority must be in the right. This is a matter which cannot be left up because there can be a repetition of it in the future. I feel that on the statements which the honourable junior member for the City has made there is every reason why we should have this investigation. The House should discharge its duty and if there is anything wrong let the Select Committee discover it. Of course I know that there is no guarantee for obvious reasons that a Select Committee will be appointed. The public will be justified in knowing certain things, but you cannot make honourable members vote according to any arguments no matter how logical or illogical they may be.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the honourable member should suggest that honourable members will not vote according to principle.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not saying that, Mr. Speaker, but I say that you cannot make honourable members vote in favour of what is proposed. Human beings do not always think alike and no matter what argument you can adduce you cannot

make an honourable member vote for something which is propounded. I think that the greatest amount of tolerance should be given in a matter such as this. I feel that we are reaching a stage in public life and conduct where we cannot think of not offending any person who may appear to be offended.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has, so far, not given any reason for referring this Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable senior member for the City has assumed that people are charging him with something—

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not going into that at all; give your reasons for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The honourable member who introduced this Bill has put in certain documents with which I am going to deal if and when a Select Committee is appointed. I do not think that this is the stage at which we can deal with these documents, but, speaking in a general way, it is clear that since the honourable member puts in these documents he wants them to go before a Select Committee. If you have no opportunity of dealing with certain things in the House then they should be dealt with by a Select Committee. I think that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. This is not merely a matter of feeding people; we want a Select Committee to consider whether the Vestry should be given permission to raise this loan of £4,000 bearing in mind what the honourable junior member for the City has said with regard to the petition having been rejected and so forth. These are matters which should be investigated. The more you talk about these things, the more you can see that there is the necessity for investigating them.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker—I am in favour of this Bill being referred to a Select Committee and I am going to give most explicit reasons for that and I leave the matter to the decency of honourable members. If any honourable member, no matter to which Party he belongs, is going to allow himself to be a party to matters of this sort, his *bona fides* at any rate is questionable. I base my agreement to refer this Bill to a Select Committee on the following grounds. We have been told that when the Vestry bought the site for the Children's Home they had three appraisers to value the property and, speaking for myself and I suppose for most of us, it is difficult to find three more competent appraisers than the three whom they had, namely, Mr. H. W. Clarke, Mr. H. H. Williams and Mr. C. R. Armstrong. Mr. Clarke is a person to whom most people would turn if they had any work to be done by contract. There might be three appraisers equal to the three who have been mentioned, but it is difficult to find three who are more competent. We have heard the charge made that although these appraisers valued the property to £2,800, the Vestry have agreed to pay £5,000. That charge has not been denied and the explanation is—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that the loan which is now under discussion?

Mr. ADAMS: No Sir, but we are being asked for permission to raise a loan of £4,000. On the last occasion we were asked permission to raise a loan to purchase a Children's Home and we can ask how the money was spent in purchasing this Children's Home.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is something which can be put before the Select Committee.

Mr. ADAMS: My point is that I am using it as an argument which can be used—

Mr. SPEAKER: You should not deal with that at any length.

Mr. ADAMS: I am saying that this thing has happened and we have not had any adequate explanation about it. The only fact we have is that these three appraisers said that the property was worth £2,800. I challenge any member of the Vestry to say that the property was valued at more than that or deny that it was the opinion of the appraisers that the house was not fit for reconstruction. We have been told that the Dean of St. Michael—it was not a theological point—said that the site was a fine one and apparently turned down the Vestry's appraisers. I have to accept statements made by honourable members until I discover that they are untrue and I know what to think of people who make typographical errors. Structurally, this building is not fit for a Children's Home and as against that we have the opinion of the Dean of St. Michael! Now there is the explanation that an anonymous donor came along with £5,000 and he got his appraisers to value the property. These other appraisers could have been three more clergymen. It is a remarkable fact that we are asked to imply later in the explanation that this anonymous donor was perfectly satisfied that Mr. Clarke, Mr. Williams and Mr. Armstrong were robbing the poor unfortunate vendor, that his appraisers were right and that this place was worth £5,000. I am asking honourable members irrespective of the Party to which they belong, to remember that they are men first and politicians afterwards. This anonymous donor is allowed to give for this property £2,200 more than he need have given for it and no reason has been given—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has mentioned that the Vestry have agreed to the purchase of this property for £5,000 and I do not want you to deal with that at any length.

Mr. ADAMS: I shall not deal with it at any length. I should just like to say this: If this were a Government affair and the Government said "We propose to purchase a property as a residence for the Labour Commissioner or the Director of Highways and Transport; we have sent Mr. Clarke, Mr. Williams and Mr. Armstrong to look at the property which we have in mind, and they suggest to us not to give more than £2,800 for it." If we came before the House with a Resolution for £5,000 to purchase this property what would you hear? I am asking honourable members who would not dream of doing anything dishonest in their private lives not to allow, perhaps unwittingly, anything which is dishonest. As long as the Vestry have to come to the House and ask for permission to do so and so, it is the ultimate responsibility of this House as to whether we are going to allow them to do something, I do not want to use the word corrupt, it may be reckless or—

Mr. SPEAKER: All you need say is that it is our responsibility to see whether we will allow them to do something unbusinesslike or, not. (Laughter and Cheers).

Mr. ADAMS: I believe that the worst accusation that can be brought against the honourable junior member for St. James is that he is unbusinesslike. I ask honourable members of any Party in view of what has happened to see that the Vestry should bring the facts before us. I should like to ask when did this anonymous donor make his offer to the Vestry? When was the assessment of the Vestry's appraisers sent in? When was the Agreement between the Vestry and the vendor signed for this £5,000 and what meeting was held to see that nothing was done between the offer of £2,800 and that of

£5,000 for this property? I can furnish them with all the answers.

Mr. MOTTLEY rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has no right of reply.

The question that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee was put and resolved in a "tie", the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. RAMSAY, LEWIS, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN and Dr. CUMMINS—10.

Noes: Messrs. BRANKER, FOSTER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT and WILKINSON—10.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find myself in a very awkward position. The question has been resolved in a "tie," ten honourable members voting "Aye" and ten honourable members voting "No." Honourable members know what my personal feelings are in this matter but according to the Rules I have to vote with the "Noes."

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY sitting in the Chair.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Preamble was postponed.

Clause 1, the title Clause, was read as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Saint Michael's Parish Loan Act, 1947.

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I throw out the suggestion that as a Loan Bill has already been passed, the word and figure "No. 2" should be added at the end of this Clause. I do not think that we should let an amendment be sent down from the Other Place to make it appear as if we do not know what we are doing.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I accept that amendment.

The question that Clause 1 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 1 was passed.

Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2. It shall be lawful for the Vestry of the parish of Saint Michael and they are hereby authorised from time to time as they may require the same to borrow from any person or persons body or bodies politic or corporate willing to lend them the same a sum or sums of money not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of four thousand pounds to be applied by them in purchasing from Helen Constance Mason a messuage or dwelling house standing on one thousand eight hundred square feet of land adjoining the Parochial Buildings on Cheapside Road in the City of Bridgetown and of converting the same to be used as a Food Centre and also to provide additional accommodation for the Staff of the Commissioners of Health for the said parish and the sum of sums so borrowed with interest thereon at a rate not exceeding Pounds per centum per annum shall be a charge on the rates of the said parish.

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to know if the honourable senior member for the City can tell us whether the estimates for the purchase and remodelling of this building made in 1946 still hold good in view

of the fact that there has been increased expenditure in connection with a similar project which was started and finished during that period.

Mr. MOTTLEY: To the best of my knowledge I think that the present estimates should stand in connection with this building.

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

Clause 2 was passed, the word "four" being inserted in the blank.

The remaining Clauses of the Bill were read and passed, the word "five" being inserted in the blank in Clause 4.

The two Schedules and the preamble were read and passed.

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

The House resumed.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 15th day of July, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. RAMSAY seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 15th day of July, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.