

## THE

## House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, July 22, 1947.*

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

*Present:*

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs. J. T. C. RAMSAY (*Chairman of Committees*), D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, M. E. COX, H. W. SPRINGER, M.A., G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, C. A. TALMA, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., V. C. GALE, and E. L. WARD.

## PRAYERS AND MINUTES

Prayers are read and the Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 15th July, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT, S. A. WALCOTT and Dr WILSON enter the House and take their seats.

## MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to present the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

MESSAGE NO. 24/1947.

*His Excellency The Governor  
To*

*The Honourable The House of Assembly*

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Acting Governor's Message No. 5/1947 on the subject of the emoluments attaching to the office of Governor of Barbados.

2. The Honourable House has already indicated that it is not in favour of an increase in the Governor's duty allowance. The other suggestions made by the Secretary of State have not yet been considered, namely, that transport for the use of the Officer administering the Government should be purchased and maintained at the public expense and

that some portion of the expenses of the domestic staff employed at Government House should be met from public funds.

3. His Excellency would appreciate the views of the Honourable House on these or other similar proposals.

HILARY BLOOD,  
Governor,

Government House,  
Bridgetown,  
21st July, 1947.

Messrs. WILKINSON, MOTTLEY, and GARNER enter the House and take their seats.

## PAPERS LAID

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

● Report on Old Age Pensions System and its administration.

White Paper on Closer Association of the British West Indian Colonies. (With reference to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 23/1947.

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

## PETITION

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from Leslie Bruce Clarke, Walter Clemenceford Edwards, Conrad Leroy Brathwaite, Cyril Oswald Hall, Colin Leslie Chester Young, and Carville Young praying the House to pass a Bill to incorporate the Barbados Youth Movement.

## NOTICES

Mr. BLACKMAN gives notice of the following on behalf of the Government:—

Bill relating to quarantine and similar matters.  
Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. MAPP: Bill to make provision with respect to the powers of the Legislative Council in relation to the House of Assembly.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Bill to incorporate the Barbados Youth Movement.

Mr. TALMA: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly  
To  
His Excellency The Governor*

The House of Assembly are of opinion that owing to the growth of certain districts in the parish of Christ Church as residential areas no fewer than three District Markets should be erected for the convenience of such residents of the respective districts.

The House would further respectfully beg to suggest that, should the terms of such an Address be implemented, then the following sites should be considered among others, viz:—

- (1) A suitable site in the middle of Dayrells road.
- (2) Near St. Lawrence's Corner, Christ Church.
- (3) Welches, Christ Church.

This House further respectfully express the hope that such suggestions as aforementioned might be included in the present programme for relief of unemployment in this island.

#### QUESTIONS

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

(1) Is the Government aware that Groves Bridge, St. Andrew, has been dismantled and thereby impassable for a period of three years?

(2) Is it the intention of the Highways Board to reconstruct this bridge and when?

(3) How much money has been expended during this period on watchmen for this bridge?

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

(1) Is the Government aware that the House of Assembly passed a Resolution to pay the expenses of a Ceramist with a view to improving the pottery industry in Barbados?

(2) If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, will the Government state what steps have been taken to obtain the services of the abovementioned officer?

#### BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. MAPP, seconded by Mr. Cox, a Bill to make provision with respect to the powers of the Legislative Council in relation to this House of Assembly is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. BLACKMAN, seconded by SPRINGER, a Bill relating to quarantine and similar matters is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. BLACKMAN, seconded by Mr. ADAMS, a Bill to incorporate the Barbados Youth Movement is read a first time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to draft a reply to His Excellency's Message No. 24/1947 relating to the emoluments attaching to the office of Governor of Barbados.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 24/1947 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following a Select Committee for the purpose:—The senior member for St. George (Mr. Springer), the senior member for St. Philip (Mr. Crawford), the junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. Brancker), the junior member for St. Philip (Mr. Garner), the senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox), the junior member for St. James (Mr. Wilkinson), and the junior member for St. Michael (Mr. Gale).

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—I ask to be excused from serving on this Committee. I presume that the Committee should act promptly and I shall be probably not in the island.

Mr. ADAMS: If it is agreeable to the other members of the Committee we can summon a meeting for Thursday of this week. I suggest that the name of the honourable member be included and a meeting of the Committee be summoned as early as possible.

#### APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO PROPOSED W.I. FEDERATION CONFERENCE.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Before the Orders are called I should like to make the suggestion that the House, immediately after lunch this afternoon, select two delegates to attend the proposed West Indian Federation Conference to be held in Jamaica next month. It is a matter of urgency that the delegates should be selected within some reasonable time before the Conference takes place. I beg to give notice that I shall move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to appoint these delegates on re-assembling after lunch.

#### RATIFICATION OF RICE AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. John,—To move the passing of a Resolution to ratify the Agreement made between the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board of British Guiana and the Executive Committee for the supply of rice to Barbados.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—This Agreement was made on the 19th June, 1947, as the result of a Message from the Governor on the 9th December, 1946, to the House of Assembly asking that such an Agreement be entered into and the House signified its concurrence that the Agreement should be made. 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 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

#### THE PENSIONS BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph.—Second reading of a Bill to amend and consolidate the law of this Island relating to pensions of public officers.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—The Objects and Reasons of this Bill convey all the information which, normally, the mover of it would have had to put before honourable members in introducing it. I do not think that there is anything of importance in this Bill, where it differs from the existing Pension Act, which has not been covered by the explanations set

out in the Objects and Reasons. The principal changes are enumerated as follows:—(1) Change in the method of determining what officers are pensionable, (2) change in the unit of pensionable service that is to say, from one year to one month, (3) the age of retirement—the age for compulsory retirement and the age for optional retirement being altered from 65 years and 60 years respectively to 60 years and 55 years respectively, (4) the unit of pension,—the rate of pension being varied from 1/60 to 1/50 for every year of service in consequence of the proposal to reduce all retiring ages by five years (5) change in the method of computing the pension of officers transferred from this Island to the service of scheduled Governments, bringing us at last into line with the rest of the British Colonial Service, (6) change in the method of arriving at the pensionable emoluments on which pensions are calculated, (7) provision for marriage gratuities to female officers who retire on marriage or in order to be married—and in this connection let me quieten the fears of those who feel that a female officer who gets married should retire by stating that the position will be the same under this new Bill as obtains at present. At present, a school teacher who gets married may be asked to retire or she may remain in the teaching service. Circumstances differ in certain cases. The position will remain as it is but if female officers marry and retire they will be eligible for gratuities. Other changes are: (8) provision for pensions to dependents when an officer is killed on duty,—(9) the definition of "qualifying service," (10) circumstances in which service in a non-pensionable office may be taken into account; (11) circumstances in which acting service may be taken into account are set out in the Bill, and (12) provision for gratuities for officers who have served in non-pensionable offices.

This Bill, as honourable members will see, is based on a model Bill supplied by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Some of us may feel, as I have left for a long time, that it is not necessary in a healthy place like Barbados to reduce the compulsory retiring age from 65 to 60 but we cannot in one breath speak of federating the British West Indian Colonies and in the same breath say that Barbados should be unique and remain outside the scheduled colonies. This Bill will put us in line with other colonies in which there is service under the Crown, as far as pensions are concerned, and I may also add that it has met with the approval of the local Civil Service Association. I believe I am right in saying that it has been before the public sufficiently long for many persons to have formed an opinion as to the advisability of amending our Pension Act, so as to bring it into line with Pension Acts in other parts of the Colonial Service. I shall have to ask leave later on, Mr. Speaker, to make an amendment to the Bill. After it was printed and agreed to, it appeared to the Government that more attention should be given to the question of option; that the regulation as it appears in the printed Bill should be altered and instead of an officer having to exercise his option a good long time before he retires, he should be allowed to exercise it almost on the date of his retirement. I shall, therefore, at the appropriate time ask leave to delete sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 25 which relates to the option of having a gratuity and reduced pension in order to substitute therefor the following:—

"(2) The option referred to in paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be exercisable not later than the day immediately preceding the date of such officer's retirement. Provided that if the officer does not exercise the option prior to the day preceding the date of his retirement, the Governor may, if it appears to him in all the circumstances equitable so to do, allow him to exercise the option at any time between that

date and the actual date of award of pension under the Act.

"(3) If an officer has exercised the option his decision shall be irrevocable so far as concerns any pensions granted to him under the Act.

"(4) If an officer who has not exercised the option dies after he has finally retired but before a pension has been awarded under the Act it shall be lawful for the Executive Committee to grant a gratuity and a reduced pension as provided in paragraph (1), as if the officer before his death had exercised the option."

Honourable members will appreciate how much fairer that is than to tie an officer down to the exercising of the option a long time before his retirement. At the time when he exercised the option to take a pension he might be hale, strong and vigorous but when he is about to retire he may be almost on the point of death and prefers a gratuity and reduced pension which may be a means of help to him rather than be bound to accept a pension which he agreed to accept 30 or 40 years before. He will now have the opportunity of exercising the option up to the day before he retires and even if he forgets to do that, the Governor may allow him to receive it at any time between that date and the actual date of the award of the pension under the Act but as soon as he exercises his option he cannot change his mind. Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is really any necessity for me to say more and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second the motion for the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. GALE: There is only one question I would like to ask and it is in connection with the age for retirement. I notice that the Objects and Reasons state that it is proposed that the age for compulsory retirement shall be altered from 70 years in the case of clergymen to 60 years. Is that correct? It would appear that clergymen are to be put on the same basis as Civil Servants, as far as the age of retirement is concerned, but I really do not see the wisdom in doing that. As far as the clergymen are concerned there will be no inter-scheduling because there are no other clergymen in any part of the British Empire who are in the service of the Crown; therefore, I do not see the necessity of bringing them under the same obligations as other officers in the Service. The present arrangement as far as the clergymen are concerned has been working satisfactorily since 1925 and I think the ages for their retirement should remain as they are to-day, that is, compulsory at 70 and optional at 65, or we can fix them at 65 compulsory and 60 optional. As I said, there can be no question of their pensions being affected in any way by transfer from one colony to another because Barbados is the only part of the Empire in which there is a State paid Church. When, therefore, we go into Committee on the Bill I shall move an amendment which will have the effect of giving clergymen a difference of five years in the ages of retirement.

Mr. TALMA: I should like to say that I think this Bill is long overdue, especially having regard to the fact that Barbados is in the tropical zone. If the framers of the Act of 1925 had borne that point in mind, they would have realized that in Africa, the Strait Settlements, and other places which are in the Tropical Zone, the retiring age for officers who work in the Service of the Crown is 55 and has

been such for a number of years. But, Sir, it is still very encouraging to see that a gross error which has been made by former Governments of this island is being corrected to-day. One can hardly expect members of the Civil Service, with the low salaries which they receive, to continue to serve the Government practically from their cradles to the grave because when an officer reaches the age of 65, that is the time when he is looking to die and not to be able to live to enjoy a pension. The fixing of the retiring age at 65 years has been the means whereby the local Government was given the opportunity of paying very little attention to the people who work for it because after a man has been working from the age of 20 to the age of 65, he has no energy left to be able to enjoy a pension. People who come here on retirement from service in places where they received better living wages are able to enjoy their pensions because they retire at a comparatively early age; so that if anyone in this Chamber raises a dissenting voice against this Bill, he is just moving backward and not forward. As far as the clergymen are concerned, they will soon fall under the aegis of the Bishop when the Church is separated from the State and it will be a means, I hope, of preventing clergymen from going to the Treasury cap in hand every month without having attended at the bedside of the poor, the needy, and the sick in their respective districts; the Clergy will be able to take care of themselves. We do not hope to include them in this Act and I shall have an opportunity to speak at length on that later on. Clergymen must be paid but not from the Treasury. Let the Bishop pay the ones who deserve payment—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can leave that point now and continue to deal with it when the House is in Committee on the Bill.

Mr. TALMA: As regards the female officers who marry while they are in the Service I thoroughly agree with the explanation given by the honourable Leader of the House. There may be some little contention over that point but I feel that a great deal of hardship would be done if any interpretation is placed on that aspect of the Bill other than the explanation which the honourable Leader of the House gives us because there are cases in which a female officer although she may be married yet is the breadwinner so to speak. There are most women who are capable of holding good posts in the Service as teachers but who have partners that are incompetent (Laughter). Mr. Speaker, I beg to apologize to you. It would seem as if my statement arouses a great deal of laughter. What I actually said is that most women who are capable enough to be teachers at schools or officers in the Government Service sometimes marry partners who are not impotent (more Laughter) but incompetent; so I can well appreciate the Explanation given by the honourable Leader of the House that a certain amount of discretion will be exercised in certain cases,—cases which on the face of it would be regarded as deserving and cases to which full co-operation on the part of the Government should be extended.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would point out to honourable members that these reasons which are stated in the "Objects and Reasons" are reasons for the passing of the Bill so as to bring the Pension Act into line with the Pension Act in other colonies but that the speeches which are being made now are in reference to the particular clauses of the Bill which may be better dealt with in Committee.

Mr. RAMSAY: The senior member for Christ Church said, Mr. Speaker, that he did not think that

there was any member of this Chamber who would have the temerity to oppose this Bill but I would like to say that I cannot for the life of me see how we, in this island with its redundant population and overrun with poverty, can attempt to reduce the age for retirement from the Government Service. I am thoroughly in disagreement with this Bill. I do not agree with it at all. I feel that if this Bill becomes law, soon and very soon we are going to have such a tremendous list of pensioners that we are going to find it difficult to cope with them. I say that with a full sense of my responsibility and after giving the proposal much thought. I think that if you are going to retire Government officers at 55 you should retire everybody at 55 and put the pensions of agricultural labourers and old pensioners on the same basis; that is my feeling in the matter. If there is any body of persons which should be allowed to serve up to the age at which they are serving now, it is the Clergy because we know from experience that as clergymen grow older they are more useful; they are looking to the other side and they are really and truly servants of God. You can respect what they say. When the Reverend goes to settle a dispute between husband and wife he can speak from the storehouse of his experience and is respected. Some people are talking about the clergymen ceasing to draw their salaries from the Treasury as the result of a separation of the Church from the State but sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. I am not in favour of the retiring age being reduced nor am I in favour of the clergymen being retired at the age of 60. As regards the inter-scheduling, I am overwhelmingly pleased that the Government has seen it fit to make this change. I know we have lost the services of many a good officer because when he will have left Barbados he lost his pension rights as far as this colony is concerned and I am very glad that that has been rectified; in that particular instance we have gone on over 100 per cent. With respect to the proposal that when a female officer gets married she should be required to retire I would like to say that some of my closest friends are teachers and I love them so much as I love anybody else but I would never allow a married woman to remain in the Service. As soon as a female officer gets married, you should not have her in your employ except in very special circumstances, that is, unless she is a breadwinner and at that, you should superannuate her and give her a gratuity. If a female officer gets married, she is no longer of use to the Service; she has to think of her husband and, therefore, her place should be in her home.

Mr. COX: There are one or two observations I would like to make in connection with this Bill. This Bill applies to Government employees generally and I would suggest that we send it to a Select Committee so that it can be properly threshed out. I have discovered that persons in the Government Service have to serve for a period of three years, on promotion, before they are entitled to draw a pension on the salaries which they received at the time of their retirement. That situation, I understand, came into existence in the 30's and it has created a great hardship upon many Government employees. I know two or three policemen who have suffered as the result of that provision in the Act. A policeman was once promoted from Lance Corporal to Lance Sergeant; before he could complete the three years in the latter rank his health broke down and he had to retire and he received a pension computed only on the salary which he received as a Lance-Corporal. I do not think

that that is fair. As a matter of fact I do not see why an officer who is promoted should be required to serve any period at all in the higher office before he can draw a pension computed on the salary of the office to which he has been promoted because it is clear that as soon as he is promoted he is considered to be capable of doing the job and his pension, as a result, should follow his salary immediately. I should like to see that provision deleted from the Act and I give notice that I shall move an amendment to that effect when this Bill is being considered in Committee because of the hardship which it creates on persons in the Government's employ who are promoted from time to time. A man may be promoted to an office with a salary of \$40 per month and although his salary is increased, he has to work in the latter office for three years before he can receive a pension computed on the salary of \$40 per month. I feel that that provision should be amended before this Bill is passed.

Again, I am not altogether satisfied with the manner in which these pensions are to be paid; instead of an officer receiving 1/60 of his yearly salary as a pension, as is at present the case, he will get, if this Act is passed, 1/50 of his yearly salary. I certainly appreciate the increase that that makes but what I feel is that these pensions ought to be computed on a sliding-scale basis. What I mean by that is this. An officer working for £1,000 or £1,200 a year will get 1/50 of his salary as a pension; that is all right. But you get another officer who works for £150 or £200 a year and his pension will be computed on the same basis. I feel that these pensions should be computed on a sliding scale basis so that an officer whose wages or salary is small — almost too small to keep him alive when he is working—will receive a greater portion of his small salary or wages as a pension than the officer who receives £1,000 or £1,200 a year because it is obvious that the officer who receives a big salary is in a position to save more money while he is working and is not so dependant on his pension when he retires as the officer who receives a small salary would be. I would like to say that I am pleased with the remarks which the Leader of the House made in respect of female officers who marry while they are in the service or who retire from the service to get married. Unlike the junior member for St. Peter I am prepared to support the proposal in respect of them 100 per cent because I know that the system of paying wages in this country, perhaps from the time of the abolition of slavery, is so ridiculously low and inadequate that it sometimes takes the wages of three or four people in a home to make up the family budget; so that rather than ask a female officer who is willing to assist in the family budget to retire on getting married, she should be given every facility to remain in the Service, since we are so well acquainted with the meagre and low wages that have been paid in this island for all these years.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—There are some things about this Bill which, I think, are becoming and there are other things about it which I would scrap. I do not for one moment believe — whether we live in the tropics or not — that we should continue with a Bill of this nature and retire so many people at the age of 55. A lot of people will take advantage of this Bill and go home at the age of 55 and what I am apprehensive about is how will we fare from the point of view of the Treasury. How are we going to meet these pen-

sions? We may have lean years in the future. We may not be paying attention to that particular phase of this Bill to-day and I can foresee members of this House coming back here and making amendments to this Bill, because if we pass this Bill making the age of retirement optional at 55 and compulsory at 60 with some of the salaries which are now being paid, we can envisage how the amount of pensions will be increased. I do not begrudge anybody for the pension he will be getting but I am very fearful about the results of this Bill; it is going to cost the country a lot of money. You will be retiring a lot of people very early and some of these people who will be retired are going to live for many years after. As regards married women teaching in schools are concerned, I have a number of friends who are female teachers and I am sure that they would not like to hear what I am going to say now but it is my honest conviction that as soon as a woman gets married she should go home. If her husband cannot support her, that is a matter of which she should have taken notice before she married him. There are a number of young men and women who are leaving the secondary schools with certificates every year and who want work to do and if a teacher gets married she should take her rightful place in her home and look after her husband's affairs; that is how I feel about it. I do not believe in the plurality of jobs; it amounts to that because the husband will be working and the wife will be working; both will be receiving salaries and will be living in luxury while some poor unfortunate child whose parents have been spending their last cent to educate it, will be without a job. We are now forcing education to the hilt and if we educate the children and find no avenues of employment for them, how are we going to make out? I believe that when these ladies get married, they should go home.

Mr. SPEAKER: The junior member for St. Peter was allowed to speak on that point but what is said at this stage will no doubt be repeated later in Committee.

Mr. GARNER: As I said before, there are some things about this Bill which are commendable and there are other things about it that should be scrapped. I do not think that it meets with my entire approval and I only wish I could persuade the House to delete those things which, I think, are going to be objectionable in the future (Cheers).

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

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

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive are read and agreed to.

Clause 6. No pension, gratuity or other allowance shall be granted under this Act to any officer except on his retirement from the Public Service in one of the following cases:—

(1) on or after attaining the age of fifty-five years or, in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State, fifty years;

(2) in the case of transfer to other public service, in circumstances in which he is permitted by the law or regulations of the service in which he is last employed to retire on pension or gratuity;

(3) on the abolition of his office;

(4) on the re-organisation of his office for any purpose;

(5) on medical evidence to the satisfaction of the Governor or Secretary of State that he is incapable by reason of any infirmity of mind or body of discharging the duties of his office and that such infirmity is likely to be permanent;

(6) on becoming unfit, in the opinion of the Governor or the Secretary of State, for the discharge of the duties of his office, though not suffering from any particular illness or infirmity likely to be permanent, if such unfitness is not attributable to his own misconduct or gross negligence, and if the Governor considers that the special circumstances of the case justify the grant to him of a pension or a gratuity, as the case may be;

(7) in the case of removal on the ground of inefficiency as provided in this Act;

(8) on retirement in circumstances, not mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this section rendering him eligible for a pension under the Pensions (Governors of Dominions, &c.) Acts, 1911 to 1936, of the United Kingdom or any Act amending or replacing those Acts:

Provided that a gratuity may be granted to a female officer, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, who retires for the reason that she has married or is about to marry, notwithstanding that she is not otherwise eligible under this section for the grant of any pension, gratuity or other allowance.

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

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. GALE: I should like here to insert my amendment with respect to the retiring age for clergymen. I beg to move that the following words be added to sub-Clause (1) of this Clause:—"and in the case of Clergymen **sixty years.**"

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that. The principle of this Bill is to reduce the retiring age by five years and, to me, the fixing of the retiring age at 55 is going a little bit too far. I know that I agreed to the principle when I was a member of the Executive Committee some years ago but as the junior member for St. Philip has mentioned there is the question of the cost to be considered. I remember that when this Bill was first considered by the Executive Committee the cost was roughly figured and it was rather alarming. I do not know if the senior member for St. Joseph is acquainted with the estimate but anyhow the principle has been agreed upon. As regards the clergymen, we should continue that difference of five years between their ages of retirement and those of other Civil Servants and, therefore, I second the motion of the honourable junior member for Michael.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know that I can—I do not know that even the Government can without reference to the Secretary of State for the Colonies—agree to the proposal of the two honourable members who have just spoken. I would like to point out that this Act is not compulsory. Clergymen can elect to remain as they are, that is, until they are 70 years old. Nobody needs come under this Act unless he wants to do so; so I do not see any difference in the case of clergymen. There is a proviso whereby any officer can say "I am remaining under the old Act or coming under the now one." Every alteration or amendment or suggestion has to be approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and I do not think that the Government can accept this proposal without prior reference of it to him.

Mr. SMITH enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. GALE: I beg to move the postponement of

this Clause and I hope that the senior member for St. Joseph will agree to that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: There is another consideration that has only just occurred to me. The junior member for St. Michael has to be sure that his proposal will not result in adding a charge on the Treasury: If we allow the clergymen to remain at 70, it means that you are adding a charge on the Treasury; we will automatically have to lower the rate paid to clergymen and the amendment will be out of order.

The CHAIRMAN: I thought so too but I was waiting before I ruled on the point. There ought to be, however, some way of getting out of the difficulty.

The question that the further consideration of Clause 6 be postponed is put and resolved in the affirmative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: DR. WILSON, MESSRS. BRANCKER, SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, FOSTER, DR. CUMMINS, MESSRS. SPRINGER, BLACKMAN, GARNER, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD, and MR. SPEAKER—16.

Noes: Messrs. COX, MAPP, ADAMS, and TALMA—

4.

Clause 7 is read and agreed to.

Clause 8. It shall be lawful for the Governor to require an officer to retire from the service of this Island—

(1) at any time after he attains the age of fifty-five years, or

(2) in special cases, with the approval of the Secretary of State at any time after he attains the age of fifty years or

(3) in the case of a female officer, on marriage; and retirement shall be compulsory for every officer on attaining the age of sixty years.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Clause 8 of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. GALE: I think it will be necessary to postpone this Clause as well because it bears some relation to the point which was raised in connection with Clause 6.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to accept that.

Clause 9.—(1) Except in cases provided for by subsection (2) of this section, a pension granted to an officer under this Act shall not exceed two-thirds of the highest pensionable emoluments drawn by him at any time in the course of his service in this Island.

(2) An Officer who shall have been granted a pension in respect of other public service shall not at any time draw from the funds of this Island an amount of pension which, when added to the amount of any pension or pensions drawn in respect of other public service, exceeds two-thirds of the highest pensionable emoluments drawn by him at any time in the course of his public service:

Provided that where an officer receives in respect of some period of public service both a gratuity and a pension, the amount of such pension shall be deemed for the purpose of this subsection to be four-thirds of its actual amount.

(3) Where the limitation prescribed by the preceding subsection operates the amount of the pension to be drawn from the funds of this Island shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, in order that it may be determined with due regard to the amount of any pension or pensions to be drawn in respect of other public services.

(4) For the purposes of the preceding subsections an additional pension granted in respect of injury shall not be taken into account; but where

the officer is granted such an additional pension under this Act, the amount thereof together with the remainder of his pension or pensions shall not exceed five-sixths of his highest pensionable emoluments at any time in the course of his public service.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Clause 9 of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WARD draws attention to the expression "four-thirds" in the penultimate line of the proviso of sub-clause (2)

The CHAIRMAN: It is right; it means one and one-third.

The question that this be Clause 9 of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 10 to 13 inclusive are read and are agreed to.

Clause 14.—(1) If any person to whom a pension or other allowance has been granted under this Act is sentenced to a term of imprisonment with hard labour exceeding twelve months by any competent Court for any offence, such pension or allowance shall, if the Secretary of State, or if such person is resident in this Island, the Governor, so directs, cease as from such date as the Secretary of State or the Governor, as the case may be, determines.

(2) If any person is sentenced as aforesaid after retirement in circumstances in which he is eligible for pension or allowance under this Act but before the pension or allowance is granted, then the provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall apply as respects any pension or allowance which may be granted to him.

(3) Where a pension or allowance ceases by reason of this section it shall be lawful for the Secretary of State or the Governor, as the case may be, to direct all or any part of the moneys to which such person would have been entitled by way of pension or allowance had he not been sentenced as aforesaid to be paid or applied, in the same manner in all respects as prescribed in the preceding section, and such moneys shall be paid or applied accordingly.

(4) If such person after conviction at any time receives a free pardon, the pension or allowance shall be payable with retrospective effect: but in determining whether arrears of such pension or allowance are payable to such person and in computing the amount thereof, account shall be taken of all moneys paid or applied under the preceding subsection.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Clause 14 of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am not very enthusiastic over this Clause. After all, the pension one receives is for the services which one has rendered. Suppose it happens that after one has well earned one's pension one drives a motor car too fast and somebody is killed; and suppose one happens to be one of the unlucky ones and is convicted for manslaughter which is not an offence which we regard as heinous from the standpoint of the state of mind of the person committing the offence, then according to this clause one's pension shall, if the Secretary of State, or if one is resident in this island, the Governor, so directs, cease as from such date as the Secretary of State or the Governor, as the case may be, determines. I am not satisfied that that is in order because the person will have done the work in respect of which he earned that pension. That pension occurred during the time he was working and if after he has reach-

ed the age of 60 he is deprived of something he has already earned I think that is very hard. I mention manslaughter but there may be many other cases in which one who has earned one's pension may have the misfortune of being convicted and may, while serving a term of imprisonment, have a wife and children dependent on one. Before I can support this clause I would like to know what reasons can be urged in support of its retention in this Bill.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Chairman,—I thought I would have heard somebody speak on Clause 13 in the strain in which the honourable member who just sat down spoke. The honourable member has made himself a corner for criminals for many years now. I notice that you can always ring a bell with him in defence of the criminal class. I should have thought it is much harder with a man who becomes insolvent and cannot pay his debts through no fault of his own but not a man who commits crime to such a degree that he becomes a public menace and has to be put out of the way of the public. The exact same conditions apply to him as to a bankrupt and not a word is said about its being hard on the bankrupt who is put in Glendairy Prison for some months. Sub Clause 3 of this Clause says:—"Where a pension or allowance ceases by reason of this section it shall be lawful for the Secretary of State or the Governor, as the case may be, to direct all or any part of the moneys to which such person would have been entitled by way of pension or allowance had he not been sentenced as aforesaid to be paid or applied, in the same manner in all respects as prescribed in the preceding section, and such moneys shall be paid or applied accordingly." In other words whether it is in respect of his wife or his family or his debts, exactly the same provision is made. What is more definite is that the pension can be computed and the remainder given to the pensioner. Where is the hardship? Why pick out the case of manslaughter? What about the other cases? This is a discretionary power which is given to the Governor and one has to assume that it will be exercised reasonably. I think it would be wrong to place the money under the control of a pensioner while he is in Glendairy and his family is suffering outside; he has to be put away in Glendairy because he is a public nuisance but he is entitled to his pension and it will be perfectly satisfactory to the junior member for St. Lucy to let him have it all and completely neglect his family outside. I cannot see any argument in that at all.

The question that Clause 14 stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 15 and 16 are read and are agreed to.

Clause 17. (1) Where an officer dies as a result of injuries received—

(a) in the actual discharge of his duty, and

(b) without his own default, and

(c) on account of circumstances specifically attributed to the nature of his duty, while in the service of this Island, it shall be lawful for the Governor to grant, in addition to the grant, if any, made to his legal personal representative under section sixteen of this Act—

(i) if the deceased officer leaves a widow, a pension to her, while unmarried and of good character, at a rate not exceeding ten-sixtieths of his annual pensionable emoluments at the date of the injury or twenty pounds a year, whichever is the greater;

(ii) if the deceased officer leaves a widow to whom a pension is granted under the preceding paragraph and a child or children, a pension in respect of each child, until such child attains the age of eighteen years, of an amount not exceeding one-eighth of the pension prescribed under the preceding paragraph;

(iii) if the deceased officer leaves a child or children, but does not have a widow or no pension is granted to the widow, a pension in respect of each child, until such child attains the age of eighteen years, of double the amount prescribed by the preceding paragraph;

(iv) if the deceased officer leaves a child or children and a widow to whom a pension is granted under paragraph (i) of this subsection, and the widow subsequently dies, a pension in respect of each child as from the date of the death of the widow until such child attains the age of eighteen years, of double the amount prescribed in paragraph (ii) of this subsection.

(v) if the deceased officer does not leave a widow, or if no pension is granted to his widow, and if his mother was wholly or mainly dependent on him for her support, a pension to the mother, while of good character and without adequate means of support, of an amount not exceeding the pension which might have been granted to his widow:

Provided that—

(A) pension shall not be payable under this subsection at any time in respect of more than six children; and

(B) in the case of a pension granted under paragraph (v) of this subsection, if the mother is a widow at the time of the grant of the pension and subsequently remarries such pension shall cease as from the date of re-marriage; and if it appears to the Secretary of State at any time that the mother is adequately provided with other means of support, such pension shall cease as from such date as the Secretary of State may determine;

(C) a pension granted to a female child under this section shall cease upon the marriage of such child under the age of eighteen years.

(2) In the case of an officer not holding a pensionable office, the expression "pensionable emoluments" in the preceding subsection shall mean the emoluments enjoyed by him which would have been pensionable emoluments if the office held by him had been a pensionable office

(3) for the purpose of this section the word 'child' shall include

(a) a posthumous child;

(b) a step-child or illegitimate child born before the date of the injury and wholly or mainly dependent upon the deceased officer for support, and

(c) an adopted child, adopted in a manner recognised by law, before the date of the injury, and dependent as aforesaid.

(4) This section shall not apply in the case of the death of any officer if his dependants as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943, or any Act amending or replacing that Act are entitled to compensation under that Act.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Clause 17 of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WARD: I should like to draw the attention of the senior member for St. Joseph to the wording of sub-paragraph (iii) of sub-clause (i)

which says:—"if the deceased officer leaves a child or children, but does not have a widow or no pension is granted to the widow .....". It appears to me that the word "have" is an error.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to amend sub-paragraph (iii) by deleting the word "have" occurring in line 2 and substituting therefor the word "leave".

There being no objection, the honourable member is granted leave to amend the sub-paragraph.

The question that Clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 18 to 21 inclusive are read and are agreed to.

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

#### REPLIES LAID.

On re-assembling,

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 44, standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy.

#### SUSPENSION OF RULE 61(A)

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

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 in order to resume Government Business.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

#### SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO REPRESENT BARBADOS AT JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Mr. ADAMS: Before we resume Government Business, I suggest that this is the proper stage at which we might select the two delegates from this House to represent Barbados at the Conference which will take place at Jamaica in September on the subject of the closer association of the British West Indian Islands, in accordance with the notice which I gave this morning.

Mr. SPRINGER: I ask leave to move for the appointment of two delegates to represent Barbados at the forthcoming Conference which will be held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in September on the subject of the closer association between the British West Indian Islands.

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

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and the honourable senior member for St. Philip be chosen as the two delegates to represent this island at the Montego Bay Conference.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that. I think that this Chamber will be very well represented by these delegates especially on the federation issue.

The question that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph and the honourable senior member for St. Philip be chosen as the two delegates to represent this colony at the forthcoming Conference was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I wish to thank the House most sincerely for the honour which they have done me in selecting me as one of their delegates to this Conference. I shall endeavour to the utmost of my ability to remember that this House will be the oldest Assembly represented at this Conference, and that it has a tradition of setting an example in progress in Government to the rest of the West Indian Colonies. I hope that I will not fail in upholding that tradition at the forthcoming Conference. (Cheers).

Mr. GARNER: On behalf of my colleague who is absent from the House, I should like to say that I know that he would be just as grateful as the honourable senior member for St. Joseph in having been chosen as one of the delegates from this House to this Conference. I am sure that this spirit which motivates us to-day will be a stepping-stone to greater things. I hope that as they go to work on the question of federation everything will work in harmony. (Cheers).

#### THE PENSION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: When Government Business was last being considered, the House was in Committee on the Bill to amend and consolidate the law of this island relating to pensions of public officers.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee on this Bill we had passed Clause 21, we deal now with the Regulations.

Regulations 1 to 13 inclusive were read and passed.

Regulation 14 was read as follows:—

14.—(1) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, qualifying service shall be the inclusive period between the date on which an officer begins to draw salary in respect of public service and the date of his leaving the public service, without deduction of any period during which he has been absent on leave.

Provided always that when the Bishop or any rector, vicar or curate of the Anglican Church has left the service of this Island to go elsewhere in the service of the Church in any part of the British dominions, but not in the service of the Crown, he shall be deemed, if he shall not have attained the age of fifty-five years when he leaves the service of this Island, to be in the public service in the place to which he goes, and the period of his service in the place to which he goes shall be deemed to be qualifying service;

Provided further that when any teacher leaves the service of a school authority as defined in the Teachers Pension Act, 1925 or any Act amending or replacing the same to be employed in the service of this Island he shall be deemed to have been in the public service during the period of his service with such school authority and the period of such service shall be deemed to be qualifying service.

(2) No period which is not

(a) qualifying service by virtue of the foregoing paragraph or

(b) an addition of years authorised under Regulation 24 of these Regulations

shall be taken into account as pensionable service.

(3) No period during which the officer was not in public service shall be taken into account as qualifying service or as pensionable service.

(4) In this Regulation the expression "the British dominions" means the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Dominions, India, Burma, the territories administered by His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions under Mandate or otherwise, the British Colonies, the British Protectorates and Protected States and the Mandated Territories of Tanganyika, the Cameroons under British Mandate and Togoland under British Mandate.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Regulation 14 stand part of these Regulations. If on the reconsideration of the two Clauses which have been postponed the age in respect of clergymen is changed we can re-commit this Regulation and add the words "or in the case of clergymen sixty or sixty-five years as the case may be."

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Regulation 14 stand part of these Regulations was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Regulation 14 was passed.

Regulations 15 to 17 inclusive were read and passed.

Regulation 18 was read as follows:—

18.—(1) For the purpose of computing the amount of an officer's pension or gratuity—

(a) in the case of an officer who has held the same office for a period of three years immediately preceding the date of his retirement, the full annual pensionable emoluments enjoyed by him at that date in respect of that office shall be taken;

(b) in the case of an officer who at any time during such period of three years has been transferred from one office to another, but whose pensionable emoluments have not been changed by reason of such transfer or transfers, the full annual pensionable emoluments enjoyed by him at the date of his retirement in respect of the office then held by him shall be taken,

(c) in other cases one third of the aggregate pensionable emoluments enjoyed by the officer in respect of his service during the three years of his service immediately preceding the date of his retirement shall be taken:

Provided that—

(i) if such one third is less than the highest annual pensionable emoluments enjoyed by him at the date of any transfer within such period of three years those pensionable emoluments shall be taken, and

(ii) if such one third is less than the annual pensionable emoluments which would have been enjoyed by him at the date of his retirement, if he had continued to hold any office from which he has been transferred at any time during such period of three years, and had received all increments which, in the opinion of the Governor, would have been granted to him, the annual pensionable emoluments which would have been so enjoyed shall be taken.

(iii) for the purpose of calculating pensionable emoluments under this paragraph, the officer shall be deemed to have been on duty on full pensionable emoluments throughout the said three years.

(2) The estimated value of free quarters in respect of service in this Island shall be such as shall be fixed by the Governor, but shall not exceed one-sixth of the actual salary of the office.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Regulation 18 stand part of these Regulations.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: Before the question is put, I should like to say that this is the point which I raised when this Bill was before the House on a previous

occasion. This Regulation deals with the period which an officer must serve before he can receive his pension on the last promotion. Sub-paragraph (a) of this Regulation says this: "In the case of an officer who has held the same office for a period of three years immediately preceding the date of his retirement, the full annual pensionable emoluments enjoyed by him at that date in respect of that office shall be taken."

In this case, if an officer reaches his maximum and he remains in office for three years after reaching that maximum, and his salary is increased, he automatically draws his pension even if he retires a day afterwards, on the last increase, whereas in the case of other officers they have to serve for three years in office with the increase in pay before they can draw their pensions on the last emoluments. For that reason, I feel that it is reasonable that we should postpone the consideration of this Regulation in order that there might be uniformity in each case. I beg to move that consideration of this Regulation be postponed.

Mr. MAPP seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Regulation 18 was postponed.

Regulations 19 to 24 inclusive were read and passed.

Regulation 25 was read as follows:—

25 (1) Any officer to whom a pension is granted under the Act may, at his option exercisable as in this Regulation provided, be paid in lieu of such pension a pension at the rate of three fourths of such pension together with a gratuity equal to ten times the amount of the reduction so made in the pension.

Provided that in the application of this Regulation to cases where the limitation prescribed by subsection (2) of section nine of the Act operates, the words "such pension" shall mean the amount of pension which the officer might have drawn from the funds of this Island if he had not exercised his option under this Regulation.

(2) The option referred to in paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be exercisable—

(a) in the case of an officer to whom, if retired in the circumstances described in paragraph (5) of section six of the Act, a pension might be awarded by reason only of the taking into account, under Regulation 19, of service otherwise than in a pensionable office, not later than six months from the date when he received notice of the approval of the Governor for taking such service into account;

(b) in the case of an officer who is transferred to the service of this Island from other public services, not later than six months after the earliest date on which, if retired in the circumstances aforesaid, he might be awarded a pension under the Act;

(c) in the case of any other officer, not later than one month after the earliest date on which, if retired in the circumstances aforesaid, he might be awarded a pension under the Act:

Provided that

(i) an officer who has previously had the opportunity of exercising the option but has not done so, may, if he subsequently marries and is still in the Service of this Island or in any other public service, apply to the Governor not later than one month after the date of his marriage for permission to exercise the option, which permission may be granted at the Governor's discretion

after examination of the officer by a Government Medical Board, and upon the grant of such permission the option shall be deemed to have been exercised;

(ii) in special circumstances, if an officer has failed to exercise the option within the period specified in this Regulation, the Governor may, if it appears to him equitable so to do, allow such officer to exercise the option within some time to be specified;

(iii) except as provided in proviso (i) to this paragraph, the date of the exercise of the option shall be deemed to be the date of the receipt of his written notification addressed either to the Colonial Secretary in this Island or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies; and

(iv) where an officer was before the date of the commencement of the Act, entitled to exercise an option under section twelve of the Pension Act, 1925, then if the time for exercising that option has expired before that date, he shall not be entitled to exercise an option under this Regulation except in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (i) or paragraph (ii) of this proviso; and if he shall, before that date, have elected under the said section to receive a gratuity and reduced pension, this Regulation shall apply in his case as if he had exercised his option thereunder

(v) where

(a) a teacher has left the service of a school authority as defined in the Teacher's Pension Act, 1925 or any Act amending the same to be employed in the service of this Island or

(b) a member of the Police Force or a member of the Fire Brigade has left the Police Force or the Fire Brigade, as the case may be, to be employed in other service of this Island,

but before so leaving was entitled to exercise an option under section ten or section twelve of the Teachers Pension Act, 1925, or under section seventy four or section seventy six of the Police Act, 1908, or under section thirty eight or section forty of the Fire Brigade Act, 1908, as the case may be, then if the time for exercising that option has expired before that date he shall not be entitled to exercise an option under this Regulation except in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (i) or paragraph (ii) of the proviso; and if he shall, before that date, have elected under the said section to receive a gratuity and reduced pension, this Regulation shall apply in his case as if he had exercised his option thereunder.

(3) If any officer has exercised the option his decision shall be irrevocable.

Mr. ADAMS: As I notified the House earlier, the Government proposes to change all this present, what I may term, rigmarole as regards the time at which you exercise your option, and I am therefore asking for leave to delete paragraphs 2 and 3 in order to insert three new paragraphs in their places. This will have the effect of preserving paragraph 3 in slightly different language; it will also have the effect of giving a person the right to exercise an option and then secure that he

sticks to it. The new paragraphs will read as follows:—

- “(2) the option referred to in paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be exerciseable not later than the day immediately preceding the date of such officer's retirement. Provided that if the officer does not exercise the option prior to the day preceding the date of his retirement, the Governor may, if it appears to him in all circumstances equitable so to do, allow him to exercise the option at any time between that date and the actual date of award of pension under the Act.
- (3) If an officer has exercised the option his decision shall be irrevocable so far as concerns any pension to be granted to him under the Act.
- (4) If an officer who has not exercised the option dies after he has finally retired but before a Pension has been awarded under the Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to grant a gratuity and a reduced pension as provided in paragraph (1), as if the officer before his death had exercised the option.”

Under paragraph (2) if an officer forgets to exercise the option prior to the day before the date of retirement and remembers it say, a week after, the Governor may nevertheless allow him to exercise the option. Under paragraph (4) if an officer dies after he has retired but has forgotten to exercise his option, the Governor-in-Executive Committee may so to speak exercise it for him and give his widow a gratuity and a reduced pension.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Regulation 25 as amended stand part of these Regulations.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that Regulation 25 as amended stand part of these Regulations was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Regulation 25 as amended was passed.

Regulation 26 was read and passed.

The two Schedules were read and passed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the CHAIRMAN do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Before that motion is put, I have been further considering Clause 26—

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

#### ADDRESS RE DISESTABLISHMENT AND DISENDOWMENT OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business was called:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the Disestablishment and gradual Disendowment of the Anglican Church in Barbados.

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

*The House of Assembly  
To  
His Excellency The Governor*

1. The House has the honour to draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor the fact that the Disestablishment and Gradual Disendow-

ment of the Anglican Church in Barbados is long overdue; considering the fact that this is probably the only community in the British Empire that has a State-paid Church.

2. The House respectfully asks that His Excellency the Governor take immediate steps to send down Legislation to achieve this necessary change in the running of the Anglican Church.

Before moving the passing of this Address, I should like to preface my remarks by saying that this is not an attempt, as some people might think, to destroy the Anglican Church in Barbados, but rather to resurrect it from the Slough of Despond where the present system has gradually drawn it. This is not a crusade against religion; Barbadians as we know are very religious people and there is no reason why they should not have their religion. Far from stopping the power of the Church what is proposed in this Address will increase it. Now, as to the explanation of disestablishment and disendowment. Disestablishment means the entire segregation of the Church from the State; that is to say that the Church will be free from all political control and that should have been the case for many years. It amazes me that religious denominations should have been under political control for so long. It is a wonder that the present Anglican Church has not fallen into deeper disgust than it has fallen into at the present time. Disendowment, I shall now explain, means the entire cessation of the financial support of the Church by the State. In this country we pay our clergymen like civil servants; they go and draw their money from the Treasury in the same manner as any civil servant with the consequent disadvantage. Gradual disendowment which I am submitting to-day is necessary, will not mean that these clergymen will be thrown on the streets in a day or two to look for a living, but there would be a gradual process. I dare say the period of time would have to be arranged by a Committee which would have to be appointed to consider this matter and decide when this change will take place. It is amazing to think of what is happening now that the Church is established and endowed. In the first place, the manpower of the Church in Barbados is wasted: you will find in certain cures that owing to the fact that they are not so populous as others, some clergymen have nothing to do, and in order to employ themselves they teach young children. On the other hand you will find busy cures where one man cannot possibly do the work. That state of affairs is bound to exist with a State-paid Church; everything like Government matters is cut and dried. The manpower of the Church is absolutely clamped down. The next thing is this; the Rector is supposed to have the chapels in the particular parish vested in him and the Bishop; yet after he gets a vicar appointed, he has no control over the duties of that special incumbent nor can he do anything to better the entire parish. If a parish has two chapels and a Rectory, the position at present is that the work of the parish is divided into three parts and the Rector has no control over the vicars. That is a state of affairs which you, Mr. Speaker, will agree is far from being satisfactory. The next thing is the discipline of the Church; from time to time the act has been amended but there has never been a proper amendment to the Act, nor can there ever be, in which the Bishop who should be the leader of the Church in the island, will have full power to discipline his fellow brethren as he wishes to do. He has to abide by the Anglican Church Act; his fellow brethren know that and they take

advantage of it. I come now to the next important point—the support of the Church. As you know, Sir, the Clergymen in this island receive their pay from the Treasury, but the Churches, Vicarages and the Church property generally are looked after by the Vestry. No dual control has ever been a success in this world; one person pays the clergymen and another looks after the buildings. No one could believe that such a state of affairs could be successful in the long run. What is the outcome of this? It is that the majority of the present incumbents take little or no interest in their Rectories, Churches or Vicarages. At Vestry meetings the Chairman *ex officio* is the Rector of the parish; I have often wondered what he has to do with the running of the financial affairs of the parish. Whenever the Vestry is elected, the Rector is the Chairman, I consider that his interest should only be to further certain things as regards the clerical necessities of the Church. As long as that system goes on, progress in Barbados is doomed. That system is one which will not allow any future development in the parishes at all for the simple reason that the power of the Vestry is clamped down. Certain amenities like community centres and things like that are left to voluntary aid and neglected because of the system of this clerical control being mixed up with the Vestry. The next point is one which was made by the Lord Bishop at the last meeting of the Synod—that of the question of confederation. Most of us are looking forward to the confederation of the West Indies and where could a more suitable start be made than with the Church? At present there are five American Bishops in the West Indies and eight Anglican Bishops. Now Sir, the American Constitution was founded and developed by people most of whom left Europe during the religious persecution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but we are dealing with the disestablishment and the disendowment of the Anglican Church in Barbados.

Mr. HAYNES: I am merely showing how this will lead up to it. The American Church will have nothing to do with a State-paid Church: as long as the Barbados diocese is State paid, the American Church will have nothing whatsoever to do with the confederation of the West Indian dioceses. A State-paid Church is contrary to the American doctrine. No State-paid Church can flourish on free enterprise. No Church in America can get a cent from the Government and the result is that you have most flourishing Churches in America to-day. If we are going to have a confederation of the West Indies, I think that the Church should be the first to confederate and the only way to do that is to have the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church carried out in the West Indies. We happen to have the only established and endowed Church and if we do not amend our ways we will be a stumbling-block to this progressive movement. With some people there is a feeling that the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church will prevent the poor people from having their religious rites performed free of cost as is the case at present. I want to try and remove that feeling at once; we all know that the disestablished and disendowed Wesleyan Church, Moravian Church, and Roman Catholic Church are receiving small grants from the Government. We can overcome the difficulty which I have just mentioned because we will necessarily have to give a grant to the Anglican Church, and apart from that we can always set out that the spiritual rites will be carried out by the clergy on condition that they are receiving that grant. There is nothing which can be

said against that. There will be no compensation for the present religious rites which some people feel that they should have. Years ago the Church was entirely responsible for education in Barbados, hence you will find that dozens of our elementary schools today are not only situated on Church lands but they are Church property. From time to time the Government has allowed those schools to be repaired at their expense and to-day they have no power to do anything if the Clergy were to and they can give them three months' notice to leave these schools. That is a most anomalous position. In the parish of St. Joseph there are no less than five or six elementary schools and all of them are situated on Church property. A position like that is absolutely absurd; if the Government agree with the principle of the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church, it is time for them to say to the Church: "Here, these schools are worth so much: let us make a fund for the Church and keep it for the Church". As regards other matters, there is much valuable property in this country controlled by the Bishop and the Rectors of the various parishes. In St. James and in St. Michael, to mention only two parishes, valuable property is left in the hands of the Clergy. In many cases it is quite beyond the means of the ordinary clergymen to keep the buildings in repair and they would welcome the sale of the premises so that a fund could be opened and they could get more comfortable houses which could be run on a more economic basis. Where the Church is free from the fetters of the State, all that could be done immediately and it is a known fact that an immense sum of money would be amassed. I presume that Ecclesiastical Commissioners operate in places where the Church is disestablished and disendowed, and a nucleus would be formed for the appointment of our various clergymen. We come now to the point as to how this disestablishment and gradual disendowment of the Church should take place. I am submitting that we have a most excellent example from the meeting of the last Anglican Synod. There was a proposition made at the last meeting of that Synod in a Resolution which I will now read—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the honourable member can read it; he can quote it from memory.

Mr. HAYNES: The Resolution was not only proposed but it was passed. The Church are in agreement with the principle of disestablishment and disendowment and if it is the wish of the House and if His Excellency grant the prayer of the House, the Church would be willing to join in the discussion as to how this disestablishment and disendowment should be brought about. Now Sir, that Resolution, quoting from the newspaper, received the support of 33 clergymen and only 9 voted against it. I do not see how one could say otherwise than that an overwhelming majority were in favour of this movement. If the Church itself is in favour of it, what more do we want but to give them the opportunity of joining forces and carrying out this reform? As I said before, it is long overdue; we are practically the only part of the world where clergymen go to the Treasury for their stipends. I believe a similar thing takes place in the Channel Islands; it exists in a form but with certain restrictions, and in the Guernsey Islands the clergymen are also part of the Legislature of the country. There is a totally different set-up from our set-up here. I should like to mention finally that a few weeks ago I heard the

Archbishop of Canterbury say emphatically over the radio that it would be impossible for the English Church to make any progress as long as it was established. As you know, the English Church is disendowed but it is established. These remarks coming from high dignitaries of the Church show to us that this movement is of immense value and it is absolutely essential to the future welfare of Barbados. I have much pleasure in moving the passing of this Address. (Cheers).

Mr. FOSTER: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. Honourable members will remember, as my colleague has said, that the Lord Bishop is in favour of disestablishment. I think that the Lord Bishop went so far as to say that the only way he would accept the office was if the Church were disestablished. I take it that when that comes from such a responsible source as a man of God, I am in good company in seconding this motion.

Mr. TALMA: I too, would like to associate myself with the remarks which have fallen from the lips of the honourable senior member for St. Andrew relative to the disestablishment and gradual disendowment of the Church. Like the honourable member who has moved the passing of this Address, I feel that the time has definitely come when a distinct severance should take place in matters relative to the Church and the State. A rector to-day is more a politician than a rector. It appears to me as if the duties of a rector are more in the political sphere than in trying to cure the souls of the sick and the infirm and attending to the needs of the poor. I do not refer to all persons who are ministers, but I certainly do refer to the Rectors mainly. I feel that the time has come when the Bishop should have more direct control over his diocese. At present, the average rector in my view, seems to think that he is the Fuehrer of his district. Well Sir, that should not be the case; we are not saying that Rectors should not see after their ministerial duties, but at the same time they must bear in mind that there is somebody over them. They pay little or no regard to the Bishop; what he says means nothing to them because whether they displease him or not, they go to the Treasury for their money. They are here to minister to the lives of their congregation but if you look into the Churches on Sunday nights you can run a hare through them; you cannot find more than 50 or 60 people in them. That means that they have failed to do the work of ministering to the needs of the people. Their salaries are assured and there is no necessity for them to visit the homes of the people with the result that they get very few people to go to the Churches on Sundays. The honourable senior member for St. Andrew has suggested that the Church should be disendowed: however, if disendowment were to take place at this moment, it will work a hardship on the people who believe in the Church and who go to the Church so often. I think that the Anglican Church should receive a grant-in-aid. At present the Moravian, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Churches receive various grants-in-aid from the Government: the Salvation Army gets a grant-in-aid, and the Evangelism Army gets nothing but the Anglican Church can boast of receiving over £30,000. I am not suggesting that the money should be taken away from them right away because the Address says that there should be a gradual process. The glebe lands should be vested in the hands of trustees and it may take 20 years before they get £10,000 even. I am not thinking about any inferiority complex: this

is not a question of making a change now that members of another race are being drafted into the service. If that were the case I would not be in favour of that; but that is not the case. This is a case of giving the Bishop greater control over his assistants, rectors and vicars. There is nothing wrong in giving the Bishop power over the Church just as the Governor has power over the Colonial Secretary and the members of the Executive. In the West Indies you will never find any parson in receipt of money from the Treasury because it has been realised that the parsons have to do actual work and they receive proper remuneration. It has to be remembered that the poor people who go to Church to-day cannot afford to pay the parsons any substantial salaries. I would like to say at this stage that the people here are just as poor as those anywhere else. There are points several in favour of this Address. I know that there will be a big opposition, but I know, Sir, as far as I can see, that opposition is going to be feeble. (Laughter). The terms of the Address are that there should be disestablishment and gradual disendowment. It does not mean that this £30,000 will be denied the Anglican Church in the Estimates next year. No responsible Government would do that; it means that they will be given a reasonable amount of money after due consultation with the Leader of the Church. If they can be granted £30,000 to-day, it stands to reason that they should be given £10,000. There is nothing wrong with this Address. Just as the Salvation Army can eke out a living as well as the missionaries all over the island—in some cases there are parsons who die very wealthy men, they leave very fat bank accounts. Provided that the Anglican Church is willing to do the work of God there should not be any fear that it stands to lose anything where the pecuniary side is concerned. Before I sit down I should like to say that this is a means whereby the Bishop will know exactly who are his good men and he will be able to dole out the money in the right way. It does not mean that a rector who is a very hostile type of individual and who is unwilling to assist the Bishop during his term of office—it does not mean that a person who has been an obstacle to everything for 30 years will receive a good salary, but the man who is willing to work will receive an adequate salary. I know that there are people in big districts who are deserving of greater consideration but they will never benefit as long as the present state of affairs continues.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I am not in agreement either with the disestablishment or the disendowment of the Anglican Church. I do not think that any points have been adduced by those honourable members who have spoken to make this House consider this proposal. They have said that the Bishop has not got much power, but that can be dealt with by amending the Anglican Church Act. The service can be arranged so that the Bishop can be obeyed if he gives a direct order. I think that these rebels with whom honourable members are acquainted should be put in their places. I am pleased to say that I have never been associated with clergymen such as those mentioned by the honourable senior member for St. Andrew. The honourable member says that they do not work but I can say that those in my districts—

Mr. HAYNES: I never said anything like that at all.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The honourable member said that some clergymen have nothing to do in some of the cures and they have to teach children so as to occupy themselves. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that

I know one of them who teaches children so as to try and increase his income, and he is a very hard-working clergyman in the district. I have never been acquainted with those who have nothing to do. There are big districts in my parish and I consider that they do proper work. I repeat, I am not acquainted with these idlers or rebels. The honourable senior member for Christ Church says that they get big salaries, but if he looks at the Estimates he will see that they are paid £275 a year and I do not know if he considers that—

Mr. TALMA: Some of them are living on glebe lands and they get rentals and so forth.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The rectors are paid £350 a year and the Rector of St. Michael is paid £450 a year. Does the honourable senior member for Christ Church think that these clergymen get big salaries? I do not think these salaries compare with \$100 a month for each of these legislators who sit for five hours a meeting, twenty hours a month. A parson has to work night and day and I consider that the salary which is paid him is a reasonable one. He is on a par with a lawyer or solicitor and to what solicitor would you pay a meagre salary of £275 per annum? I do not think that these parsons are paid any extraordinary amount. The honourable senior member for Christ Church has said that we are paying £30,000 per annum to the Anglican Church, but that is not so. They are only paid £12,000. I think that they are greatly underpaid. (Hear, hear). When the honourable senior member for Christ Church says that they are getting this big amount of money, I cannot see that at all. Another point is this: if we disestablish and disendow the Church any man who wishes to be married will have to pay for that. (A MEMBER: He is paying now). You cannot live by bread alone, but you must still have the bread in order to live. People go to the Church to be married, confirmed and christened and I think that the poor people will be the hardest hit if the Church is disestablished and disendowed. As I understand the honourable senior member for St. Andrew he has said that the Bishop was asking for the disestablishment of the Church. I do not think that the Bishop was asking for that; he said that he would be willing to try his best and see what he could do about the matter. As regards the question of disendowment, that is not even mentioned. I understand that since this matter has been discussed, a Committee has been appointed by the Bishop to see what Churches would have to be closed. If any of our Churches have to be closed that is going to work a hardship on the poor members of the community, because if a man has to walk for miles instead of half a mile to go to Church, he will not go at all. The Moravian, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Churches and the Salvation Army receive grants amounting to £1,975 and that compares favourably, having regard to the percentage of population, with what we are paying our established Church.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: When the honourable senior member for St. James began to speak, he said that no reasons had been given for supporting this Address. Well, I have listened carefully to him to hear if he would give any reasons to show why it should be rejected but he has not given any. The honourable member has made a simple attempt to quote the Bible; I should like to point out that he that preacheth the gospel should live by the gospel and there is no question of any State-paid Church. At the beginning christianity was not founded upon the principle of any State-paid Church; the principles were laid down by Christ

himself. This idea of a State-paid Church is something other than what Christ meant. When we speak about the Church we refer to the Anglican Church, but there are other Churches besides the Anglican Church. I do not see why ministers of the Anglican Church should be paid by the Government; that is only a relic of the past and I cannot see any justification for it. Why should the Anglican ministers be paid by the Government and not the others? I feel that in the interest of the priests themselves they should realise that their mission is of a higher nature than that of seeing what any particular Government has to give them. I would like the honourable senior member for St. James to remember that the priests of the Anglican Church are trained priests, and I would like to point out to him that when a man decides to go in for the ministry his position is different from that of a man who decides to become a barrister or a doctor. You can never compare the two positions, the position or category of a priest is somewhat higher. In the case of the barrister or doctor it does not matter if you go to jail or if he suffers you; but in the case of the priest, a man who has entered the ministry with his soul in it, it is a matter as to where the souls of the people go eventually. I think that there would be a higher state of hypocrisy where you believe that a man is preaching the gospel merely to see how much money he is going to receive. The question of the emoluments should not come into the picture at all, no one should argue that so much money is sufficient money for the payment of a priest. There are other Churches where payment is not made by the Government and they are existing. As regards the question of marriage, you do not have to go to the Anglican Church and get married; a magistrate can marry you. It is not the idea that you must go to a Church to be married. In fairness to the Church I should like to say that many of us can be grateful to the Church in one way or another for what it has done. The Church has done quite a lot of good in the past but that does not justify the continuance of the present state of affairs. Another point is that whether the priests are paid from the Church or not, they cannot suffer because many of them are people who possess high academic qualifications and they would be able to earn a livelihood. It is not a question of putting them out of a job because they are trained men. If many of them had to perform Church duties as required by the State they would find themselves in the schools and be of great benefit to the community. I do not think that any harm can be done to these priests. If ministers believe that they should be paid by the State, I ask them quietly to read the New Testament and show me the passage of Scripture which will justify their being paid by the State and not by the worshippers. That is why I said that he that preacheth the gospel should live by the gospel.

Mr. GALE: This question of the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church is one that needs some study. The Church in Barbados has a very long tradition. Barbados has remained an English island throughout its whole history. The Church has been formed on English tradition and on English lines and it has followed its tradition very faithfully. If you look at West Indian history you will find that the predominant religion in other colonies was that of the Roman Catholic whereas Barbados has retained its State-paid Church throughout its long history. This question of the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church is one in

connection with which many arguments can be adduced on both sides. The argument has been put forward that if the Church were divorced from the State, it would be much better for the Church. It is felt by many people in this community that the Anglican Church does not carry the weight which it should carry because it is mixed up with the State and that the Anglican clergymen are State paid and therefore they do not depend upon the congregation for their support as in the case of other Churches. That is an argument which carries quite a lot of weight. There is no doubt that the Churches which are only State aided have done much in this island and they have a very large following. It is felt by many Anglican ministers to-day that the time has come when the Church should be divorced from the State, that it will be better off if it were not harnessed to the State, and as I have said, this is a question that needs some deep study. This is not a case of keeping down the emoluments of the parsons; I do not think that anybody can argue that the Anglican parsons are overburdened with salaries. I think that we should be very careful as to how we deal with this question. Even if we are prepared to say that the Church should be disestablished, I think that it should be endowed for many years to come because the Church has played a very great part in the history of this island. (Cheers). When you look back you will see that the whole educational system has been bound up with the Church; men like Coleridge and Mitchinson stand out like beacons in the educational history of this island. They are the men who started education; it was through them that elementary schools were started in this island and that is why we find today that the most of our elementary schools are situated on Church property. The schools were started by the Church, not by the State, the State only took over the schools from the Church. We owe a great debt to the Church for education in this colony.

Mr. GARNER: I am one of those people who cannot see eye to eye with the Address for many reasons. I have listened with rapt attention to the preceding speakers and I am yet to hear anything logical which could make me change my mind or make me feel justified in voting for the disestablishment and gradual disendowment of the Church. I must confess that the Church as an institution has not always lived up to its name, but it is human to err. When you come to the question of the parsons carrying out their duties, we know that some of them are very high-falutin and do not condescend to do the work which is expected of them. Nevertheless I still maintain that, as human beings, they ought to eat and drink well. They ought to live as human beings. It is true that a State-paid Church is according to tradition, but there are many things which are State-paid, things which have no greater bearing in the community than the work of the Church. It is no luxury to pay ministers who preach; it is true that you have some bad ones among the group, but they are a group of men who should be paid. As regards the financial standard of this island, it is only within recent years that the average worker in Barbados has been able to try to feed, qualify or even house himself, and if you disendow the Church, the ministers will have to seek refuge or make up their salaries by going to the poor people and asking alms. That is asking people to do too much. If we think of it, we are only paying these people a small amount—£12,000 from the Central Government. It is true that the Vestries have to

keep the buildings in order, but we derive benefit from that because we have the schools. All is not well with the Church, but I am saying that I am in hearty agreement with having them State paid because, up to now, our people are unable to pay for them out of their private earnings. In the West Indian islands where the Church has been disendowed you find that it has deteriorated and the people suffer. I would prefer to have the Anglican Church State paid and have intelligent sermons preached even if there be half truths than have people going around to the mushroom churches and hearing no truth at all but Uncle Tom's stories, which have no bearing on their lives, and the wrong conception of what life after death means. If you go around to some of these missions you will find that the stuff which they dish out is obnoxious, but when you go to the State-paid Churches you find that nice, dignified sermons are preached and there is food for thought. You get something which will strengthen your soul; the position is different in the case of the small places where they have to go around and get a small pittance so as to keep going. This work requires a certain type of man, a man who is specialized in it. I think that we should have a State-paid Church if we are having a Church at all, although I agree that all is not well. At one time of my life I believed that all the Churches should be burnt. (A MEMBER: They started with Christ Church parish Church). In Russia where they had done away with the Churches they are on the way to have a re-birth of the Church and that has changed my mind a lot. If you get rid of the Church you will have to build up a strong economic system in order to put people on a proper footing. When all is said and done, people like religion; they are no good without it. While we are going on very strong and hearty, we sometimes forget religion; but in the last analysis we like to know that we have some sort of religion. If we are to have people who are to be responsible for the teaching of religion, we must pay them and not ask them to beg for their salaries. It has been said that the Bishop needs more jurisdiction. How much more does he want? If the Act wants amending, let us amend it, but I cannot see that any useful purpose will be served by the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church. At this stage I should like to say this: I know that some honourable members will forgive me for saying it. I cannot help saying what is uppermost in my mind. To-day we talk about federation; we believe that the West Indian Islands are now coming into their own. We all want federation and now that there is a possibility of some of our local boys who are studying ministry coming into their own, an attempt is being made whereby those who are coming in now will not be able to draw any emoluments from the Treasury! It is tantamount to that because those who are already in the service cannot be stopped from getting their money, but these poor, black boys will be prevented from enjoying these opportunities. Until our people are able to maintain these priests, we cannot touch this system. It would be wrong for us at this time of day to touch the system; the time is not yet ripe for it. Let us get some more black people from the West Indies installed and then we can talk about disendowment. We cannot expect to send these boys to the Colleges and then ask them hat in hand to support the Church. Some time ago some little children came to me each of them having half a dozen eggs. An egg service was to be held and these children were carrying the eggs to the Church. I looked at the

children and I found that they needed the eggs in their stomachs. The average Barbadian loves his Church whether it be Anglican or otherwise. The Anglican Church is a branch of the English Church and while I have no love for these English Churches, I feel very strongly that if you pay Civil Servants from the Treasury, you should also pay ministers from the Treasury. Somebody has said that you must live by the gospel. I am yet to know anybody who can live by the gospel alone. Christ said that man should not live by bread alone; he knew that bread was essential because he spoke about that before anybody else. You must have bread, and if you are going to have these reverend gentlemen you should pay them whether they be black or white. You pay the Police Department and every other Department and you should pay these gentlemen so that they can promote some culture among the people. Some people do not stop to think; you must have religion because religion is the guiding force in this world. You cannot have something good dished out for nothing; you get things dished out by unintelligent people who have not studied anything about human society. I have listened to some of them who should be jailed for corrupting the morals of the people and giving them misinformation. In some of these 2x4 places they spoil the thinking faculties of the people. There will be a difference if you continue to pay these men and the organization is brought in line with organizations of the same nature. If there are loopholes in the Act, then close the loopholes. I am against the principle of disestablishment and disendowment of the Church; I am not in favour of sending these men to the poor people in order to eke out a livelihood. I think that we should continue to endow them and leave the property alone. They control a lot of property and if we attempt to purchase this property it will cost the Government quite a lot and we have committed ourselves to carry out many schemes now. This £12,000 is only a bagatelle to pay for these services provided that the people are doing the work for which they are paid. The law can be amended and I am sure that there are those ministers who are in sympathy with the poor; they preach good sermons and cater to the needs of the poor. Of course, they are some black sheep but there are also those who have a love for their Church folk and they will do anything to help the poor in their various districts. I hold no brief for anyone, but in the parish of St. Philip we are favoured in having a Rector who is a very conscientious Churchman. If there is one thing that has caused me to speak to-day, it is the work which he is doing in the parish. (Cheers). He has convinced me that we need a strong Church organization and that we should do some actual work among the masses. After all is said and done, they are the mainstays of human life. Perhaps some honourable members are not as old as I am; as I have already said, at one time I thought that all the Churches should be burnt, but as I grew older I found, and honourable members will find, that religion is a part of our lives. I do not think that this work should be done for nothing; it is not right to ask a man to work in the interest of the people and live in the gutter. If the Church has no proper organization it might deteriorate and if it is not to deteriorate we will have to come to its rescue. This Government will have to pay a substantial sum of money in order to reimburse these people. Of what use would it be to stop giving them a bagatelle and

then involve ourselves to the extent of a million pounds? I do not see any sense in doing that. I ask honourable members to reconsider this matter. Some of us may have had certain things against certain priests who have done wrong; they live in their element and apart from the people, but they have seen the writing on the wall. However, some of them are doing some good work now and with that in mind I would counsel honourable members to change their views. We still have in the Church some men who will do good work not because they are paid but because they love the ministry. Everyone who is hearing me will think that I am a devout churchgoer: I happen not to be one of those. I go to funerals more often, but I am still moved by the religious element. I know that those who preach the gospel have to eat and live a certain social life and those who preach heresy should be relegated to that element. There are those who will corrupt the young people in this land because they do not know what they preach, on the other hand there are others who have studied some of the laws of nature and some of the reasons why we should live together as human beings. They pass that on to the young people and it is well that we support these people. Not many years ago I visited a Church and the people told me that the Rector was a very bad man, but I wanted to hear him. To my surprise, his sermon was that Christ never associated himself with disease or sin or anything like that. Nothing was wrong with that. I have great reasons for supporting the Church as State paid because it is a mere bagatelle that the ministers get. If we disendow or even disestablish the Church we are going to spend a lot of money; I am fearful that this Government has committed itself to so many social schemes that it will not be able to carry out certain things and we should forego this matter.

Mr. COX: I am as much a Christian as anybody else. I would like to say from the beginning that if there is anything in existence which appears not to be in the interest of the people, it is the Church and because it has been existing for all the years that does not necessarily mean that it should not be disestablished now. I am one of those persons who feel that the Church has completely lost touch with the people and the mission for which it was sent: It needs to be re-commissioned. For some years now the Church has been more interested in politics than in religion. When you find people like the honourable senior member for St. James supporting the Church so strongly, we know that people like him owe their presence in this House to the Church. If you trace the history of the Church you will find it has a very perplexing one. I cannot see any earthly reason why we should be asked to pay about 40 priests the sum of £12,250 yearly; I cannot see why those who pay *ad valorem* tax as well as income tax should be asked to contribute to the payment of these Anglican priests as distinct from many other priests in this country. When you take things into consideration you must come to the conclusion that if the Church is to carry out its work, if it is to regain recognition among the people, it must leave out politics and go out into the highways and hedges and teach the people as to how they must live with each other. As the position is now, you go to Church, you sit and listen, you look at each other's clothes and you go back home empty: hardly any explanation is given as to the fundamentals of the gospel and when the honourable member for St. Philip speaks

about the missionaries, I would like to say for myself that I have gathered very much more from the teaching by people like the Plymouth Brethren than I have gathered from the priests of the Anglican Church. It is in the interest of the Church to keep the people in ignorance; to tell them that the Lord loves the poor people and not to worry about being rich and when they die they will go to Heaven. The poor people want some of the Heaven now; they want some of the milk and honey that is in Heaven now. I am supporting the passing of this Address because I feel that as soon as you divorce the Church from the State, the people will be taught the gospel as it has been handed down. In concluding my remarks I should like to say that I am wholeheartedly in agreement with this Address. I know that Churchwardens and people like them are very hesitant in passing an Address of this nature because the Vestrymen will not be able to manipulate the money. However, I feel that this Address is asking for something reasonable, something which should have been in existence long ago, and any conscientious representative of the people will realise that the people want it. I do not speak about the amount of money that is paid to the Church but it is the principle underlying the payment which counts.

Dr. CUMMINS: This is a matter on which most of us have strong feelings one way or the other and as

the day is growing old, I beg to move that the further consideration of this Address be postponed.

Mr. BRANCKER: I agree with the observation which has just been made and I therefore beg to second the motion for the postponement of the further consideration of this Address. I realise that this is a subject in connection with which every honourable member has his own peculiar contribution to make. I suggest that we continue this debate next week. I can assure the honourable mover of the passing of this Address that I am going to support it.

The question that the further consideration of this Address be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

#### 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 29th 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 29th day of July, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.