

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th June, 1947.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), Mr. J. T. C. RAMSAY (*Chairman of Committees*), Messrs. A. E. S. LEWIS, D. A. FOSTER, J. A. HAYNES B.A., V. C. GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., E. L. WARD, H. W. SPRINGER, M. A., R. G. MAPP, D. D. GARNER, W. A. CRAWFORD and M. E. COX.

After prayers, Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, and Dr. WILSON enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 3rd June, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution to place the sum of £117 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay full salary to Miss E. Millington, Assistant Mistress St. Michael's Girls' School, during her absence from the Island to attend a six-month Social Welfare Training Course in Jamaica.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Resolution to place the sum of £1,500 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to provide for the supply of water to districts where the supply is inadequate.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of my intention to move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to proceed to-day with the Resolution for £1,500 to provide a supply of water to certain districts.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Bill to authorise the payment of an additional pension to Arthur Evelyn Armstrong.

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

Mr. MORTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. GARNER gives notice of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House views with considerable apprehension the increase in the number of unemployed and the regrettable absence of greater opportunities abroad for work for our workers.

2. The House is of opinion that it is essential that large scale projects to relieve unemployment be started at once and urge that Government undertake, with all possible expeditiousness, the following:—

(a) Canalization of the Constitution river;
(b) Earthing, grading and levelling the side strips to the Runway at Seawell Airport, extension of the Runway to the Government's boundary and the construction of a road around the end of the extension.

(c) Reconstruction of tenantry roads throughout the island; the Department of Highways and Transport to commence work at the earliest possible date on priority roads in St. Michael, St. Andrew and St. Lucy. In the other parishes the Highways Commissioners to send in their lists of roads at once, in order that operations can be started.

(d) A complete survey of the area with a view to the construction of the projected East Coast road—Bathsheba to Belleplaine road.

(e) Construction of the Pine Estate Roads.

3. The House is convinced that work on the above, if undertaken as far as possible, simultaneously, would provide employment for some time for upwards of 3,500 workers from every parish in the island, would place upwards of a million dollars in circulation throughout the island, and, in addition, to the economic advantages which would accrue would also provide improvements which are needed vitally in the island.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Blackman, a Bill to authorize the payment of an additional pension to Arthur Evelyn Armstrong is read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

REFUND OF CUSTOMS DUTY TO ST. MICHAEL'S COMMISSIONERS OF HEALTH

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Chairman,—The next Resolution is for the sum of £31. 1. 1. to be granted to the Commissioners of Health, as a refund of the Customs import duty paid on five cases of tipping gear and one crate of wheels and axles, imported in connection with the scavenging of the City of Bridgetown and its suburbs. As will be seen from the *audendum*, the scavenging of the City and its suburbs is now done departmentally and this tipping gear and other articles were imported for the purpose. On several previous occasions resolutions have been passed for a refund of duty and I am now moving that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—This is a Resolution that honourable members will not disagree to but I think that this House, as responsible members of this community, should take the opportunity to tell the Commissioners of Health of St. Michael that they must not only import equipment and get a refund of the duty but they must see to it that the scavenging is done. If you walk down Broad Street and look at the alley between Collins Ltd. and G. W. Hutchinson & Co. you can come to no other conclusion than that it is a positive disgrace to any community, let alone one that says it is civilized. I think it is time that somebody report the Commissioners of Health of St. Michael for not doing their job. It is no use importing machinery and getting refunds and at the same time allowing a condition of affairs to exist that may result in the death of people. The gutter next to G. W. Hutchinson & Co. is in a disgraceful condition. I have drawn attention to it before and I hope that the Commissioners of Health will do something about it. This is one disgraceful locality I have noticed and if there are others that other honourable members have seen they should bring them to the attention of the Commissioners.

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

EX GRATIA GRANT TO CASHIER IN THE POST OFFICE

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Sir, is for the sum of £78. 2. 6. to be granted from the Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make an *ex gratia* grant to the Cashier in the General Post Office in respect of a loss of cash as a result of a robbery from the cashier's cage. I have never seen a Resolution of this sort before but I feel that this is a very necessary one and I will give the reasons why I say so. The position is this: The Cashier in the Post Office left the cage on one occasion just for a few seconds and went inside. A young man was in the corridor watching her movements. On another occasion she left and went to the private room and whilst she was there, that man took the opportunity to run inside, go over the counter, take up this money and run away with it. The individual who is suspected, was seen to go into a drug store in the City changing \$5 bank notes to notes of a higher denomination and subsequently the

same man who has been suspected—I am saying that he is suspected as a result of an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department. It is not what I think or what the Postmaster thinks. The matter was reported to the Police; they have gone into it and they are of the opinion that this particular individual is responsible for the robbery—was arrested for stealing somewhere else and is at this moment serving a six-month term of imprisonment in Glendairy Prison. Now, the cashier's cage in the Post Office is different from the cashier's cage in the Royal Bank of Canada, or Barclays Bank or any of the banks in the City. The cashier's cage in the Post Office is not covered and although the cashier, when she left the cage, locked the door and took the key with her, yet it was possible for somebody to get over the top of the cage. The cashiers' cages in the Banks have covered tops and people cannot get into them when the cashiers leave them. I myself have often been in the Banks and seen cashiers leave their cages; all they do is simply slam the door behind them. The cashier in the Post Office locked the door of her cage when she was leaving it but on account of the fact that the top was not covered, this young man was able to get at the money. The cashier did all she could have done, all that I ever did when I was a cashier in the Post Office, all that any cashier in the Banks in Bridgetown ever does, that is, to lock the door and if, in the face of that, the money is carried away, it seems to me very hard that she should be made to lose this money: it seems extremely hard upon her and I would take the same view in respect of any other person who is the cashier. The Government has since covered the top of the cage and this shows that the Government has admitted that it had not done what it should have done, otherwise the money would not have been stolen in that way. It is not the cashier's fault but the fault of somebody else that the money has been stolen. My view is that it is the Government's fault and I do not see why the cashier should be made to lose this money. This same person who is suspected by the Police was seen sitting on a rail of the corridor, and another clerk was called to look at him so that he might be able to identify him; he had been watching the movements of the cashier. That same man is now serving a term of imprisonment for stealing from somewhere else. So far as I am concerned, it is perfectly clear to me that no blame can be attached to the cashier and I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Chairman,—I beg to second that motion. This, in effect, Sir, is a sympathetic vote; it cannot be considered in any other light. I am speaking now for myself. This is not, so to speak, a measure which the Government regards as a government measure. It is sent here on a free vote because it is not one of those things which arise in the normal course and opinions differ. The reason why I am seconding it is because I am convinced in my mind that the clerk in question is entirely guiltless as far as this loss is concerned. I am convinced not only from my knowledge of the lady's character but also from her subsequent conduct. Immediately after the loss was discovered—the very same day—she presented the Postmaster with the amount of money, obviously without any hope of getting it back. Well, that is not the action of anybody who is in any way involved, directly or indirectly, in a defalcation. The Police are of the opinion—and it is even more than an opinion on their part—that this is an outside affair; they have reason to suspect some individual who may or may not be the perpetrator of the theft. The honourable member who moves this Resolution points out that if the cage had been roofed—as it certainly should have been—this robbery would not

have occurred. Honourable members will realize that this department of the Post Office is in a separate room; the lady was away for a short time and the only possible way to provide adequate protection was to have the cage rooled. We know that daring thefts have been perpetrated in this country in recent months. I have been the victim of one or two of a most daring nature and it is not beyond belief or conception that someone scaled the counter, slipped his hand over the uncovered cage and removed the money. However, this lady has no legal claim; she has been told so by the Postmaster and she accepts responsibility for the loss, having been in charge of the money. The question now is whether this House feels that if she pays half of the amount—\$375—she will have been adequately punished for the carelessness, such as it was. Honourable members are bound to have some difficulty in supporting this Resolution. I have great difficulty myself because while I believe all I have just said, it is still a dangerous precedent to establish, that is, where a person is responsible for a large sum of government money and he finds himself robbed of it, that the Government is to say that he is to be made to pay only part of the loss. I may add this: there are cases in which money has been found missing and the persons have been punished by dismissal but the money has had to be found out of Public Officers Security Funds or other sources, so that the Government has not had to bear the loss. In this case, the Government has been advised that it is not possible for the Public Officers Security Fund to bear this loss and, therefore, if any relief is to be given her, it can only be given by the Legislature. I support this Resolution as a compassionate grant. I feel that the lady is not so much to be blamed and should not be made, in the special circumstances of this case, to bear the full amount of the loss. At the same time I realize that this is a matter of some difficulty and the principle can only be justified by, as I say, the special circumstances of the case and the report of the Police exonerating her entirely from even gross carelessness in connection with the loss.

Mr. TALMA: Before the question is put I, too, would like to say that I am in sympathy with the lady in question but from the legal point of view, this lady in spite of her character and outstanding characteristics is liable. If, however, honourable members feel that, owing to her outstanding qualities and her past record and family connections and things of that sort, no penalty should be imposed on her then I am willing to support the proposal as an act of grace on our part. In that way, we shall be showing that we sympathize with her in the loss which has been sustained and that we feel that the money should not come out of her own pocket, especially when we bear in mind that Government servants are so badly underpaid. If I support this Resolution, it is not because I feel that she is not liable in law. I feel that she is liable in that she is guilty of gross negligence. It is not an act of God; it is not the result of any action on the part of the King's enemy nor anything of that sort. It is negligence on the lady's part; but in view of her status, her past record and her connections, I hardly think that she would be a party to any theft of this nature.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—I have listened very carefully to the introducer of this Resolution and while I quite agree that it is very unfortunate that this thing has happened yet the lady in question will have to lose this money because she was in charge of it at the time when it was stolen. I have very great sympathy indeed for her but, Sir, we are not a private concern. If I had a cashier in my business and money was lost it would be up to me to say that I exonerate her of all blame; that the money is my

property and that I will stand the loss. This is in a somewhat different category. This, to my mind, Sir, would be establishing a very dangerous precedent. If at any time in the future money is stolen from another cashier, would the Government be prepared to come to the Legislature and ask for a grant of the money which has been stolen? I think this is a very unique Resolution. Although I have the utmost sympathy for the lady in question I cannot vote for this Resolution. I notice that the Government, according to this Resolution, will be bearing half the amount of the money that is lost and that, as I say, will be establishing a very dangerous precedent. Again, Sir, I want to enquire from the introducer of this Resolution if these cashiers in Government departments are not bonded; if they do not carry a bond by a Guarantee Society, so that when things of this nature happen the Society, not they, pays the money.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What I want to know is this. The honourable introducer of this Resolution actually said—I hope I am quoting him correctly—that someone was seen loitering in the corridor and another clerk was called so that he might be able to identify the person in future. I want to know if that was done after or before the theft; if it was done before the theft, it seems to me that somebody is an accessory before the fact because if somebody was seen loitering in the corridor and the persons who saw him were of the opinion that he was loitering there with some ulterior motive and then someone leaves the cage with the door, I take it, Mr. Chairman, unlocked, somebody, it seems to me, is a party to the theft. As in all other matters, Mr. Chairman, things will leak out. There must be other members of this House who beside myself have visited this department and it is very difficult to convince any really sane member of this House that somebody outside could so easily have carried away this money without having been observed. I, like the junior member for St. Michael, have great faith in the integrity of this cashier but I will be unable to create such a precedent, knowing that in several other Departments there have been losses of cash and the clerks responsible have had to actually pay the amounts. I am not convinced at all, despite the force with which the mover of this Resolution puts it forward, that I should vote for it. As far as the cage is concerned, if it is admitted that the Government is responsible for not having made this cage burglary proof, that is one of the things for which we, as members of the Legislature, cannot be blamed and I repeat that if we vote this money in these circumstances, we may be called upon next week or next year to vote money in similar circumstances for other Departments. I regret that I will not be able to support this Resolution.

Mr. WILKINSON: I also regret that I cannot vote for this Resolution. I am surprised, after hearing the honourable introducer of this Resolution, that he did not introduce a Resolution for double the amount. Apparently, he admits, from what I have heard, that there is a great deal of incompetence as far as the Post Office is concerned. Well, Sir, it is another case of nationalization; he admits that private Banks have cages with roofs but that the post office has cages which are open at the top. There is one thing, Sir, that is bothering me. The addendum states *inter alia* that the money could not have been taken without entering the cage. To me, that means that the person who took this money either entered the cage through the door or climbed over the top of it. Can you imagine, Sir, anyone between the hours of 11 and 12 in the daytime, with all the people in that Department, climbing over the top of that cage, taking up the money and getting

back over without being seen by someone? It does not seem practical to me. The more practical suggestion is that the clerk in charge did not slam the door so that it locked and the theft may have taken place from inside. Like the honourable member who has just spoken I, personally, think that it will be an exceedingly dangerous precedent if this House pass this Resolution. The honourable introducer of this Resolution says that this clerk—I do not know who she is and I do not want to know—has been in the employment of the Government for some time and has given very faithful service. I sympathize with her on that account but we must not encourage carelessness. To me, it seems that there has been some carelessness in this matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not intend to be sympathetic. I would like to be realistic. After hearing what honourable members have said in respect of this Resolution I think we have to decide one way or the other. If, as one honourable member said, it is gross negligence then the clerk should be dismissed without any sentimental feeling being displayed in the matter. If on the other hand, you believe that the lady acted in the normal, business way, then you must come to the conclusion that it will not be fair to ask her to pay this \$750. If you feel that the lady concerned took all the necessary normal precautions which she is accustomed to take in the post office and at this juncture something happened, then it is inhumanly unfair to ask her to pay this money. Honourable members speak about cages in private banks but persons who have visited these banks have seen cashiers leave their cages sometimes with the doors open. If it can be proved that this lady who was responsible for this money was grossly negligent, then she should be made to pay the money or she should be dismissed; if on the other hand, she acted in a manner in which any normal human being would have acted and the money has been stolen I do not think it is fair to ask her to pay any part of this money, whether it be a quarter, a half or seven-eighths. I am not, like the honourable introducer of the Resolution, saying that somebody jumped over the cage nor am I saying, like the junior member for St. James has said, that somebody from inside may have taken the money. I do not know. But if you believe that the money was stolen by somebody inside or outside and that it was not the lady's fault then I fail to see how she should be made to pay it.

Mr. TALMA: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how many cashiers are attached to that particular section of the post office, whether anyone else has a key and whether this lady goes to breakfast between 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to do what no other honourable member seems willing to do, although some have spoken in the same strain, that is, to move that this Resolution be rejected; it is wrong in principle and no number of circumstances, with which you can surround it, can justify it. The same circumstances which may make us sympathetic in this case can be manufactured for another case in the future. The only thing that is operating in my mind is that the present cashiers' position in the Post Office is, I think, unique in the world. They are in watertight compartments and nobody else in the post office can see them. In every other post office or bank you can see the cashiers and other clerks working at their books. You cannot see them in this post office and you do not have to be as clever to steal in there as you have to be to take anything out of somebody's motor car. There are times when there are many bags of mail being received or delivered and one has much difficulty in getting to the cashiers' cages. The cage in the Parcel Post goes almost to the roof but

it is not covered. There is one thing I want to be absolutely sure about and it is whether the Postmaster has asked for proper protection for the cashier working in this unfortunate cul-de-sac or whatever you like to call it and the Government has refused to give it; if that is so, then the members of the Government should pull this money out of their own pockets; if the Postmaster did not ask for that protection, he should pay it. I would like to let the honourable introducer of this Resolution know that I am in entire sympathy with the case. I am in sympathy with him and the sentiments which he expressed, but I cannot, as a representative of the people, create this precedent. I would like him to tell me whether the Attorney General of this colony has been asked for an opinion as to whether this cashier is really responsible. I understand that without the protection of a roof to the cage, the cashier in that department is not even given anything for shortage as is done in some of the other Government offices; so that there is a whole lot of blame to be attached to somebody and we do not know where to attach it. If the Attorney General has not been asked for an opinion as to whether the cashier is responsible for this money I am willing to alter my motion to one for the appointment of a Select Committee or the postponement of the Resolution to enable that opinion to be obtained. I think it is extremely hard that the cashier, in the circumstances, should have to pay this money but I do not think it is right that the Honourable the House of Assembly should vote it from the Treasury. I beg to move that this Resolution be rejected because I would like it taken off the Order Paper.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second that.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Before that is done, I would like to answer some of the questions which have been asked. One question was about the number of cashiers in this department. There are three cashiers. The other cashiers were at breakfast when this robbery took place, so that this was the only cashier in the place at the time. As I pointed out already, each cage has its own lock and the cashier locked this particular cage and carried the key with her. There is no question about anybody being able to get into it except the person climbed over as the man outside would have done. I do not see how the cashier could possibly have done more than what she did. She is given a cage in which to work; that cage has a lock; she locked it and took the key with her and I do not see that she could have done anything more. It seems to me a normal procedure, so far as the post office is concerned. I am of the opinion that the money could not possibly have been taken through the door; that is my opinion and I feel that this lady took all the precaution she could have taken. The senior member for the City asked whether this man was seen before this robbery took place. The man was seen in the corridor and the Police suspected him of having committed the theft. There is nothing on the file to show that the opinion of the Attorney General has been asked for. But the Attorney General is a member of the Executive Committee and was present when it was decided that this Resolution should be sent down. The only thing on the file is the report of the Police and it says that they believe it is this man who stole the money. He is the man whom they suspect and, as I have said, that same man has since been imprisoned for robbery at some other place. That is all the explanation that I can give.

Mr. WARD: I am not perfectly satisfied in my mind to put the onus on the cashier yet, so I certainly feel that this House would be wise to postpone this Resolution temporarily until we get some further information, and the Attorney General will be able to go into the matter and tell this House whether the

cashier is liable or not. At the present moment it seems as if the Government is liable for the cause of this theft. The mover of the Resolution just said that there are supposed to be three cashiers in this department; another honourable member said that this cage is practically in a squeezed area where very few people can see the cashier. I feel that the cashier, knowing that her cage is in a secluded spot, was wrong to leave it exposed so that an individual could take up the money whether by means of climbing over the top or going through the door, but only to be sure that I am not going to do her anything wrong I feel we should get the opinion of the Attorney General because at the present moment the Executive Committee seems to be giving its own opinion and not using the Crown Law Officer to give the opinion. I beg to move that the further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am going to second that and I do so after hearing the reply of the introducer of the Resolution who said—and I must accept his statement—that the cage was locked. If you put a cashier in a cage and she actually takes all the precautions necessary, the case would appear to be similar to that of locking the money in the safe and somebody stealing it during the night. But I am surprised that a legal opinion has not been sought by the Government to see what actually should be done in the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: I would just like to say for the benefit of my colleague that even if the cage was locked, he must come to the conclusion that without a covering at the top the full necessary protection was not given. Anybody who goes there and says that the full necessary protection is given will be wrong.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I accept the motion for the postponement of the Resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—In view of the attitude of the honourable mover of the Resolution I beg to withdraw my motion, at this stage, for the rejection of it.

The CHAIRMAN: The junior member for St. John has to obtain leave to postpone the Resolution.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I ask leave to postpone the further consideration of this Resolution.

There being no objection, leave is granted and the Resolution is postponed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of one Resolution and the postponement of another in Committee of Supply and asks leave to sit again.

The House resumes.

RESOLUTION *RE* DISTRIBUTION OF WATER WITHDRAWN.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to withdraw the Resolution for £755—Resolution No. 4—in order to substitute the Resolution for £1,500, of which I gave notice earlier in the day.

Mr. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker,—I do not know if it is a matter of tweedledum and tweedledee but these amounts do not correlate and I am wondering whether the honourable member should not move for the suspension of Rules 88 and 89.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Philip is withdrawing Resolution No. 4 on the Order Paper in order to substitute a Resolution dealing with the same subject matter. Is the honourable junior member for St. Peter objecting?

Mr. RAMSAY: No, Mr. Speaker.

There being no objection, Resolution No. 4 is withdrawn and a Resolution for £1,500 is substituted therefor.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 88 AND 89.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I now beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be suspended in order that the Resolution for £1,500 may be dealt with to-day.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

The question that Rules 88 and 89 be suspended is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that it be an instruction to the Committee of Supply, when the House is in Committee of Supply, to consider the Resolution for £1,500.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that it be an instruction to the Committee of Supply, when the House is in Committee of Supply, to deal with the Resolution for £1,500 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

PURCHASE OF MOTOR LORRY TO CONVEY WATER.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—The Resolution with which we are now about to deal is for £1,500 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to provide for the supply of water to districts where the supply is inadequate. The reason for substituting this Resolution for the one on which a discussion was commenced last week is to increase the amount of money to be voted for this purpose. As I explained last week, this money is needed because owing to the lack of a constant supply of water in certain districts of the island and the serious hardships suffered by residents in those districts in consequence, it is felt that the Government should endeavour to afford some measure of relief to them. We are, therefore, endeavouring, with the money for which this Resolution asks, to provide means of supplying these people with water. Now, Sir, as I said last week, the districts which are suffering from this lack of water are mainly in the parishes of St. Peter, St. Philip, Christ Church, and also in certain parts of St. Lucy and St. James. When we began the discussion last week, the senior member for St. James suggested that one lorry would not be sufficient; that suggestion has found favour with the Government and it is now proposed to endeavour to obtain two lorries. The suggestion was also made that we might rent lorries rather than purchase them. With that I do not agree. If we are going to expend this money I feel that we should have something to show for it and in any case, as I pointed out last week, these lorries will be useful for the transport of equipment in future. Even now, it must be borne in mind that the Waterworks Department actually rents every year a lorry under contract, so that if we purchase these two lorries I am sure, Sir, that we shall not be expending government's money at a disadvantage. Now, Sir, there is only one other point I want to make and it is this. I am not in the habit of noticing every comment; more important still, it depends, Sir, on who makes the comment. But last week when we were dealing with the Resolution for this purpose, the senior member for St. Peter declared that somebody was making political capital out of the suffer-

ings of the people. I do not know exactly what he means by that. I do not know if, for instance, he means to suggest that somebody in this Chamber caused the drought in St. Peter in order to be able to provide a lorry with a tank containing water to help the people down there. If I had the power to impose a drought of any sort, that drought I would impose on the flow of nonsense which I hear in this Chamber from time to time.

The CHAIRMAN: I am wondering whether the honourable member can accuse this Committee of a flow of nonsense. I am afraid the honourable member is treading upon dangerous ground. The honourable member must not refer to the remarks of members of this Committee as nonsense.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not talking about the Committee at all.

The CHAIRMAN: You are speaking about remarks which are made on the floor of the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: With all due respect to your ruling I submit that the allegation is quite simple, quite feasible. In the House of Commons, its members are accused of even worse.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman would not like to have such remarks used about an Assembly of this sort.

Mr. CRAWFORD: My dear Mr. Chairman, if I really called it by the name it deserves, it would be unparliamentary.

The CHAIRMAN: I agree.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What is the position? The honourable member referred to the fact that some article appeared in a newspaper referring to the drought in St. Peter and suggesting that the Government should use a lorry to supply the people with water. Well, all his observation means is that the Government was apparently sensible enough to adopt the suggestion appearing in the article in the newspaper; that is all it means and with regard to the newspaper to which he has referred, if the Government would only adopt more of the suggestions which appear in it from time to time I can assure the honourable member that the people in St. Peter who elect him to represent them would be better represented. After all, if members of this Committee had had the opportunity that I had of going to St. Peter on the occasion, even before the Government was made aware of its responsibility and adopted that suggestion, when a private individual took upon himself to supply the people with water and had seen what I have seen, this Resolution would be passed in five minutes, without any comment at all. Sir, it was a most heart-rending spectacle. Men, women, and little children were actually crushing and squeezing one another to get a little of the precious fluid and I actually saw the Manager of the Waterworks and his inspectors taking buckets from the children and trying to get some of the water for them before the contents of the tank was disposed of. Anybody who happened to be on the spot realized the value of what was being done: the Government realising that it is of some use to the people has acted on the suggestion and I doubt whether it is reasonable or fair or sensible for anybody to suggest that political capital is being made out of the sufferings of the people. Certainly, Sir, there was absolutely no justification for the allegation. To get back to the Resolution, it is proposed that we should endeavour to get two lorries, equip them with tanks and send them to those affected areas. I sincerely hope that the Almighty will smile on us and that we shall soon get some rain, so that it will not be necessary to have to relieve the people in this way, for the simple reason that water is a prime necessity. If we use 20

lorries, I am sure we shall not be able to supply the water which all the people who are affected by this prolonged drought need. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: As you know, Sir, I am in agreement with these lorries carrying water to the suffering people in these districts but I am still not in agreement with buying the lorries. I think that it is a short-sighted policy. It will be much quicker to rent lorries and get this business going than to wait to purchase two and equip them with tanks.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not want to interrupt the honourable member but I just want to pass on some information which may be of use and which may save some time. We hope to get the lorries from other Government Departments; they are already in the island. The Departments will have no use for them shortly and we will take them over.

Mr. SPRINGER: I agree with the senior member for St. James that it will be pointless to buy lorries and have them equipped with tanks if there are lorries with tanks immediately available, but they may not be entirely suitable for the purpose and in that case we propose to buy our own. That is the view of all of us. For immediate purposes, there are lorries with tanks but they are for hire and not for sale. People who want their lorries are not going to sell them and for immediate purposes we propose to use lorries which are available on hire terms because those as the only terms that are available but we must get our own as soon as we can, so as to be independent of other people's.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: That is a very satisfactory answer. As long as there are lorries which can be utilized at once for this purpose, that is perfectly all right. Now, with regard to the supply of water from a private well, I think, Sir, I know where that well is situated. Enquiry has been going on for the last three weeks in the matter and nothing has been done about it yet. The people are suffering very badly throughout the whole island, not only in the districts which were mentioned a week ago. The centrifugal pump which used to pump the water has broken down and what is worrying me now is where is the water to come from when we get the lorries. There are centrifugal pumps which, I think, can be loaned in the island—not electrically but steam driven—and I would like to know if the boiler is capable of driving an extra pump now.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman,—There is no one who would sympathize with this Resolution more than I would, because in my district which is very near to Boscobelle we have not seen water for the past eleven weeks, not even a drop. I feel that the Government should issue a plain statement letting the community know the situation *in toto* as regards the water supply. The people do not realize the calamity that is likely to befall them. Now, sir, it is well known to most people that the electric pump at the Belle broke down within the last few days and I feel that the Government should have said something about that incident when this Resolution was being introduced. The senior member for St. James says that it will be more economic to hire lorries. I feel so too but to hire only two or three lorries for this purpose is a waste of time. You will have to have at least one dozen or two dozen lorries. Mr. Chairman, I conveyed water one day in a tank containing 900 gallons for my labourers and they disposed of it in half a hour. You must remember that these people have to wash clothes besides using water for domestic purposes and when

you carry a tank with 500 gallons of water to them, you are only going to create scenes and have Court proceedings because the people are going to fight one another to get some of that water. We are making a joke of this thing. When water is being given away in certain parts of St. Lucy, the people congregate in hundreds to get some of it. People leave their homes at half past five o'clock in the mornings to go in search of water and sometimes do not get back to their homes until half past five o'clock in the evenings; that is a fact. Some people do not work some days in order to be able to go in search of water and I think that the Government should make the most strenuous effort to relieve the situation. The Government should get in touch with some of the owners of private wells and ask them to allow people to take water from those wells for washing purposes and let the lorries convey water for drinking purposes. Those are things which, I feel, the Government should go into seriously. The Government should not do anything in a half-hearted manner. If it is going to give water to one, it should give it to all. With regard to the pump at the Belle, honourable members will remember that a few months ago that same pump at the Belle gave trouble and this Government should have imported spare parts and kept them in stock. Any private businessman who deals with machinery carries spares. The Government can get anything it wants if it really tries to get it. I know that if the Government says to the Colonial Office "we want certain machinery to supply the people with water," it will get it. I am sure that if the Waterworks was a private concern, it would not be in the condition that it is in to-day. No business that is being supplied with electric current has had to close down owing to the lack of a supply of that current but I am sure that if the Government had to supply electric current, many people would close down for want of a supply of current. I am in very much sympathy with this Resolution. We must try and relieve the population of this island by giving them water but if the Government thinks that it can be done with two or three lorries, it is only wasting time. Another suggestion I would throw out to the Government is that when these lorries are being filled they should not be filled by pumps but from the hydrants.

The CHAIRMAN : That is a matter of detail.

Mr. WARD : I suggest to the Government to get in touch with some of the owners of private wells and ask them to give the people water for washing purposes, not for drinking purposes because the water from wells could not be used for drinking purposes. I feel that if that was done, we would be able to tide over the difficulty for the time being.

Mr. HAYNES : Mr. Chairman,— I do not want to delay the passing of this Resolution but it seems to me that this idea of purchasing lorries by the Government is not going to work. We have had a little experience already about this Waterworks Department. Here it is, a pump has broken down within the last few days and by the Manager's statement in the newspapers, there were 20 bearings worn out, due to the fact that the pump has been seriously neglected. I went around and made enquiry and I discovered that only one of the two foundries in the island is working on these repairs. Now, Sir, is that not a glaring example of incompetence? It is not a question of nationalization because any concern that is not being properly run, whether it is private or not, will always be a failure. This concern is a failure because it is not being properly run. If the Government goes and buys these lorries, it will be putting them in only one garage for repairs and we will see the whole lot of them lined up in front of one place waiting to be repaired. I am

hoping that no lorries will be bought but will be rented for this purpose. I think that it is a disgrace that everybody is suffering from the want of water and so little action is being taken to relieve the situation. I feel that this matter should be exposed and I am only hoping that the senior member for St. Philip — he is a very active member generally — will enquire into this matter and get it straitened out because it is really a serious matter. Even the senior member for St. Lucy cannot distil rum (Laughter); it has become so serious as that. I do not know whether the rum has improved since water is not so plentiful (Renewed Laughter) but I am hoping that some improvement will take place in the water supply of the island.

Mr. TALMA : I feel very happy to see this Resolution before us to-day. I would like to bring to the attention of this Committee that four weeks ago I asked a question along this line and only to-day, now that the water shortage and the drought are on to the fullest extent, now that the matter is affecting the island as a whole, we see anything constructive being attempted. Well, Sir, I heard a remark just now to the effect that well water cannot be drunken but I can assure you that I had the privilege of drinking some recently. If water from wells is thought to be incapable of being utilized and consumed by human beings, I feel that the Department of Science and Agriculture could probably use some chemical whereby well water can be utilized. Then, Sir, the question which would arise is: would the £1,500 be sufficient to provide equipment for all the various districts in which the people are in need of water? This is a matter which should not be regarded in a jocular way as some honourable members seem to regard it. If people cannot get water to drink, the position is certainly serious; so I am suggesting that instead of having only two lorries, we should have two for the larger districts and at least one for each of the smaller districts. This is a half-hearted attempt at trying to relieve the situation. Relative to the statement which appears in the Press about 20 bearings being worn out that is evidence that past Governments have been neglectful because if 20 bearings are worn out something has been wrong for some time; so that that cannot be levelled at the present Coalition Government. This Coalition Government cannot be responsible for that; that has been happening over 20 years ago. I am not trying to blame the Coalition Government for that; that is something that has been happening for a long time. At the moment, a lot of people are saying that the present Labour Government has done that. It has not done that and it is unfair to them (Cheers). There is one further point. Almost the whole of Christ Church is in dire need of water, even the up-to-date districts of the parish. When I say "up-to-date" districts, everybody understands what I mean. I refer to the Hastings and Worthing districts where the hotels are located. I happen to be a labour representative but when it is a question of necessity I am interested in all classes. In this instance I speak as much on the behalf of the people who live in those districts as I speak on the behalf of the man in the street. Up to yesterday afternoon I visited my constituency and the poor people in the back part of Christ Church have been getting water from wells through the assistance of plantation owners who have been good and kind enough to let them take water from their wells. Many of these people have not seen government water for over a week so it stands to reason that two lorries will not be sufficient to cover the whole area.

Mr. MAPP : I do not want to hold up the passing of this Resolution much longer. While I

regret the circumstances that make a Resolution like this necessary I do not think it can serve any useful purpose by calling attention to the deplorable conditions that exist. I think we can very much set our minds on taking steps to remedy rather than repeat these conditions which are well known to everybody in this island. There is just one aspect of the matter to which I should like to call attention to-day and it is that in a supposedly civilised community like Barbados, the state of affairs that has taken place in Boscobelle should have been allowed to exist for such a long time but I do not attach blame to the Central Government which has many problems to think about. I lay the blame on our deplorable machinery of local government that exists at present. Can you imagine a condition of affairs like this with a proper system of local government? The existing machinery of local government was established in order that the needs of the people could be more closely and more quickly attended to. If we had a Vestry in St. Peter that was functioning properly do you think that we would be called on at this late hour to effect a cure for a condition that existed for such a long time? It just shows you that our system of local government should be such as would give them power to deal with a matter of this sort. The Vestry is there for that—

The CHAIRMAN: The Vestry is nothing to do with this Resolution before the Committee. This Resolution is for a certain amount of money to provide a supply of water for people in certain districts.

Mr. MAPP: But, Mr. Chairman, I have the right to call attention to our system of local government.

The CHAIRMAN: You are not going to be allowed to discuss the Vestry in this matter.

Mr. MAPP: We are discussing measures to relieve this situation and I am suggesting one means by which it could have been relieved. I say that the Central Government should step in quickly and so organize our local government that such a state of affairs should not occur again. The local Bodies should be in touch with the people and their conditions and should be able to afford them quick relief when a condition like this arises.

Mr. COX: I would like to make a few remarks. First of all, much as we regret the situation that exists to-day, it cannot be handled overnight. This is something that is deep rooted and there is a very long process to go through before it can be made right. The senior member for St. Lucy made reference to this Government when he was talking about the pump at the Belle which went out of service sometime ago but what he has forgotten is the fact that at that time this Government was not in power. The Government that existed at that time was a Government that, so long as its members and their people got the things that were necessary, did not give a hang what happened to the majority of the people. That is the cause of the position that exists to-day and I would like to say that if they do not try and let us marshal our forces and do the things that are just and right in the interest of everybody, instead of a shortage of water we are going to get a back-fire all over the island that will incinerate everyone of us. This position needs changing and all the people in the better position ought to realize that each and every individual has aspirations and they should also learn to respect their fellow creatures. This condition of affairs could have been avoided, had former governments planned to give the people all over this island water freely and in the absence of that, it happens now that even in the lobby of this House there is no water to-day. So you see that while you try to suffer others, at some time or other—

The CHAIRMAN: I must not allow the honourable member to say that a Government tried to suffer anybody. That is an argument which the Chair will not permit.

Mr. COX: I am sorry that that is your feeling about it but I happen to know their mentality.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no evidence to support such a statement.

Mr. COX: I am saying that it is necessary, seeing the position as it stands, for each and everyone of us to come together and work in the interest of the people.

Mr. FOSTER: I am going to support the passing of this Resolution. I heartily agree with the senior member for St. Lucy. I happened to reside in Boscobelle in the past fortnight and I saw people from Haggatt Hall and other neighbouring districts going both night and day in droves in search of water. I sympathize with them because water is one of the necessities of life, one of the most essential things in life and I heartily agree with him that two lorries are insufficient. I would be in favour of the Government sending two or three dozen lorries to relieve the situation down there.

Mr. GALE: I only rise to ask honourable members to let us pass this Resolution if it is to be passed. All these recriminations about this Government and former Governments can get us nowhere. What we want is to try and get something done in the future and when these Resolutions dealing with a supply of water come down, try and get them passed as quickly as possible. There is another Resolution on the Order Paper in connection with the Waterworks which, I hope, will be dealt with to-day.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—When I spoke on this matter on last occasion I made it quite clear that I stood in favour of the Resolution because, as it was then worded, it related to districts that happen to be in the constituency which I have the honour to represent. I said then that when I came back to Barbados in April I found that there was a serious water shortage which became more acute. You, Mr. Chairman, as the other representative of that parish, can testify that we both visited this area, not with our hands empty but with some receptacles containing water, so that we should not only look on with sympathy but would assist the people by giving them water. No human being can be against this Resolution because it means water and human beings are not born yet who can do without water; so that it is fantastic or ludicrous for anybody to think that a Resolution of this sort could meet with opposition in any part of the world. I particularly made strong representation to members of my group that a Resolution such as this should be for the benefit of not only people in St. Peter but in any part of the island and that local authorities should be requested to look after the distribution of this water just as they now suggest sites for the erection of standpipes. This is a matter of importance; it is nothing that I care to make a political stand upon because I feel that it is vital and is something over which we have no control. As far as I am concerned, no honourable member, in this House or outside, can accuse me of anything but as long as I have this tongue and this head which God has given me and I am capable of using them I shall do so to the best of my ability.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to suggest to the honourable member in charge of this Resolution to accept a slight alteration in the wording because there must be districts in which there is no government supply of water and I presume that they will be taking water to those districts also.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Those are covered.

Mr. LEWIS: The water supply is inadequate in many parts of the island and if you are going to supply water where there is no water main, let those people see that they are included in this Resolution. The next thing is this. It is all very good for the junior member for St. Michael to counsel members of this House to get through this Resolution as quickly as possible—I am sorry that he is not in his place—but what he must realize is that on the Government's own admission these matters are not properly considered. If this matter had been decided on Tuesday last, a Resolution would have been passed for £755 and that is the amount which the Government would have used. Its members have been given a week to reconsider it and they have tabled a motion to-day for nearly twice the amount. One wonders what would have happened if another Resolution had been postponed for a week. That is the first criticism I have to offer. The next thing is that I think the Government should state definitely that the wells from which it is going to get water will be dug under its supervision, and that they will be inspected regularly to discover if the water is contaminated. If people go to wells, obtain water from them, drink it and kill themselves it will be all right; but if the Government draws the water, carries it to them and anything should happen as a result of drinking that water, you are going to have any number of Resolutions coming to this House for compensation. I want the Government to say definitely that it will be digging the wells from which it will be supplying water to people. If you are going to supply this water with two or three lorries, buy them. If you are going to use many lorries, rent them and if you cannot get as many lorries as you want, let the Head of the Administration prorogue this Legislature with the view of having a dissolution and we will not have to rent any lorries at all; they will be supplied (Cheers).

Mr. CRAWFORD: I only want to say this in reply to the senior member for St. Andrew who is not in his place. This pump at the Belle to which he refers broke down early last week and was in commission again. But on Saturday night, the bearings of the pump spindle broke; they were worn out. The honourable member claims that only one foundry was working on the repairs but only on Sunday the Colonial Secretary had to leave his house and come down to send a cable to London to find out whether we should substitute white metal in the repair of those bearings. I think they were of rubber. The reply came only yesterday afternoon; so it was impossible to have both foundries working on the repairs to these bearings because we did not know that we could substitute white metal bearings for the rubber bearings. With regard to the Resolution, honourable members have completely forgotten that apart from any unjustification for their allegations about the maladministration of the Waterworks Department, we have had a prolonged drought for the last six or seven months; therefore, the water supply has deteriorated. The well at Bowmanston is almost completely dry and I do not care what we say or what we do, unless we get some rain, then God help the island!

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—The next Resolution is for the sum of £958 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for payment to the suppliers of stone to the Department of High-

ways and Transport to enable them to pay increased wages to labour employed by them during the period 1st April, 1946, to the 31st December, 1946, on the basis of wages payable to the Unestablished and Casual Staffs of Government Departments. The addendum explains why this money is needed. These people are employed by the contractor who supplies stone to the Department of Highways and Transport and when the Government increased the wages of its own unestablished and casual staffs, the workmen employed by this contractor got no increase in wages because the rates charged the Government for the stone did not permit any increase to the workers employed in quarrying the stone. The Government is, therefore, proposing that it would be equitable if the labour employed by the suppliers of stone to the Department of Highways and Transport were given similar treatment as that received by the unestablished and casual staffs directly employed by the Government and this Resolution is for the purpose. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BRANCKER enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I would just like to find out whether the people who work on the rock crusher have been given any increase in pay.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If they are employed by the Government they have got their increased pay. All the unestablished staff got it.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to say that I am glad to see the Government aiding and abetting any increased wages for workers. Glad indeed am I but I must say that this is a rather peculiar principle on which to work. Do you mean to tell me that because you have put up the wages of your employees, therefore you must give me money to put up the wages of mine? Well, that is a most peculiar thing in a way. I am told that this is the result of a fair wage clause in the contract. Are you going to give the supplier more for the stone? (A MEMBER: Obviously). Is the supplier saying that because we give increases in wages, he must be able to do the same? Are the conditions of work the same? I am saying that this method of comparison should have been left entirely out from this calculation. If the supplier has to pay increased wages, he must charge more for the stone and if there is a fair wage clause in the contract he must observe it but to compare his employees with ours is a dangerous principle and should not be countenanced by the Government. It is a most peculiar thing and I cannot understand how it managed to appeal to the members of the Government. So far as the payment of increased wages is concerned, that is O.K. with me; perhaps these workers should be getting more; the supplier of the stone may be getting too much. But to make a comparison places us in a peculiar position and I hope that the Government in future will not dignify this principle by including it in addenda to Resolutions.

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

Ayes: Mr. LEWIS, Dr. WILSON, Messrs BRANCKER, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SPRINGER, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, and MOTTLEY—14.

Noes: Messrs. HAYNES, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD, and Mr. SPEAKER.—6.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the Chairman reports the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply and asks leave to sit again.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case, these Resolutions which are passed in Committee of Supply are read a first and a second time and are agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: It being now 2 p.m., this House stands adjourned to 2.45 p.m., in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

REPLIES LAID.

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Speaker,—On behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I beg to lay the replies to questions Nos. 30 and 40.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 61 (A) AND 61 (B).

Mr. SPRINGER: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to resume Government Business.

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

On motions of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) were suspended.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

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

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE ISLAND

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—The next Resolution is one to grant the sum of £112,600 from the Public Treasury (to be subsequently refunded from loan funds) to meet the cost of the purchase, housing and installation of machinery, mains and apparatus in connection with the re-organisation of the public water supply of the Island.

Sir, I believe that honourable members and the public will view with considerable satisfaction the fact that we are at long last paying due attention to the question of improving and extending the island's water supply. As honourable members are aware, the Hydraulic and Electrical Engineer attached to the staff of the Colonial Development and Welfare Department, Mr. Roddam, has been asked to examine and report on the water supply system of this island, and this Resolution seeks to implement some of his recommendations. Incidentally, this is perhaps the first time in the history of this island that action of this magnitude, shall I say, has been taken so quickly in the spirit of a recommendation contained in a Report on the water supply of the island. These improvements are urgently needed in order to increase our water supply and also to reduce the operational costs of the Waterworks Department, and they form part of the main recommendations which will be made by Mr. Roddam. In other words, the proposals which we are seeking to implement in this Resolution will form a part of the final Report of Mr. Roddam when his survey has been completed. Now it is a matter of extreme urgency that we should deal with this Resolution as expeditiously as possible. (Hear, hear.) I say that for the simple reason that it will take us about two years if not longer to get the machinery and equipment which it is proposed to purchase in this Resolution. I make those remarks for two reasons: firstly, I do not want people to believe that by the passing of this Resolution today we are going to have these important improvements in the water supply of the island overnight; and secondly, the longer

we delay the passing of the Resolution, the longer we will delay the two years from the time when the money is made available. In order to simplify the discussion on this Resolution, I propose to deal with the addendum by breaking it into three parts. The addendum begins by saying that in his interim report on the Water Supply System of the island (a copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House), the Hydraulic and Electrical Engineer attached to the staff of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies has recommended in paragraphs 56 and 57 that immediate orders be placed for machinery and equipment for the improvement of the water supply of the island, pending the completion of his full report. The addendum then proceeds to give details of the way in which this money will be spent; these sub-paragraphs, numbered alphabetically (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), will give the Committee the details of the proposed expenditure. Sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) are concerned mainly with the pumping equipment; sub-paragraph (d) with mains, pipes, valves and controls; and sub-paragraph (e) with the construction plant which will be necessary in order to put down this machinery and other equipment. Let us deal with the pumping equipment first of all; we are putting additional equipment at Bowmanston, Golden Ridge and the Belle pumping stations. Unfortunately, copies of this interim report by Mr. Roddam have not been circulated to honourable members, but on page 7 of the report Mr. Roddam sets out in detail the necessity for this new pumping equipment. He says this:

"The present water consumption is about 12 gallons per head per day in the country areas and 35 gallons per head per day in Bridgetown and its environs, and it has not increased greatly during the past 10 years. A higher rate of increase has, however, been registered since 1941, and this will further increase in the future with the extension of services and the provision of such amenities as communal baths and washhouses. I consider that it is necessary to make provision for an increase during the next 10 to 15 years to per capita consumptions of 20 gallons per day in the country and 60 gallons per day in the Bridgetown area. This, after allowing for population increase, gives the daily water consumption 10 years hence as 4,758,000 in the Bridgetown area: 2,732,000 over the rest of Barbados, making a total of 7,490,000, which figure compares with the present production of 3,900,000 gallons per day. It is therefore proposed, in the designs being prepared as part of the final report, to provide for an expansion of water supply to 8 million gallons per day, of which 5 million gallons would be produced at the Belle for the Bridgetown low level area."

Sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the addendum to this Resolution itemise the equipment which is necessary in order to produce the estimated 8 million gallons per day which we shall need approximately within ten years. Sub-paragraph (d) of the addendum deals with pipes, valves, specials control fittings and other accessories and on page 13 of the interim report the specific recommendations of Mr. Roddam dealing with these items will be found. The report claims that: "The older part of Bridgetown, approximately that between Whitepark and Collymore Rock, is amply supplied through 12" to 15" feeder mains from Grandview reservoir, but the extensions of the built-up area to the north and south are served mainly by 6" and 4" mains, which are much too small. No feeder mains have been provided to serve these small distribution mains with the result that low pressure frequently causes inconvenience. A more important factor is that it would be quite impossible for these mains to supply the

water needed to extinguish a major fire." A major fire is most likely to increase in this area. What we are proposing to do as a result of this report and with the money asked for in this Resolution is (a) to lay a 20" rising main along a direct route from the Belle to Grandview reservoir; (b) from a junction in this 20" main at Grandview to lay a 15" combined rising and feeder main to and along Pine Road, thence along Culloden Road, Dalkeith and Dayrells Roads, and up the cliff to Brittons reservoir; the existing 9" feeder main from Brittons to Rockley and Worthing being joined at Dayrells Road; (c) to lay a 15" combined rising and feeder main from the Belle across the gully through Waterford to Bank Hall Road, and along this to Eagle Hall. A junction would be provided at the top of Bank Hall Road to connect the main to a future reservoir near this point; (d) to take up the 12" Newcastle gravity main from Grandview to the point where it connects with the 9" branch to Hanson reservoir, and that part of the 12" feeder main from Grandview through Government House grounds to the junction of Pine and Belmont roads. These mains will not be serving any useful purpose after (a) and (b) are completed and some 5,000 yards of 12" mains will be secured for use as feeder mains in Bridgetown. Finally, with regard to the question of mains, the proposal is to lay the recovered 12" mains as feeder mains along certain roads in the Bridgetown area. I have here a copy of the plan which it is proposed to follow in the laying of these new mains, and if honourable members want to see it for themselves, they can have the pleasure of so doing. The new mains are easily distributable from the existing mains, and this plan will give honourable members a practical idea of what it is proposed to do. The final part of the addendum is concerned with the Construction plant for putting down this new pumping equipment and laying the new mains. On page 17 of the interim report is emphasized the importance and necessity for providing this new equipment for the installation of the pumping machinery and the laying of the new mains. In paragraph 57 of the report it is claimed with justification that a considerable amount of construction work is to be carried out and proper construction plant is required if the cost of this is to be kept down to a reasonable figure. It is therefore proposed that we should acquire for the Construction plant two portable diesel engine driven air-compressors, wagon drill, jack-hammers, rock drilling and cutting tools and other apparatus necessary for construction. I think that I have set out the position in detail. I am sorry that honourable members have not got copies of the interim report before them and if they need copies of the report, I hope that they will take the necessary steps to secure them. However, I have endeavoured even at the expense of some time to give a short, detailed account of the actual suggestions contained in the report in order to show how the items in this Resolution have been arrived at. I do not think that there is any necessity for me to say anything more at this stage. In a matter of this sort which is more or less highly technical, I suggest to honourable members that they should tread very cautiously in their criticisms. I expect later on to hear the domestic experts, tear this interim report to pieces and tell its author where he got off. I am not saying that he is infallible, but I do believe that it is high time that we pay attention to the proper re-organization of our water supply system. Although for a small island like this the amount asked for may appear to be formidable—over half a million dollars and this is not the final report—yet

by the time we should have got through we will have spent one million dollars on the improvement and extension of our water supply. I can quite share any apprehension which may be exhibited over the practicability and the possibility of our being able to afford this expenditure; but I am sure that honourable members regard water as a most prime necessity and they will bear in mind that we are planning in anticipation of the needs of our increased population ten years from now. Honourable members will also bear in mind the fact that the consumption of water is increasing daily; people are using more water when they can get it, and there is no reason to doubt that possibly, our estimates of what will be needed ten years from now may fall short of the actual requirements. I should like to say finally that honourable members will observe that the sum of £4,000 has been deducted from the total amount of £116,600 which is the estimated cost of machinery, equipment and installation. This £4,000 has lapsed under a Resolution passed last year for slight improvements to the water supply and as that money is there, it is proposed therefore to deduct it from the amount asked for now. With regard to the whole Resolution I should like to point out that we are financing this entire scheme from loan funds. In a very appropriate paragraph appearing very early in his report Mr. Roddam has emphasized—and I quote him—that "This history of a planned water system to which frequent unplanned additions are made until it has lost its original character is largely the result of attempting to provide capital works out of revenue. Although loan charges are avoided the parsimony exercised towards capital extension places first cost above consideration of operating charges with the result that increased recurrent expenditure amounting to much more than the loan charges on properly designed extensions is soon incurred." If there was no other justification for our financing this scheme out of loan funds, I submit that that paragraph should incline us in favour of doing so. There are, of course, other obvious advantages which I think are so well known that they would not bear repetition today. I think that I have said enough to justify honourable members in supporting this Resolution and to satisfy them that we are doing all that we possibly can, bearing in mind, of course, that we are entirely in the hands of the experts in this matter; and that after honourable members shall have discharged their duty this afternoon, they will have done their share and cannot do anything more. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution. There is very little to be added to what has been said by the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution. Everyone knows that our present sad situation as far as the water supply is concerned is due to the fact that while we have been extending our services during the past years, we have not proportionately increased our production or replaced outworn or outwearing sources of production. We are indeed very fortunate in having had the advice of Mr. Roddam, whose report has been referred to extensively by the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution, and we feel confident now that if we carry out his expert findings and recommendations, we can set a term to the present poor, almost desperate conditions that we are going through. I hope, in fact I feel confident, that honourable members of this Committee will think more of the future and the steps that have been taken to remedy the existing situation than of attempting to lay any blame on this or that person. I could enjoy myself

for half an hour, if I felt so disposed, with great satisfaction in laying blame in many directions, but I do not think that that would assist one bit in the solution of the problem. I trust that honourable members whether of the Government or the Opposition will forego the pleasure which that sort of gratuitous criticism always gives and let us show by our earnestness in examining and approving this Resolution that we are prepared to take a statesmanlike view of this situation and assist the community through its Government in improving the future water supply of this colony. (Cheers).

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: This Resolution is asking for a lot of money and I am certainly in sympathy with it. However, the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution has quoted several recommendations of Mr. Roddam, but he has also left out several of them. Mr. Roddam says that the Waterworks Department "is not so much mismanaged as not managed". (A MEMBER: That is not a recommendation; that is a comment). He recommends that a Barbados Public Utilities Board should be formed as in the case of Jamaica—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is unfortunate that the honourable member is reading from a report which the Committee have not got in their hands.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: The honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution read from the report and if I am lucky enough to quote it, that is all right. Mr. Roddam says that the Waterworks Department "is clearly inefficient and unsuited to the operation of a public utility. There is a manager in name but he does not exercise managerial functions or authority; this function is by-passed into the machinery of government where it evaporates. The Department is not so much mismanaged as not managed." I think that before this Government asks us to vote this large amount of money today—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that this discussion should be postponed until the Chair has a copy of this report. The honourable member is reading from the report and I have nothing to refer to.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I formally move that consideration of this Resolution be postponed so that honourable members may obtain copies of this report. The next section of the report says this: "This is the fault neither of Government nor the Department; it is merely that public utility operation is so totally different from the orthodox functions of government that ordinary governmental methods inevitably operate towards inefficiency. The Kingston and St. Andrew Water Commission and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners are both non-political public utility boards"—I hope that honourable members will read, mark, learn and inwardly digest that because that is a very particular part of the report—"and it is intended in the final report to recommend that Barbados Public Utilities Board be formed and the Waterworks vested in it." I think that before we pass this Resolution and have things bungled as they have been for years and years, we should have a guarantee from the Government that this money will be properly expended. If it is left in the hands of the Executive Committee this money cannot be properly expended. I think that we should have some guarantee before we vote this money.

Mr. MAPP: I do not follow the arguments of the honourable member who has just sat down. It is true that the engineer who is responsible for this report has made the recommendations which he has made as to the administration of the Waterworks Department; but he has also recommended that this machinery and equipment as mentioned in this Resolution must be bought if anything is to be done to meet the situation where water is concerned. The honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution has said that it will take two years or longer before we can

get these items, and where does the matter of administering the spending of this money come into the question at the moment? I think that we should concentrate on trying to get down this machinery and equipment as quickly as possible. I suppose that during the two years just as the Government has taken action on these particular recommendations, they will also take action with regard to the administration of the Department. I do not see that any good will come out of the postponement of the Resolution.

Mr. SPRINGER: On the question of postponing the Resolution there is one thing that I would like to point out. I understand that the idea behind this proposal is that copies of the interim report should be circulated. Let me point out that if we bring the matter to the notice of Mr. SPEAKER, he will no doubt give instructions to the printers to have copies of the report prepared. However everyone knows that there is a state of congestion in the printing works to-day, and several weeks may elapse before a document of this size gets near our hands. If the purpose of the postponement is to read the report, the point which I have mentioned is worth while considering.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The postponement of matters is becoming the fashion nowadays. I should like to say that if honourable members have not given any consideration to this Resolution at all, or have not had the opportunity of studying the principle underlying it, there would be the necessity for postponing it; but as the last speaker has pointed out, if honourable members want to postpone the Resolution so as to read the interim report, this Resolution will not be discussed for a long time. We have to be as practical as we can be. At this stage I think that we should concentrate on trying to do what we can now. The honourable senior member for St. James has spoken about not leaving this money in the hands of the Executive Committee. Now that is a political question, and when honourable members speak about the Executive Committee to-day they must not think that the Executive Committee are carrying on in the same constitutional fashion as the Executive Committee years ago. The honourable junior member for St. James was, at one time, a member of the Executive Committee, and, speaking under correction, I think that he too was responsible for the Waterworks Department. The honourable member knows something about it and if it is a question of mismanagement, it may be a matter of what is under the surface. That is a *fait accompli*; you cannot get anything accomplished every time you get an opportunity of saying anything. People all over the world are changing their political complexion. The main point in this Resolution is that we are seeking to do something that we have not done before and that is to re-organize the water service. We have expert advice on this matter now. There is a shortage of water at the present time, somebody is being blamed for it and now that something is being done honourable members are asking that the Resolution be postponed! I do not think that there is any necessity for postponing this Resolution. I would like to add that the honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution must bear in mind when we are speaking about the re-organization of the water service that the attention of the Government should be drawn to certain things that exist. I hope that the honourable senior member for St. Philip will be so courteous as to pay some attention to the remarks which are being made. There is in St. Peter a main which runs from Mile & Quarter and instead of going to Castle it cuts across and goes to Welch Town; it goes through somebody's plantation and goes down the other road.

Numbers of people are living along the main road where the main should be run and the people who are living along the main road are suffering terribly because there is no main until you get high up in Boscobel. Another point is this: the Waterworks Department is now laying mains to Jerusalem and it has been drawn to my attention that these mains are being run to the Farm and people in the surrounding area cannot get any water. I do not know that legislation has been passed to the effect that because you put down mains to run to Jerusalem it would be a crime to have people tapping from those mains. It is of no use putting down mains unless people can tap them. Broadly speaking, it cannot serve any useful purpose if you postpone this Resolution because the information for which you are postponing it is all set out in the Resolution itself.

Mr. WARD: I am not voting for the postponement of this Resolution although I feel that it would be a calamity to vote this £112,600 and put it under the control of the present administration of the Waterworks Department. The reason why I am voting for the passing of this Resolution is because I know, and every individual should know, that it may take two years before this machinery and equipment can be obtained. It is of no use to shelve this matter for a week or two because the longer you shelve it, the longer it will be before you can get this machinery and equipment. The water situation is very serious at the present time and the schools are closed because of the water shortage. If we are spending this £112,000 for the purpose of obtaining machinery to be put into a civil engineer's hands, I think that it would be better to leave the money in the Treasury and do without the water. (Laughter). I feel that before we undertake to erect this machinery we should obtain the services of a proper hydraulic engineer. I feel that this Committee should vote this money to-day to acquire this machinery and the Government should ask the Colonial Office to get an efficient hydraulic engineer for the post of Manager of the Waterworks Department of Barbados. Whether you appoint a Board or not, I feel that you should have a hydraulic engineer as supervisor because you may have a Board comprised of laymen and you will make the same blunder again. This machinery is modern machinery and I feel that a doctor should not do a blacksmith's work. Therefore I do not think that very much debate on this Resolution is needed because this is a Resolution which everybody in the island is awaiting, and the quicker we get through with it the better it will be for the Island. We must get down to business at once and obtain water for the people. The whole community is suffering for water to-day; we do not know whether an epidemic will break out in this island or not and meanwhile there is a shortage of water. I think that we should vote this money, get this machinery and let the Executive know that they should make some arrangement whereby the services of a hydraulic engineer can be obtained. We will then be able to build efficiently for the money which we are spending. We have just installed an electric pump at the Belle and that pump cost a lot of money. Honourable members might not know this, but a few months ago the Electric Company had to telephone the Belle and tell them that something was wrong there. The meter should have been registering 2,000 volts and it was registering 5,000. It is all very well to get around this Table and make speeches so as to make the people believe that we are doing something; however, I feel that we should vote this money and get proper people to supervise what we are doing.

Mr. GALE: I do not agree with any postponement of this Resolution—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The motion for the postponement has not been seconded.

Mr. GALE: The honourable mover of the passing of the Resolution has read certain parts of this interim report by Mr. Roddam which has been laid on the Table of the House, and the last paragraph of the addendum to the Resolution says: "It is desirable that orders for the above machinery, mains and apparatus should be placed as soon as possible and this Resolution is to provide the necessary funds." If we want this machinery and apparatus and we are told that it will take about eighteen months or two years before these orders can be filled, then the sooner we order the machinery and equipment the better it will be for us. This is the part of the report which deals with the ordering of machinery, and there is no reason to believe that the other parts of the report dealing with the management will not come after this part. This is the first step; we have plenty of time or debate when the orders for this machinery and apparatus have been filled. We should see that when these items arrive here we are able to look after them. For the reasons which I have given, I am voting for the passing of this Resolution this afternoon.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I think that it is very discourteous for this report not to be placed before us when the matter was discussed and printed in the "Advocate" newspaper. I do not think that this House is being treated with respect. This is not the first occasion on which such a thing has happened and that is why I asked that the Resolution be postponed. I am not in favour of postponing it for any length of time. The honourable senior member for St. George has said that it will take many weeks to have this report printed and, as I have said, I am not in favour of postponing the Resolution for any lengthy period. I am quite in agreement with the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy, and I would even go further; it is recommended in the report that gas or diesel engines be imported and Tom, Dick and Harry cannot take charge of them. It will take a competent engineer to do that, and it would be a waste of money to import this machinery if we do not employ proper people to look after it.

Mr. LEWIS: Before the question is put, I would like to make a contribution to this debate. The honourable senior member for St. Philip in concluding his long speech explaining this Resolution has asked that we take the view of the expert, do not have much debate, let him get through the Resolution and everything will be all right. We may even find water in the pipes when we get home. When the experts tell the Hospital Board to erect a wooden building, the honourable member says that you should not follow them and the newspaper says that you should follow them. It is very difficult to follow these experts on experts. There is one thing on which I can congratulate the honourable senior member for St. Philip and it is that he has not perpetuated the royal joke about air pockets being in the mains. There is now a definite breakdown in the water service and it is in that atmosphere that we are being asked to vote this money to-day; an act of God or some accident has brought us to the stage where we must do something. I would like to tell honourable members that while the lack of water in this island is to be deplored, I welcome it. I am only too glad that it has happened because it will make people who are accustomed to water know what it is to be without it, and it has been prophesied by someone who knows about the state of affairs that the only way the Government will do something comprehensively in connection with the water service is when the water ceases to flow through the pipes. They should not only make an effort to supply some people with water but they should make an effort to do something

on a more comprehensive scale. This report which has not been circulated is only another interim report by the gentleman who has been described officially as the Hydraulic and Electrical Engineer attached to the staff of the Colonial Development and Welfare Department. There is one qualification that this gentleman may have that we know nothing about, and that is a salesman for machinery. We have to be very careful about that. The last Resolution dealing with the purchase of machinery for Everton and Bowmanston Pumping Stations was introduced in this House no further back than August 20, 1946; it was introduced after a careful estimate was made by this Hydraulic and Electrical engineer, and the amount of the estimate was £12,400. However, between the period of the introduction of the Resolution and the consideration of it by the House, the amount went up by 25% ! I should like to say these things for the benefit of the honourable junior member for St. James. It makes bad reading and there is nobody to be blamed for the situation at the Waterworks. The history of the Waterworks has been put in a few pages of a debate which took place in the Other Place by the President of the Other Place and he knows something about it. The remarks of the President of the Other Place can be checked because they are there on record. The last report by Mr. Roddam consisted of only two pages and it was circulated, but now this report has only been laid on the Table of the House and honourable members will have to go hat in hand—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think that we should continue to say anything more about this report having been withheld from honourable members. I do not now refer to the honourable member personally: I say that it is difficult to get printed copies of the report.

Mr. LEWIS: That is just regrettable: this Resolution should come before us when the report is circulated. Some honourable members may say that I should not make the statements which I am now making, but I wonder if the Executive Committee have thought of the history of the Colonial Development and Welfare Department. They will make a grant and then get an expert to squander the money. Let honourable members think of the history of works in Dominica and St. Lucia and they will get some idea of the experts who come down here. Before the work is done they have gone somewhere else. I say that we have to be very careful as to what we are doing. This Resolution is for £112,600; last year there was a Resolution for £12,400, it was increased to £15,400, in Supplementary Estimates. We have also had to vote a sum of £2,520 for repairs, and we have not got the water yet! I see that there is a lot of electrical machinery to be installed here and who is looking after it? I say that the only report which this Government wants is Dr. Senn's Report; you want to know where to find the water and give somebody the contract for installing machines to supply the island with water. You can hold back some of the money until the water flows through the pipes. I do not think that this money should be handed over to the Governor-in-Executive Committee when there is nobody who can be blamed: I think that they are being misled into drying not only the pipes but the Treasury. I am convinced that this Labour Government is being fooled: there are people who can supply this machinery—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that the hon. member should use the word "misguided" rather than the word "fooled."

Mr. LEWIS: This Labour Government is being misguided. If you read this interim report—you hear something about a ten-year plan. You will find that ten years is not long enough to mislead them so they make a long-term plan for the final report.

That is what all of this amounts to. If you read from somebody who knows, you will see that they are merely adding trouble to the Waterworks. The hon. senior member for St. Philip has quoted from paragraph 12 of the report and can you tell me that this hydraulic and electrical engineer should make a statement to the effect that you are wrong in attempting to provide capital works out of revenue? Can you not see how the man is thinking? He has no right to make a statement like that. If we are prepared to finance schemes out of our revenue, that is our business. When you come to the back of it, you will find that this hydraulic and electrical engineer is telling us something about socialism. The House says that there should be nationalisation and this expert recommends that the Waterworks should be run by a Public Utilities Board! Is this Labour Government falling for that? I say: let us have our own investigation by an expert who will come out here and be responsible for the machinery which he advises us to purchase and see that it is working. It is nonsense otherwise. You have thrown away sufficient of the taxpayers' money already and you are not getting any water for it. When it comes to the question of water, all the hon. senior member for St. Philip has to do to-day is to tell hon. members that he has been asked to increase this amount by so much and they cannot open their mouths. They have to vote the amount or they will tell people that the members of the House would not vote money for the water supply. It is high time that we have somebody responsible for the lack of water or for a breakdown. The President of the Other Place knows the history of the Waterworks; the Department used to be run by a Board the members of which were paid 20/- a meeting and then the amount was reduced to 10/- a meeting. At one time the Department was run by the Executive Committee, not the Governor-in-Executive Committee, and now it is a sub-Committee of the Executive Committee. The Waterworks Department is being charged with inefficiency and there is nobody to be blamed for it! This is a very serious matter. Asking for money means nothing but asking for it by an expert like this makes me feel that I should vote against the Resolution. If you are drying the pipes, do not dry the Treasury. Let them dig wells in the backyards and try and save more of this money. I am not prepared to place £112,000 on the recommendation of the Colonial Development and Welfare Department knowing their history. To-day, the 10th of June, 1947, the amount is £112,000 and in two years' time it will be £160,000. I challenge the hon. senior member for St. Philip to say that this money is a part of the half a million pounds which is to be allocated to the Waterworks Department under the ten-year plan. That has been shirked in this printed addendum and I want to hear something about it. It is stated in the addendum to this Resolution that "It is desirable that orders for the above machinery, mains and apparatus should be placed as soon as possible and this Resolution is to provide the necessary funds. The amount will be refunded from loan funds." If this addendum is referred to by hon. members ten years hence, I defy them to find that it bears any relation to the ten-year plan. The half a million pounds is in connection with the ten-year plan but here is a Resolution for £112,000 plus anything that this machinery will come up to in two years' time. If hon. members were to read the debate which took place in the Other Place on the last Waterworks vote, they will see what will come to them. The people who work around the boilers are in danger of losing their lives: they are afraid of going near to them. All that is on record against the Government. (A MEMBER: Which Government?) I do

not know if the Government is going to share the responsibility. I am voting this money in the hope that we will get some water. I would not like it to be said that I have delayed the passing of this Resolution which is the means of giving the people water. I am hoping that the amount of my tax bill will not go up. I am in the unfortunate position of having to pay every cent of taxes that the law of this country demands from me. I have in my pocket a threat from the Income Tax Commissioner that I may be put before the Magistrate for the non-payment of last year's taxes. It is a fact that I am unable to pay them. I find it increasingly difficult to pay the taxes which are imposed upon me by this House of Assembly and I am warning honourable members that high taxes will be the result of squandering the people's money. I sincerely hope that the honourable senior member for St. Philip is taking note of my remarks and that he will put my mind at rest with regard to some of these things. I make serious charges when I can support them. In matters of this sort I use commonsense and intuitively I feel that this Resolution is a disgraceful thing.

Mr. TALMA : Without attempting to delay the passing of this Resolution, I should like to say that this is one of the few occasions when the Colonial Development and Welfare Department are attempting to do something constructive in order to assist the people of this island. They are not merely holding out hopes which will not fructify but which will fructify before they leave this colony and the West Indies as a whole. We have no engineering experts as far as the Waterworks is concerned and we find ourselves in this position, that the island as a whole is thirsty for water. When the honourable junior member for the City attacks a scheme of this sort, I cannot see that he is opposing it at the proper time.

Mr. LEWIS : I paid due regard to the circumstances under which we are discussing this Resolution.

Mr. TALMA : I cannot see that this is the opportune time to oppose this scheme. If this Coalition Labour Government does nothing constructive, they will be blamed. I am voting for the passing of this Resolution and I would have voted for it long before this situation arose. As far as Colonial Development and Welfare schemes are concerned, this is one occasion when something is being attempted and honourable members are suggesting all sorts of motives ! The fact remains that this gentleman is an expert and we have to accept him as such. Whoever you get as an expert the position will be the same, and if you postpone the Resolution it will be a question of keeping people thirsty. If the Colonial Development and Welfare Department are to be opposed, I do not think that they can be opposed on the ground which the honourable member who has just sat down has taken. If the honourable member wanted to oppose the Colonial Development and Welfare Department, he could oppose them in connection with the organization of welfare schemes and work of that nature but surely not on these lines. I am voting for this Resolution because I feel that now is the most opportune time for it to be presented to this House.

Mr. MOTTLEY : I think that the postponement of this Resolution would be a very desirable thing but, as I understand the position, you cannot get printed copies of this interim report for another two or three weeks, and like other members of this Committee, I feel that you should not do anything to prevent or delay the improvement of the water supply. Having heard the remarks of the honourable junior member for the City, unless this Government is prepared to answer the accusations which he has made, I shall not vote for this Resolution.

The honourable member has suggested that this estimate has been puffed up and he has said that one qualification which has not been given to this gentleman is that he is a salesman for machinery. When a responsible member of this House tells you, after a person has made a report, that the estimate has been puffed up and that that person is a salesman for machinery, it is incumbent upon members of the Government to answer those accusations. When that is said —

Mr. LEWIS : I really meant that the annual estimates were puffed up and then we had to vote extra money.

Mr. MOTTLEY : If the honourable member puts it in that way there is still a puffed up estimate anyhow. I am very serious about this matter; if we are asked to vote this money particularly on the report of Mr. Roddam, I take it that you could not ask for this £112,000 unless you gave some ways and means of how you are spending this money and for what reasons. The honourable junior member for the City has said that there is one qualification of this expert that we have not been told anything about and that is that he is a salesman for machinery. Well, it strikes me, and it must strike honourable members and members of the public that we are being told that it is all very well to ask us to vote this money, but this gentleman is a salesman for machinery and he is asking for machinery which is no good or not of the right type and I am asking for some explanation. I have no opportunity of knowing what is happening except by enquiring from the floor of this House, and when a member of a Party which forms this Coalition Government can get on the floor of this House and make such a statement, there must be something in it, and the honourable senior member for St. Philip is bound to tell us if anybody is getting any money out of this machinery. The honourable junior member for the City has made a very strong statement and I would have made it myself if I knew about the matter. The honourable member has the means of knowing anything, more especially that a member of his Party is in charge of this Resolution. This is one occasion when I am asking for a satisfactory explanation from the Government as to the statement which the honourable member has made.

Mr. HAYNES : The honourable junior member for the City has made a most valuable contribution to this debate. He has suggested that this money should be spent by way of a contract and I think that that is a very good suggestion. If these extensions are done by contract, the water should flow before all the money is paid, and we would not only get a good job but we would get it done more quickly. I counsel the honourable senior member for St. Philip to try and use his utmost power in the proper quarters to see that the Crown Agents, who are the people for handling these orders, are instructed to try and get this machinery through one of the many contracting firms which do this sort of work in England. I am sure that none of us will ever regret this, even if we have to spend more money in having this work done. What will happen is that you will spend the money with respect to a man who knows his work, and in the future that man will be appointed by the Government to run this concern; otherwise we will lose money. The honourable senior member for St. Lucy has told us that the electric pump at the Belle was out of order and the operator did not know it until the Electric Company, which is about five miles away, reported the matter. What will happen if you have eight or ten of these pumps under these conditions ? I am hoping that this suggestion which emanated from the brains of the honourable junior member for the City will be taken seriously

and will germinate as a seed which is sown in good soil.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It is merely a coincidence that this Resolution happens to be introduced when there is a shortage of water. It is since early last year that Mr. Roddam was asked to investigate and report on the condition of our water supply, and in the ordinary course of events whether we had this prolonged drought or this breakdown at the Belle, we should have been discussing this Resolution about this time. In other words, we are not asking anybody to vote for this Resolution to-day purely because there is a shortage of water or because there is a breakdown of machinery at the Belle; we are asking honourable members to vote for it purely on the facts as supplied by the Government. To begin with, as I have already explained, all of this money is not for the purchase of machinery. I broke up the addendum to the Resolution into three parts; the first part deals with the pumping equipment, the second with mains, pipes, valves, etc., and the last part with the construction plant for putting down this machinery. If honourable members refer to the addendum to the Resolution and total up the relevant figures, they will see that only £46,000 of the entire amount is for the purchase of new machinery. The pumping equipment will only cost £23,000 and it is estimated that the cost of installing it and setting it to work will be another £23,000. The entire amount remaining will be the cost of the pipes, valves, control fittings and so forth, and the plant which will be needed to install this apparatus. I say that because even if some honourable members feel that this Resolution has been puffed up and certain parts are necessary—

Mr. LEWIS: No honourable member has said that; it is stupid to make that statement

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must not use those remarks; there is nothing stupid in it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Even if honourable members feel that the amount which has been asked for in this Resolution will be wasted, or that it is unnecessary expenditure, the fact remains that the machinery has to be imported. All the equipment will be put up here and we shall be able to see whether or not too much was ordered, whether it will go to waste or whether it is necessary for the scheme which we envisage. I even went further and placed on the Table of the House the plan in connection with the installation of the new mains and feeders. This plan has been prepared according to scale, and we have specified the length of the different mains and feeders which we intend to install. The areas are laid down on the plan and it is an easy matter for anybody to estimate how many feet of any given main are required for a specific area. I am not suggesting that honourable members will be able in a short space of time to estimate accurately the number of miles of new mains which it is proposed to install or to estimate accurately the length of the mains mentioned in the addendum to the Resolution. In these matters we have to put a certain amount of confidence in the departments which prepare these estimates and plans and hope that they are accurate. That is all I need say. With regard to the very grave allegation that Mr. Roddam is a salesman for machinery, I am not in a position to say that he is. My information is that Mr. Roddam is a Government official, he has been a Government official for some time, and has never been connected with any

private machinery firm so far as the Government knows. If the honourable junior member for the City has some other source of information I am not saying that the information is wrong or the source is wrong; but as far as the local Government knows, Mr. Roddam is not connected with any engineering firm. It would be a very serious thing if an official of his type were to be connected with the sale of machinery. (A MEMBER: A very serious thing). I can assure the honourable member that the Government has been told that Mr. Roddam has no connection whatsoever with any firm which manufactures machinery. A great portion of West Indian public opinion feels that part of the grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act finds its way into the pockets of British manufacturers, British friends and what not. (Cheers). I know that a lot of people feel so; they feel that if the Colonial Development and Welfare Department grant £20,000,000 for these West Indian Colonies, of that amount £15,000,000 will go back to Great Britain and £5,000,000 will be spent in the West Indies; so that less money will be spent on machinery and equipment which have been ordered from British firms. The facts are there and if the deductions are correct, far be it from me to gainsay them. I do say that I want to exonerate the Government from any knowledge at all of the allegations made that this particular official is connected with the sale of machinery, or any knowledge to the effect that the preparation of this estimate of expenditure has been made by a person who is just as concerned about doing his official duties as about putting money into his pocket by way of a drawback or percentage on the sale of machinery. Having said that, I hardly think that it is necessary for me to say much more. This scheme is part and parcel of the final report which will be made by Mr. Roddam, and it is also part and parcel of the scheme envisaged for the improvement of the water supply under the ten-year Plan. I said in my opening remarks that there will be a certain amount of apprehension as to whether the spending of this money will be justified, because in a small colony like this we are proposing to spend over half a million dollars on improvements to our water supply, and we are admitting that this is only a part of the expenditure. We shall have to do more later on, and the amount must appear formidable to people who appreciate the limits of our financial resources. At the same time, I repeat that we are in the hands of the experts in this matter. As far as we know, there is no justification for doubting their *bona fides* and under these conditions it seems that if we really want to set about these long-delayed improvements in our water supply system, this expenditure is merited.

Mr. LEWIS: I thank the honourable member for what he has said. I would like to point out that the electric pump came out as a stand-by for the steam pump and now the steam pump is a stand-by for the electric pump. I have been reliably informed that a guarantee was sent out that the machinery at the Belle Pumping Station would supply a certain quantity of water per day but they got only 50% of the guarantee. You will still have to be thankful for what you have got. I would like to suggest that in future if honourable members have plans in connection with anything that is being done, those plans should be left with the Clerk of the House so that honourable members can go in and see them rather than have them handed around the Table during a debate. I would ask the honourable senior member for St. Philip if he has not heard the story of a

manager of the Waterworks who was sent a cheque after certain machinery came down and, of course, he was too honest to accept and sent it back. This was current in Barbados and I am wondering if the honourable member did not hear it. I understand that throughout the length and breadth of these Colonies where this gentleman has gone, the importation of machinery runs into millions of pounds. As an ordinary member of the community, I come here on Tuesdays to take an interest in the taxpayers' money. I find that a gentleman who has been coming here fairly often, I think he is the Director General of Civil Aviation in the West Indies, gives a talk over Radio Distribution on a Sunday night, it appears in the newspaper on Tuesday when £14,000 is to be voted to buy equipment for the Airport! Is it a mere coincidence that a man who has not used Radio Distribution Service before, uses it just as a Resolution is coming down for money to be spent on the Airport? That is, to my mind, a warning to the Government that something is going wrong. I should just like to tell the honourable senior member for St. Philip this; that one expert attached to the Colonial Development and Welfare Department says that you should have a Public Utilities Board and another one says that you should abolish the Boards and have Government-run institutions. You do not know where you are with the experts. I have something to say about that in connection with a Bill which is before the Legislature. If honourable members will read through this interim report, they will see that they are told some things which they have no right to be told. No engineer has any right to tell you whether you should raise a loan or not; he has no right to tell you how you should run your social schemes. I see that the honourable senior member for St. George is anxious to get home and I will not hold him up. I am voting for this Resolution in the hope that sometime to come water will be supplied, but I do not feel comfortable in mind over the whole affair.

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

The Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Mr. COX, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee and that the Committee had ask for leave to sit again.

The House resumed.

On motions of Mr. SPRINGER, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

AN EXPLANATION

Mr. SPEAKER: Before you make the motion for the adjournment of the House, I should just like to make an explanation with regard to this interim report which has been discussed. I do not know how it came to be in the House at all. During the week the Clerk asked me whether it should be printed and circulated or not, and I told him to hold his hand until to-day. The reason for that is that towards the end of the last session an honourable member asked that some report or replies to questions be printed and circulated. I pointed out that it would take about four or five weeks to have that done. It has never been done, and no honourable member has ever asked about it. However, I will have this report printed and circulated.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 17th day of June, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 17th day of June, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.