

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th March, 1947.

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

Present:

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

PRAYERS AND MINUTES.

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

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Reports of the Inspectors of Trees of the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church; also the Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month ended 28th February, 1947.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement showing the Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for eight months ended 31st December, 1946.

Statement showing the Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1946.

Report of the Director of Highways and Transport for the year 1945-46.

Statement showing the sums advanced by the Colonial Postmaster for the payment of Money Orders to the 31st January, 1947.

Messrs. TALMA and MOTTLEY enter the House and take their seats.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £2,861 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to provide for the payment of the salaries and other expenses of the Architect and Planning Officer and the staff of his office until the 31st day of March, 1948.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution that with effect from the first day of April, 1946, and until the 31st day of March 1948, a cost of living allowance be paid to

(a) officers in the full time service of the Savings Bank who receive their salaries from the funds of the Bank;

(b) officers who retired from the full time service of the Bank at any time between the 1st day of April, 1946, and the date of the passing of this resolution in circumstances rendering them eligible for the grant of a pension or gratuity;

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

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

Messrs. SPRINGER and CRAWFORD enter the House and take their seats.

Dr. WILSON gives notice of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency The Governor

1. The House views with deep anxiety the statement made on the floor of the Assembly at its meeting on March 4th by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, Mr. G. H. Adams, to the effect that "the outlook for emigration at present is not rosy."

2. The House is of opinion that every possible action should be taken to procure a quota for our workers to enter the United States this year and with this end in view requests that a delegation comprising Your Excellency, the senior member for St. Philip, Mr. W. A. Crawford, and the Labour Commissioner, Mr. Guy Perrin, should depart for Wash-

ington at the very earliest possible date in order to conduct negotiations with the appropriate authorities.

QUESTIONS.

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

(1) Is Government aware that the Governing Body of the Combermere School has advertised for a Master in the "Trinidad Guardian" Newspaper of 29.1.47.

(2) Will Government state whether a similar advertisement appeared in any section of the Barbados Press?

(3) If the answer to question (1) above is "yes", and to question (2) is "No", can Government explain why?

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

(a) Whether Government will cause to be published a table shewing prices paid by each sugar factory this season for canes sold by (a) peasants (b) plantation owners to such factories?

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

1. How many Barbadian workers have been billed for Income Tax since their return to this Colony from U.S.A.?

2. What is the total amount of such Taxes (a) billed for? (b) received by the local Government?

3. Is it a fact that these workers have already had substantial deductions made in U.S.A. from wages earned in that country in respect of various American taxes?

4. Is Government prepared to take action with a view to conceding a measure of relief to these workers in respect of local income tax on their incomes earned in U.S.A.?

SELECT COMMITTEES DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed to call the Orders of the Day I discharge the Select Committees appointed (1) to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 30/1946 relating to the supply of Rice from British Guiana. (2) to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 2/1947, relating to an agreement with the British Union Oil Co., Ltd., for the supply of natural gas to the Belle Pumping Station, and (3) to prepare a draft Reply to his Excellency's Message No. 7/1947 relating to the appointment of an Architect and Planning Officer.

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 goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Chairman,—There is an urgent Resolution—No. 2 in Committee of Supply—standing in my name for the sum of £910 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 under Head XXI, Department of Science and Agriculture, (ii) Experiment Stations

and Botanic Stations, Item 41, Cultivation and labour in connection with experimental crops, by £450; and Item 45, Labour for reaping canes, by £460. This Resolution was introduced on the 25th February and in the addendum it is stated that the additional amounts asked for are the result of general increases in the wages of agricultural labourers since the framing of the Estimates in 1945. As honourable members know, the Estimates of the Department of Science and Agriculture are framed towards the end of the calendar year and subsequent to that time—

Mr. WILKINSON: On a point of order. The first Resolution in Committee of Supply is the Estimates for 1947-48; surely the senior member for St. George should ask for leave to deal with the Resolution with which he is now dealing.

The CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply and the senior member for St. George is in order.

Mr. WILKINSON: Yes, Sir; but the first Resolution deals with the Estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: The senior member for St. George is in order and I suggest to him to proceed with his remarks on this Resolution and let the remarks of the junior member for St. James stay just where they are. (Laughter).

Mr. SPRINGER: I was saying, Sir, that since the framing of the Estimates of the Department in 1945, the wages for general agricultural labour were increased by 25% in May and by a further 25% in September, 1946, and the increases for the reaping of canes were 50% last year and an additional 8s. a ton this year. That being so, it is necessary that this Department should have these additional funds in order to proceed with its business for the remainder of the current financial year. I have been informed by the Department that the matter is urgent and I hope that honourable members will see their way to pass this Resolution expeditiously. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1947—48

THE CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply at the last meeting we were considering

HEAD I—THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I asked a question in respect of item 7, Furniture, £365 and the senior member for St. Joseph has very kindly given me an itemised statement in which, I see, there is the item, frigidaire, £165, which has not arrived. Well, I have made enquiry and I am creditably informed that that £165 is still there to pay for the frigidaire when it comes and that the money does not lapse. I, therefore, cannot see how the amount for furniture can be £365, the same as last year, except we are going to buy another frigidaire. I beg to move that this amount be reduced by £165.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second my colleague's motion. The senior member for St. Joseph, if I remember correctly, said on the last occasion that he thought the £165 would lapse because the frigidaire has not arrived. I too, Sir, have since enquired into the matter and I have been reliably informed that the money for any item which is ordered during the financial year does not lapse; therefore, there is no necessity to include the £165 in this vote unless, as my colleague said, two more frigidaire are wanted at Gov-

ernment House instead of one. There are two there already and this will be the third.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member who has just spoken was on the Executive Committee when we agreed to send and ask the House to vote the money to purchase this frigidaire, the members of the Executive Committee having been perfectly satisfied that it is absolutely necessary. I would just remind the two honourable members that the explanation about the matter was given this time last year. The junior member for St. James is perfectly correct when he states that the £165 does not lapse if the frigidaire was ordered in the financial year. I must have given the impression, judging from the honourable members' remarks, that the £165 was put back in the Estimates to pay for the frigidaire when it comes but that is not so. The reason why this amount of £365 is the same as last year's is—I am quoting now from the remarks of Mr. Allan Collymore, now Sir Allan, when he was in this House as Attorney General—that it has been the custom in this island whenever a new Governor is coming to put in the Estimates an amount of £400 or £500 for furniture and give the Governor the chance to see what furniture, he thinks, needs replacing; not that the Estimates Committee does not scan the proposed expenditure or, as some honourable members know in the case of the last Governor, go and examine room by room themselves. The furniture four years ago was so disgraceful that even the strongest critic of the Government was convinced that it was necessary to replace some of it. What I omitted to mention on the last occasion was that I hope honourable members will pass this amount because the state of the carpets at Government House is disgraceful and although I am authorized to say that the present Governor proposes to get them dyed, yet I do not agree to that. The carpet in the drawing room has been brought downstairs and laid in the dining room and the stair carpet is very discoloured. In my opinion, Government House should look like a Government House. I am not going to call names but there is in these parts a Government House which even an ordinary member of the Civil Service said he would be ashamed to own as his own house; we do not want the Government House in Barbados to be thought of in the same way. The position of the present Governor is this. He has only just come here and he cannot yet say what he might or might not feel should be added to Government House, as far as the furniture is concerned; it is, as I said, customary to put a substantial amount in the Estimates for this purpose and the need for new carpets is obvious. I am not out of order to say that this question arose during the last war and I do not think that I am committing any breach of confidence when I state that the reason why the House has never been asked for a substantial amount to purchase new carpets was that the Government did not want to go in for any great expenditure during wartime on carpets. But if honourable members agree with me that some, at least, of the carpets at Government House should be replaced, then I suggest that £365 is not too much.

Mr. HAYNES: The senior member for St. Joseph, I think, expressed exactly my sentiments as regards these replacements at Government House and not having somebody there to look after them. Here it is, by not having a housekeeper at Government House, we have to wait until three or four months after one Governor has left to replace the furniture for his successor in office. In the honourable member's own words, these carpets have now been discovered to be in a bad condition. If there had been somebody in charge of the property at

Government House to look into these matters, an earlier report would be made of these things. I am always talking about this matter. We wouldn't save money but whenever the Head of the Government is changed we would always have the place in order. At present, as the honourable member has just told us, £400 or £500 should be provided to replace the furniture. I think it is a disgraceful way of doing this business. Last session when the senior member for St. George was presenting the Estimates in this House, he promised that he would have considered this matter. (A VOICE: It has been considered). If it has been considered, then I am very sorry to hear that (Laughter). I am not in favour of this £165 being granted under the conditions that it is being asked for. The note explaining this item states: "includes cutlery, linen, etc." and the linen, as I explained on the last occasion, has gone where it should not have gone. I am, therefore, totally opposed to that £165 being left in the Estimates.

Mr. WILKINSON: I thank the senior member for St. Joseph for the information he has supplied us. I certainly was one of those who misunderstood him on Thursday that the £165 had to be put back in the Estimates because the frigidaire had not come. As regards the carpets I am perfectly sure that it will cost more than £165 to replace a particular carpet at Government House. I am not saying that carpets are not needed but if the particular one I am thinking about is to be replaced, £165 will not, in my opinion, be sufficient; therefore, do not try to obtain this vote under that pretext. £200 is quite sufficient for the ordinary upkeep of the furniture at Government House and I am still supporting the motion by the senior member for St. James that the £365 be reduced by £165. If they can get a carpet and they come here and tell us what it costs I think I will be in favour of voting the money but they cannot get the carpet at Government House, of which I am thinking, for £165.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not saying that any part of that £365 was specifically included for the purchase of a carpet and if I understand the junior member for St. James correctly, he thinks that £365 is not enough. All I am saying is that some of this money could be used to purchase stair carpets instead of getting the present ones dyed but it is not intended that a carpet should be bought for the drawing room because obviously £165 could not buy that. We should get rid of this particular habit of knocking off things because they come under the Head, Governor. If we are satisfied that Government House needs replacements, surely we ought to remember that Government House is not the property of this or that Governor and more especially, we should not carry on our love for one Governor until we shall have seen his successor. I ask honourable members to vote this amount.

The question that the amount £365 be reduced by £165 is put and resolved in the negative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. HAYNES, DOWDING, S. A. WILKINSON, and WILKINSON—4.

Noes: Messrs. LEWIS, CRAWFORD, BRANCKER, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, TALMA, MOTTLEY, GALE, Dr. WILSON, and Mr. SPEAKER—15.

Mr. S. A. WILKINSON: I also asked a question on the last occasion in connection with item 5, Allowance to Governor's orderly £11.

Mr. ADAMS: I can only tell the honourable member that I have had the records looked up as far back as 25 years ago and this allowance is paid to the Governor's Orderly presumably for the work he does at Government House but it is not for the policeman who drives the Governor's car.

Mr. WALCOTT: Does this orderly do the chauffeur's work?

Mr. ADAMS: No. The chauffeur is not paid.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Governor must be a wonderful man if the chauffeur who drives him is not paid.

Mr. SPRINGER: While one does see policemen driving certain officials' cars on certain occasions, as long as I can remember the Governor has paid his chauffeur out of his own pocket. The Governor has the right to be driven on official visits by a policeman.

Dr. CUMMINS enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. WALCOTT: I take it that these Estimates are prepared under Heads so as to enable any person looking at them—from the Secretary of State for the Colonies downwards—to see what is being spent on each item and if the explanation given by the senior member for St. George is correct, I consider that that policeman should be put under this Head as a chauffeur and should not be doing a policeman's work. The Message which we received a short while ago stated that the Secretary of State for the Colonies suggested that we should be paying the Governor's servants but he cannot look at the Estimates and find out that we are paying the Governor's chauffeur because it is not included.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member knows or should know that a policeman has been used in recent years as the Governor's chauffeur but why should he be paid out of this vote? We all know that it has been recommended that that practice should be discontinued. As the senior member for St. George said, Governors have had in the past, in addition to policemen, their own chauffeurs whom they paid out of the £2,000 or £3,000 which they received as salary.

Mr. WALCOTT: My contention is that this is not a true statement of the expenses under Head, Governor. All expenses in connection with this Head should be put in the Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: I cannot understand that mentality. Does the honourable member want to see in the Estimates what the Governor pays his governess or other servants?

Mr. WALCOTT: I cannot understand the mentality of the senior member for St. Joseph at all. He does not seem to be able to follow what I am saying. He says that he cannot understand my mentality and I cannot understand his.

Mr. ADAMS: Then it will remain like that.

Mr. WALCOTT: It should not remain like that. If the Government is paying a chauffeur for the Governor, the expense should be shown in these Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: The Government is doing nothing of the sort.

The question that the sum of £1,553 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. LEWIS, CRAWFORD, BRANCKER, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, TALMA, MOTTLEY, DOWDING, GALE, Dr. WILSON, Dr. CUMMINS, and Mr. SPEAKER—17.

Noes: Messrs. S. A. WALCOTT and WILKINSON—2.

HEAD II—COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £1,198 be voted under this Head.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: With respect to item 9, Secretariat Allowance, £200, I would very much like to know how that money is divided. I would like to know whether the lump sum is given at the whim of the Governor. I see that £100 is fixed by law for item 8, Allowance for despatch work, and I would like to know whether these two sums are lumped together or how this money is distributed.

Mr. ADAMS: The £100 appears in the Estimates every year because the Act has not been repealed. The Act says that this sum should be paid for despatch work; it used to be paid, when despatch work was copied, to the clerks who did the extra work and there used to be four clerks dealing with these despatches. Now despatch work is regarded as part of the ordinary routine of the office and only this £200 is paid out for overtime work to the clerks who may at any time have done any overtime work. Up to 1944-45 the £100 was used but from that time onwards it was decided that it should not be used. Presumably, the Attorney General must have given an opinion to that effect and, therefore, the amount is not used at all but the £200 is paid to the clerks who do overtime work.

The question that the sum of £1,198 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD III—COLONIAL TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

The items and respective amounts to be voted are read.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. COX, the sum of £423 is voted under this Head.

HEAD IV—AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. COX, the sum of £313 is voted under this Head.

HEAD V—HARBOUR AND SHIPPING MASTER.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £1,341 be voted under this Head.

Mr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: Mr. Chairman,—With regard to item 2, Engineer in charge of Water Craft, £200, every year we vote this amount for this office and I want to sound an early note of warning to the Government because I feel that the time has come when we should do away with this plurality of offices. The person who is supposed to be the engineer in charge of the water craft is also a part time employee of the Highways and Transport Department; he is a part time employee of that Department as well as a part time employee of this Department and I feel that in view of our unemployment problem, the time has come when the Government should give this gentleman a proper salary and relieve him of one of these offices, thereby providing employment for somebody else. He cannot be in the two places at the same time and I hope that the Government will see its way to adjust the matter in the near future.

Mr. BRANCKER: In expressing my concurrence with the point of view which the honourable member has put forward I will point out that at the

present time, there is in Barbados no shortage of competent mechanics. It will be perfectly simple to fill the post with a man capable of doing the work. This old Barbadian tradition of giving as many jobs as possible to one's pet child should be done away with.

Dr. CUMMINS: I want to support the remarks of the last two speakers. Last year when the Estimates were being considered, the House told the Government that it will tolerate this state of affairs no longer and I am surprised that it has come back to this House with the position now as it was then. I, too, am sounding the warning that if the Government brings this same position before us next year I am prepared to vote against it.

Mr. TALMA: Despite the fact that I am not willing to adhere to the principle of plurality of offices yet if we are convinced by the Director of Highways and Transport that this particular officer performs his duties satisfactorily and if we bear in mind the history of the entire case better known to members of the Highways and Transport Board than to myself and also in view of the fact that the two offices are separate and distinct, it stands to reason that a greater expense will be involved if the suggestion of the senior member for St. Michael is adopted. If we are satisfied by the Director that this officer discharges his duties satisfactorily, it stands to reason that we cannot possibly think of reducing his salary. If you were to take away one of these jobs from him, you will have to give him as much or almost as much as he is getting now because if you approve of the principle of a cost of living bonus you cannot say that and reduce the gentleman's salary in the same breath. I can very well see that this officer is performing his duties carefully and if you go into the matter you will see that he has done a lot of work for the Government free, gratis and for nothing; so I think that if we depart from the principle of plurality of offices in this case, it will mean that instead of spending £600 per annum as we do at present, we will spend £200 or £300 more.

Mr. COX: I do not intend to prolong the debate any further than is necessary but I think the honourable member is a member of the Select Committee which sat with the Director and investigated Head 32, Department of Highways and Transport.

Mr. TALMA: On a point of explanation. I hope the honourable member knows that I disagree with everything he has said in that direction.

Mr. COX: The honourable member does not even know what I am going to say; he is pretty sensitive and inimical. He will remember that the Director was asked whether these duties clash and he told us frankly "Yes" and that he would be glad if this officer could be made a whole time officer in the Department of Highways and Transport; so he was quite willing to have this officer devote all his time to his duties in that Department. The honourable member criticizes the principle of plurality, of offices with one side of his mouth and with the other side he expresses appreciation of the principle. I do feel that even if we have to spend more money as the result of this change we will be providing employment for somebody else who would be glad to undertake it.

Mr. TALMA: I regard that as a personal attack by the honourable member who has just sat down.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must not refer to the remarks of another honourable member as a personal attack.

Mr. ADAMS: In view of the fact that the senior member for St. Thomas and other honourable members, including the senior member for St. Michael, made reference to this matter last year I think it is

only fair to the Government to say that the position is a difficult one. The Government is not unaware of the undesirability of giving one person several jobs and the Government has this matter under consideration but, as I say, the position is difficult. I know as a fact that during the war this officer could have left Barbados for a job with a salary much more than the £600 he is getting but he preferred to remain here. As soon as Government makes the change which has been suggested, it has, in duty bound, to pay him £600 a year. (A Voice: Don't mind that). It is all very well to say "don't mind that," but if honourable members will refer to Head 32, Department of Highways and Transport, at page 55 of the Estimates, they will see that the Executive Engineer is to get £650 per annum and the Engineer's Assistant who is the immediate superior in office to the Officer now under discussion is to get £450 per annum. That alone must make honourable members realize that this is a matter which the Government cannot off-hand decide. I would like to ask honourable members to believe me when I say that the Government is giving due consideration to it but it is a difficult matter to decide in half an hour or so. The Government will take into consideration all that honourable members have said and will endeavour to do what it can to carry out the bidding of the House.

The question that the sum of £10,341 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD VI—CUSTOMS.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £12,578 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: With regard to item 7, Three Watchmen, £228, I wonder if the senior member for St. Joseph can tell us whether the working hours of these watchmen have been put on a more reasonable basis than what it was sometime ago. Up to last session these watchmen were required to work for long, excessive hours and the honourable member who was conducting Government's Business in this House told us at the time that he would have looked into the matter. I wonder if the conditions of work for these employees have been made easier. I will say at once that I did not remember to give notice of this question to the honourable member; it really slipped me.

Mr. ADAMS: In a small place like Barbados many little birds are flitting about and we hear what is happening. This file which I have before me specifically deals with watchmen, the investigation having arisen out of a question which was asked on the matter last year, and it is only fair to the junior member for the City to say that from this file it appears that he has been especially conspicuous in getting behind the Government from March last year on this question. The matter was gone into by the Heads of Departments where watchmen are employed and the Labour Commissioner and in cases where the proposals have been thought to be impracticable, fresh proposals have been put forward. Eventually it was decided that, in the case of the Waterworks, the Harbour and Shipping, the Agricultural Department and some others, an additional watchman should be employed as a substitute, so that these men could have time off. A notice was sent on the 26th August last year notifying certain Heads of Departments that the Government had agreed to the proposal that substitutes should be employed one

night a week to take the places of the watchmen, the substitutes to be paid at the same rate as the permanent watchmen are paid; that came into operation on the 1st September last year.

The question that the sum of £12,578 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD VII—POWDER MAGAZINE.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the sum of £59 is voted under this Head.

HEAD VIII—POST OFFICE.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £39,379 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. DOWDING: With regard to item 7, Eleven Parish Postmasters, £1,155, I feel that these are some of the forgotten employees of the Government. The work of these postmasters has increased considerably in past years but no increase in pay commensurate with the work they are doing has been made. Not only has their work increased but their responsibility has also been increased and to ask these men to accept this responsibility to-day at a salary of about \$53 a month is, in my opinion, asking too much; it is asking for the Department not to be run smoothly and efficiently. I believe that these postmasters get less than some of the postmen and I do not think that is a satisfactory state of affairs. I feel that something should be done as soon as possible to remedy it.

Mr. TALMA: I heartily endorse the remarks of the last speaker; it is a crying shame to see postmasters and postmistresses receiving less than postmen or even messengers in the Government Service. The Government is trying to cover up one of these cases in this way: If honourable members will refer to Head 22, Public Library, they will see there item 8, Librarian (Speightstown Branch Library), £53 and the explanatory note on the opposite page states "Also receives £110 per annum as Postmistress, St. Peter, and £30 as Old Age Pension paying officer, St. Peter." In order to attempt to show that a reasonable salary is being paid to these officers, the Government resorts to this sort of thing. I mention that to show that even the Government itself is convinced that £110 per annum which is the maximum postmasters and postmistresses receive is totally inadequate and unfair. Our contention is that no postmaster nor postmistress who has to deal with Money Orders, Registered Letters and the payment of Old Age Pensions—any amount of responsibility—should be paid less than a messenger or a postman whom he or she has to send out. It is ridiculous to think that that has not caught the eye of the Executive and his advisers. We have no power to increase these amounts but I hope that next year the Estimates will contain something better for these employees. As a matter of fact, the Executive Committee should send down a Resolution, probably at the next meeting, whereby this gross injustice will be remedied in all respects.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman,—I too intend to say something in respect of these postmasters and postmistresses. Only this morning I made enquiry and was told that the matter is under consideration. But what I would like to draw to the attention of the Government when it is considering the salaries of these unfortunate people is that some postmen are getting as much as £145 while the postmasters and

postmistresses at this present time are receiving only £110 per annum.

Mr. LEWIS: I would just like to refer to item 27, Travelling Allowance for Postmen, £380, not by way of criticism but to say that now that the Government has embarked upon the method of having the bicycles of the Police Department repaired outside I hope it will get some idea from that as to whether the 6/- per month which is paid to the postmen for the upkeep of their bicycles by way of a travelling allowance is sufficient. I do not think that the Government can say that a bicycle which a policeman uses is used more than a bicycle which a postman uses with a heavy bag slung over his shoulder. If the Government gains the experience that 6/- a month is not sufficient for the upkeep of a postman's bicycle I hope that will convince it, since the voices of honourable members have failed to convince its members, that something more is due to the postmen for the upkeep of their bicycles.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The matter referred to by the junior member for the City is before the Executive Committee. As regards the salaries of the Postmasters and Postmistresses, it is a fact that they are small but the Government has given them a cost of living allowance and by the time the next Estimates are prepared, the Civil Service Association will have gone into the matter and recommended increased salaries.

The question that the sum of £39,379 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD IX—PUBLIC MARKET.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £3,435 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I would like to draw to the notice of the Government again the hardship which is caused to butchers in the Market on account of the high increased cost of the rental of the stalls. This is the third occasion on which I have brought the matter to the notice of the Government and the situation is worse now than it ever was because it is commonly known that there is a great shortage of meat in the island and that makes it more difficult for these butchers to pay their rent. I think the Government can get all the figures it wants to prove that these butchers do not kill as many animals as they used to in the years 1940, 1941, and 1942 and, as a result, their incomes are considerably lower. These stalls, I understand, used to be rented at 1/- a square foot but now the rent is 5/- per square foot. I suggest to the Government that this is hard on these individuals and I am hoping that it will do something to relieve the situation.

Mr. GALE: With respect to item 7, Repairer of Scales, £100, I have had several complaints from shopkeepers that they have taken their scales to the Market to be tested and repaired and when they got there they found nobody to look after the scales. They further stated that it would be very hard on them if in such circumstances they were reported by the Police and fined by the Magistrates. One shopkeeper complained that he went to the Market on two occasions and on neither of the occasions could he get his scales tested or repaired. I would just like to draw that to the attention of the Government.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to say that I have been interviewed by butchers in the Market relative

to the same complaint which the senior member for St. Michael has mentioned. They complain that while they are called upon to pay a higher rental—I do not know exactly how much it is but I think it is twice as much as it was—they really are given less facilities. The space is much smaller, the accommodation is less efficient and they are enduring more hardship than formerly, although it was intended that their position should be improved; so that if anything can be done to improve these conditions, the butchers will be able to accommodate the public in a better way than they are able to do at present. I heartily endorse the remarks of the senior member for St. Michael who would know more about this particular issue than I probably do.

Mr. SMITH: With respect to item 7, when one considers that the repairing of scales is an important and responsible job, the salary attached to the post of repairer of scales should be more than £100 per annum. I hope that next year when the Estimates are being prepared, this amount will be considerably increased.

Mr. ADAMS: As far as the repairer of scales is concerned—I have not the note before me—I know as a fact that he is at the Central Station and has been there for some months. This item is persistently put under this Head but after we took over the Market in circumstances which honourable members know, he was transferred to the Central Station and every day I see people go there to him. I presume that they are some people who have not been so informed and they continue to go to the Market with their scales. It may be that the repairer of scales needs assistance. I cannot think of a single day that I happened to be at the Central Station and have not seen him at work and people waiting on him to have their scales tested. I will bear in mind the criticisms of honourable members; it may be that not only should he be paid more money but that he should be given assistance. As regards the rental of the stalls I have no information that there has been any complaints officially. I know that the Government went very thoroughly into the matter when the rental was raised last year, or the year before or whenever it was done, as the result of a petition which it received and we estimate that we will receive increased revenue next year from the Market because the number of renters of stalls has been increased; so that the rental could not be so prohibitive as to keep people from renting the stalls.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The trouble with the rent of the stalls is not so much the rental but the fact that they are called upon to pay occupancy tax (Queers); they now come within the scope of the Vestries Act and have no alternative but to occupy these premises although the rent is doubled. Before the rent was increased, they were exempted from the payment of occupancy tax and they are experiencing great difficulty because they have no alternative but to occupy these premises. Under the Market Regulations—I would like the senior member for St. Joseph to note what I am now saying carefully—the butchers enter the Market at six o'clock in the morning and must be out of it by six o'clock in the evening; they, therefore, do not enjoy the same privileges as the ordinary taxpayer who pays occupancy tax under the law and that is the great hardship. Although they have been given greater facilities to do their business, the Government should in the circumstances go carefully into the matter and see whether a reduction of the rent cannot be made.

Mr. ADAMS: If I were a member of the Vestry of St. Michael I would feel it my duty to relieve the butchers of their occupancy tax.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I hope the honourable member will appreciate the fact that the Vestry of St. Michael has relieved the butchers of their occupancy tax. This tax when taken into consideration was more, in comparison, than their trade tax; some of them slaughtered as few as five or six animals for the entire year and the Vestry has relieved them of the occupancy tax. I do not think, however, that they should be in that position. The Government should amend the Regulations or reduce the price of the rental.

Mr. LEWIS: I wonder if my comparative silence has led some honourable members to believe that I am not present and admit the iniquity of the occupancy tax. As a member of this House I would like to relieve the butchers of the occupancy tax altogether. I understand that the butchers of the Market have been relieved of the occupancy tax for the same reason as the renters of houses in Bathsheba have been relieved of it, that is, to encourage business in that part of the island. That is what I have been told by some people, though they will not admit that the occupancy tax is iniquitous. If we abolish the occupancy tax it will give these people relief and if the rent of the stalls is nominal the Vestry and the Government would get more revenue because the competition would be keener and the profits greater. If the Government fixes the rent at a high figure, it simply throws the butchers into the hands of the Vestry to dispense charity to them. I sincerely hope that relief will be given where relief is necessary and that the interests of butchers as a whole will be taken into consideration.

Mr. SMITH: Before the question is put, Mr. Chairman, I as a member of the Vestry of St. Joseph—

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must bear in mind that St. Joseph's Vestry is not before this Committee.

Mr. SMITH: Relative to the occupancy tax on the butchers in the Market or elsewhere I am sure that no occupancy tax has been remitted in the parish of St. Joseph. (Cries of Shame.) I believe that they have all been assessed and the tax has been collected.

The question that the sum of £3,435 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD X—FIRE BRIGADE.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the sum of £2,283 is voted under this Head.

HEAD XI—LIGHTHOUSES

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the sum of £968 is voted under this Head.

HEAD XII—REGISTRATION OFFICE

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,141 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I should like to make a remark or two on item 9, Registration of Deaths, £100. I think it is very unfortunate that some parishioners should have to walk long distances to have deaths registered. For instance, if someone dies in the parish of St. James, the person about to have the death registered has to go to the Station in St. Thomas to do so. I would suggest to the Government that if they could make it possible for deaths to be registered at the sub-stations it would be a great relief to parishioners.

The question that the sum of £2,141 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XIII.—LEGISLATURE.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £850 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with item 13, Reporting and printing debates of Legislature, £200, I would like to register a protest. We have to vote this money every year in connection with the reporting and printing of the debates and undoubtedly there is something wrong somewhere because the debates are printed very long after they actually take place in the Legislature. You, Mr. Chairman, might not think it appropriate here for us to dilate at any length on the need for a Government Printery but I do feel that the printers who are doing this work for the Government of Barbados should try and perform their duties more expeditiously. When last do you remember seeing an up-to-date volume of the debates? I am not merely talking of the *Official Gazette*. I am speaking about the bound volumes which are issued after each session. When last have you seen one of those volumes issued for reference by honourable members. I think that a word should go out to those responsible for the printing of the debates that we are dissatisfied with their dilatoriness in the execution of this work. If the printers have too much work to do, let them say so and that would hasten the day when we will have a Government Printery doing the work of the Government of this country.

Mr. COX: In respect of item 7, Assistant Messenger, £90, I would like to find out how long was this messenger employed in the Government Service.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member wants the information before the vote is passed, we will have to postpone the further consideration of this Head and go on to the other Heads. I understand that this messenger has been in the Government Service about 12 years; he has been a porter at one time and a warder, I believe, before he was a messenger of the House.

Mr. COX: I would only like to say now that I feel that a salary of £90 a year is definitely too small for an employee with those years of service. I feel that this messenger having put in those years of service, the Government should put him on his maximum salary immediately.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to know if the Head Messenger and Librarian and the Assistant Messenger are in receipt of the cost of living allowance.

Mr. LEWIS: Just in case anything said by the junior member for St. Lucy might reflect on the Reporters of this House I would like to state that perhaps he did not intend to do so but his remarks may bear that interpretation. I would like to say that

there are extenuating circumstances known to members of this House about the lateness, for instance, of the debates appearing in the *Official Gazette*. I do not know whether the printers are to be blamed for contributing to this lateness but from some enquiries I have made I do not think so. As far as the bound volumes of the debates are concerned I do join with the honourable member in saying a word to those who are responsible for the issuing of them because they are very valuable documents of this House.

Mr. BRANCKER: I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you and other honourable members appreciate that I was not at all criticizing the reporting part of this affair but the dilatoriness of the printers and the dilatoriness of them alone.

The question that the sum of £850 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XIV.—LEGAL DEPARTMENTS.

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £6,906 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to draw the attention of the Executive Committee to item 56, (sub-head Public Trustee), Travelling allowances to Deputy Marshals. On a previous occasion I drew to their attention the fact that the work performed by the Deputy Marshals, of whom there are three, is very onerous and exacting and that the travelling allowances of £55 are totally inadequate for the travelling which they have to do. These three Deputy Marshals travel all over the island during the entire year and when one takes that into consideration one can readily realize that this amount is totally inadequate. I think the remedy for this is to put these officers in the schedule of the Travelling Allowance Act, so that they will receive so much for every mile or part of a mile of travelling they do. I hope that my suggestion will meet with the approval of those who form the Coalition Government.

Mr. BRANCKER: There are just one or two items under this Head on which I want to make one or two brief remarks. The first is item 31, Jurors and Marshals at Grand Sessions, etc. £750. Honourable members are well aware of my feeling towards what I regard as the inadequacy of the remuneration which jurors and marshals receive. As is pointed out in the note explaining this item, jurors are paid at the rate of 6/5 for each day of attendance at the Court of Grand Sessions, the Courts of Superior Jurisdiction and the Court of Escheat and you, Mr. Chairman, know how long they have been paid at that rate—years and years ago, at least 40 years ago when the world was different from what it is to-day. This rate of pay hardly enables them to cover their travelling expenses to and from the Court, much less compensates them for the service which they render. I hope that next year the Government's spokesman will not come to us for remuneration at this rate for this very essential section of the community, these cogs in the machinery of justice.

The second is item 36, Fees to Counsel authorized to appear by Crown, £550. Sometime ago when we were dealing with a supplementary Resolution for this purpose I pointed out that it would be worth while to consider the revision of the scale of fees. So far as I am concerned I will never accept any of these briefs, so I am not grinding a personal axe;

but the scale should be more in proportion to the scale which obtains in the High Courts to-day. Continually on my left I hear remarks across the table but obviously you do not hear remarks about the fees to medical witnesses. One would have thought that in these days with an enlightened social consciousness the medical men would become more and more humanitarian and would suggest that the Government is giving them excessive remuneration, having regard to their zeal to serve suffering humanity. (Laughter).

The next is item 47, Incidentals, £490. I feel that a greater amount should be provided, in view of the manner in which the Courts are cleaned. If you ever have the experience of wearing a new suit into the Courts or of sitting at the Bar Table, you would wonder whether the Courts were ever cleaned or if the remuneration which is paid to the persons who are supposed to clean them is adequate. I am not blaming anybody; perhaps the cleaners are not properly paid but certainly the job can be done better than it is done to-day.

Then there is item 52, Reporter, £30. I throw out the suggestion that the Government might well consider having a shorthand Reporter always on duty in the High Courts. As a matter of fact I understand that in certain other West Indian Colonies even the Magisterial Courts have their own Reporters. Sometimes a Magistrate has an attack of writer's cramp and has to stop taking notes for a while; if he has a shorthand reporter, he would be able to carry on with the evidence and do a full day's work. We definitely need a shorthand reporter in the Courts in the interest of justice in this colony. I am asking the government to increase, in future, the amounts of these items, so that what we pay will be more in keeping with the cost of living to-day.

Mr. MAPP: I want to support the junior member for St. Lucy in his remarks on item 47. I think he said that the Courts are very inadequately cleaned. Well, I would like to say that when I was a clerk in the Police Magistrates' office, the Police Magistrates used to complain very often that their Chambers were not properly cleaned and it seemed to me that the cleaner did not know exactly what were her duties or by whom she should be paid; so I would like the Government to look into the matter and if she is not properly paid, to see that she is. With regard to item 46, Travelling allowances to Police Magistrates' Clerks, six at £55 each and one at £66, £396, I thought that this was in fact termed house allowance instead of travelling allowance because some clerks obviously travel more than others. Of the six which are paid £55, some do more travelling than others and there should certainly be a difference in the amounts.

Mr. LEWIS: I would just like to let the Government know that at least there is one member of this Assembly who disagrees profoundly with the idea of paying fees to Counsel appearing on behalf of the Crown. There should be a Crown Prosecutor. As soon as you give high fees you are going to encourage lawyers to press for convictions in order to be able to get these briefs and I think it is an entirely wrong practice. I take it that the case only needs to be put on behalf of the Crown and that the prosecuting Counsel should not press for a conviction. It is a bad practice and I hope that the Government will fix these fees as low as possible in order to discourage Counsel from taking these briefs.

Mr. BRANCKER: I take it that the Counsel are not paid by results or by the number of convictions that take place.

Mr. ADAMS: All these matters will be taken into consideration by the Government. I was under the impression that the Civil Service Association was going into the travelling allowances of the Deputy Marshals. I agree that the allowances are small and I have every reason to believe that the Government will be guided by any recommendation which the Association may make in the matter. As regards the jurymen, jury service should be accepted as part of a citizen's duty without a quid pro quo. There are dangers innumerable in giving what you may call adequate compensation for jury service. We all know—to mention one of the mildest of the dangers—how voters come and ask us to try and get them on the jury list. We pay jurors 6/5 a day but in criminal cases in London they get 1/- and outside London 1/6. It would be better for us to realize that there are certain things we have to do which are inevitable, such as, putting collection in the plate on Sundays or doing jury service. That is, however, only my view but the whole matter is being gone into by Mr. Justice Ward.

The question that the sum of £6,906 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XV—POLICE DEPARTMENT

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £22,681 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

EXCUSE FROM SERVICE ON SELECT COMMITTEE.

On re-assembling,

Mr. LEWIS: Before the further Business of the Day is begun, I ask leave to be excused from serving on the Select Committee which was appointed to enquire into and investigate Head XXXII, Department of Highways and Transport, of the Estimates for the year 1947-48.

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

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. GALE: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 74 standing in my name under Private Members' Business. It is an Address dealing with the payment of a Cost of Living Allowance to all Government Pensioners.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the hon. member will have to do when the time comes for the consideration of Private Members' Business.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61(A)

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61(a) in order to resume Government Business. The hon. member can proceed with his Address after 3.30 p.m. and then we can resume Government Business again.

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

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

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER : When Government Business was being considered before the adjournment, the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

THE ESTIMATES 1947—48.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : When the House was adjourned, we were considering Head XV of the Estimates.

Mr. BRANCKER : There are one or two Items to which I would like to refer under this Head. With regard to item 17, "Hospital Attendant", I see that the sum of £90 is to be voted, and the note says that this provides for increased payment on the basis approved for the subordinate staff. The Hospital Attendant is a qualified person, and this amount seems to be inadequate. (A MEMBER: He has not got any training). If he has not got any training then he should be trained, or the services of someone else should be engaged. As far as the Messenger is concerned, I would like to know what arrangements are being made in connection with increments for him. I see that last year £20 was voted and this year £40 is to be voted. The sum of £17 was voted by Resolution last year. I am wondering if the hon. senior member for St. Joseph will tell us something about this amount which is to be voted. As regards item 37, "Forage", that seems to remain static. The sum of £2,000 was voted for this item last year, and the amount to be voted is the same again this year. I would like to know whether there has been any increase in the number of the staff, any reduction in the number of horses or whether the diet is being rationed. I am fond of music and, of course, I would like to give the maximum assistance to the new Bandmaster so as to stimulate his enthusiasm; yet I must say that I was staggered when I saw that under item 47 "New instruments for Band", the sum of £1,500 has been asked for. We know that the price of everything has gone up, but the sum of \$7,200 for replacing unserviceable instruments is a formidable sum to be spent for that purpose. I do not know if the hon. senior member for St. Joseph can tell us how many unserviceable instruments have to be replaced. I am not saying that I am in favour of a reduction of the amount, but I would like a little light to be shed on the matter. I don't know if the hon. member has any experience in buying musical instruments. With respect to item 30, "Arms and ammunition", one has to keep a very close watch there. Hon. members will remember the discussion which we had in respect of this item last year. If we do not keep a watchful eye on the Police Authorities, they will renew their attempt to make our policemen soldiers. Last year the amount voted was £300, and this year they propose to increase it by £50 for the purchase of spare parts for rifles. I would like the Government to appreciate that we are still adamant in our opposition to the turning of our policemen into soldiers. We are not going to encourage that by giving them one penny more for "Arms and ammunition" than is absolutely necessary to enable them efficiently to perform pure undiluted police duties. I would be glad to hear the reply of the Government member to the points which I have made. As a gesture of my feeling in the matter, I am going to move that this amount in respect of "Arms and ammunition" be reduced by £50. According to my recollection, the Government had asked us to vote the sum of £850 last year, and the wise House of that day (Laughter) reduced it by £550. (Mr. CHAIRMAN: The then wise House). (Laughter).

We would not like that to happen again. I beg to move that this vote be reduced by £50.

Mr. COX : I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS : I have sent for the information on the matter. If, as hon. members see, the Government tells the House that £300 is enough for "Arms and ammunition", but we are asking for £50 for the purchase of spare parts, is it not nonsense to make that motion? Because the hon. member inclines to be facetious, are hon. members going to agree to the reduction of this amount? I suggest that they do not vote for any reduction of the amount. As regards the amount asked for in connection with the Band, I must confess that I have been stumped for the first time; that was the one item in respect of which I did not think that hon. members would raise any objection. Captain Raison went very carefully into the matter. Parenthetically, I may say that he has had some alterations done to the big drum, and from what I have been told by members of the Band, things are being done which have never been done in the island before. I do not suppose that I am letting out any secret when I say that a firm which had been written to in connection with musical instruments, spoke so very highly of Captain Raison as to say that he is the best bandmaster that the British Army has ever had. I do not think that a man with that reputation would be asking for any instrument unless it was necessary to make the Band as up-to-date as it should be. I am sure that the public is so enthusiastic over the improvement of the Band under his direction that if it were asked on a referendum to vote the sum of £5,000, (A MEMBER: A sum of £10,000) it would not refuse to do so. I am not saying that hon. members should not criticize any item in respect of which the vote seems to be high; I think that it is their right to do so. I suggest, however, that with such an expert as Captain Raison, and bearing in mind that the matter was gone into, before the figures were put on the Estimates, with the place from which the best instruments can be obtained, and so on, this is not a rough guess. Communications having already been made with the makers of the instruments, there should not be any objection to the passing of this amount. As far as the Messenger is concerned, his duties are very light and that is why the vote in connection with him is so small. The Hospital Attendant is a Pensioner and his duties are not such that he would quarrel with the amount which is being given to him. I have no reply as to the question about the forage, but if the hon. member wants to press it, I will have to get the information. The hon. member will see that although the sum of £2,000 has been voted for two years, only £1,500 was spent. I presume that the figure has been kept there because of the uncertainty of prices. It is a safe guess in the circumstances to repeat what has been asked for in the previous year. The hon. member will see what the actual expenditure is in the last column but one of the Estimates.

Mr. SPRINGER: Hon. members may not know, but a large part of the money which is now being expended for new instruments for the Band is really an accumulation of fees earned by the Band, so to speak, over a long period of years and paid into the Treasury. If not all of this money, a large part of it does not represent the taxpayers' money at all.

Dr. CUMMINS: Before the question is put, I would like to get some information as regards item 3, "Six Superintendents of Police." In Superintendent Calver's Report it was recommended that the island be divided into four new administrative areas each to be in charge of a Superintendent. I would like to know if anything has been done in that direction. I know that there has been some

discontent on the part of the senior men over the delay in this matter of the re-organization of the districts.

Mr. ADAMS: I made careful enquiries about that up to this morning. As far as the other portions of Superintendent Calver's recommendations are concerned, the Government is very actively working on their implementation. Now that that has been brought to my notice, I will pass on this information: doubtless a special investigation will be made on that particular point. The Government is very active in trying to get the other portions of the Superintendent's Report before the House at an early date.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As regards this Head No. 15, I would like to know if the Government has any plans for increasing the rent allowance to Privates of the Police Force.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to know if any fee or extra remuneration is paid to Police Sergeants in the country districts in respect of the registration of births, deaths, and so on.

Mr. ADAMS: All of us sometimes forget things which we ought not to forget. We have passed the 1946 Act just a few months ago and all these points have already been covered. We dealt with the Police thoroughly—more so than with anybody else. In keeping with the recommendations of Superintendent Calver, we abolished all these things. Honourable members can refresh their memories of what has been done.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I see that under Item 21, "Rent allowance", the amount has been fixed by law and I am in order—

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member is out of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I mentioned Head 15 and spoke generally. I did not take out any particular item and therefore I am in order. I am only asking about an increase in the rent allowance for Privates.

Mr. MAPP: I hope that the Government will take steps to control the matter of rent in respect of its reduction and not increase the allowance.

Mr. LEWIS: With regard to item 63 "Purchase of Camera," I see that the sum of £200 is provided. I would like to know if the same careful scrutiny has been exercised in respect of this item. I know that everybody likes to get his Department up-to-date and ultra-modern. I would just like to know that special care will be exercised in the purchase of this item.

Mr. ADAMS: The note to this item is not as accurate as it should be. This money is really to replace the camera which, according to the Sergeant who has been manipulating it for some time, is in need of such extensive repairs that even if it were repaired, its service will not be reliable. This camera was bought in April, 1939; it has done a lot of work and its condition is due to actual wear. It is suggested that Mr. Fitzpatrick who is a very enthusiastic amateur photographer and who is on his way to New York should go to the special makers and recommend the particular type of camera which the Police have heard about. This is a special camera; it is difficult to replace the camera which has been in use at the Criminal Investigation Department for the past eight years and is no longer serviceable.

Mr. WILKINSON: Under item 52, "Motor transport" the amount asked for is £4,400—the same amount as was voted last year. I see from the note that it is proposed to purchase three more vans and six motor cycles. Is it proposed to reduce the number of Mounted Policemen so that it will be necessary to purchase these vans and motor cycles? There are nine vans and only about five of them are working. This proposal means that there will be an increase of 25% in the number of vans and 100% in the num-

ber of motor cycles. What I would like to know is whether it is proposed to reduce the number of Mounted Policemen.

Mr. ADAMS: The Commissioner of Police reports, to use his own words, that "the state of the Police transport could hardly be worse." He states that "new vehicles are urgently required. The establishment of the transport is sixteen vehicles including three motor cycles and of this total four vans and one motor cycle are now permanently off the road as their mechanical life is at an end. Others are still on the road, but without exception they are on the verge of breakdown, and in many instances I doubt if they can even be repaired. These vehicles are nine years old and, with the exception of the lorry, they have all completed 100,000 miles." (A MEMBER: That is a short life). (Mr. ADAMS: Not for the Police). "From the following table it would seem that the cost of repairs and maintenance is prohibitive and as can be seen each vehicle is costing £100 a year for maintenance and repairs. The following is a table of expenditure for the last five years. 1942—43, £663; for 1943—44, £650; for 1944—45, £804 and for 1945—46, £758 and from April to December, 1946, £509. In addition, the running cost of each van is also high owing to the increase in oil and petrol consumed, and this in some cases is double what it should be. I do not consider that any of these vans will last for more than six months and the acquisition of new vehicles for the Police Transport is an urgent necessity."

Mr. WILKINSON: I thank the hon. member for that information; it seems that these are replacements.

Mr. LEWIS: Perhaps some of the remarks which were made in respect of the Head "Harbour and Shipping Master" may be recalled at this moment, namely, that the Government should have a Department of their own for the repair and maintenance of their vehicles. If such a Department were attached to the Public Works Department with a competent person to look after it, the cost of repairs would be reduced. Perhaps they would get better service. At least they could criticize the Department more so than at any other time and insist upon a degree of efficiency such that we could reduce the high cost of maintenance of these vehicles.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: A motion has been made that the sum of £22,681 be voted under this Head. An amendment has been moved that item 30 be reduced by £50. I will put the amendment first. The question is that this item be reduced by £50. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Noes" have it.

The question that the sum of £22,681 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XVI—PRISONS.

A total vote of £5,621 was agreed to under this Head.

HEAD XVII—GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to change the amount to be voted under item II, "Assistant to Chief Matron and Schoolmistress" from £100 to £150. Let me anticipate some criticism by saying that the Committee, of which I was Chairman, appointed last year to go into the question of the re-organization of the Government Industrial Schools has not yet reported. The Report was prepared and typed as far back as

October, but on further consideration we found that it would be very long. It has therefore been re-drafted and is now being re-typed. The Committee met no fewer than forty-seven times; we went very thoroughly into the matter and will recommend a complete change in the running of the Government Industrial Schools. I feel sure that when hon. members read the Report they will see that the matter has been most exhaustively gone into. A week or so ago the Chief Matron resigned and for this post there is an applicant who has had experience in schools in Nigeria. She has been teaching handicrafts there and in the West Indies and she has had experience in Gloucester. It is considered that she is a most admirable person for this post. It is true that the Government proposes that this should be an acting appointment and considers that she should be paid £150 a year during the period of her acting. It is possible that under the new set-up she may be confirmed in the post, or given another post. In comparison with other applicants for the vacant position, this person stands head and ears above them as far as requirements are concerned. As regards the Report, that will be in the hands of the Government in about ten days.

There being no objection, the hon. member was granted leave to change the figures.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £7,877 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XVIII—COMMISSIONERS OF CURRENCY.

Under this Head, a total vote of £5,175 was agreed to.

HEAD XIX—ECCLESIASTICAL.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £825 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Before the question is put, I would like to say that the Churches in this Island, both large and small, are doing work which is necessary from a humanitarian point of view, but it seems to me that a special privilege or right is being granted to the Anglican Church, judging from the huge sum of money which is allocated to it year by year. I view the work which is being done by the Wesleyan Church and other denominations like the Salvation Army, the Evangelistic Army, the Christian Mission and other Missions scattered all over the island as being more beneficial to the community as a whole than that which is done by the Anglican Church. Therefore, when it comes to the question of doling out money to religious denominations, I feel that a Coalition Labour Government should see to it that every little denomination which is working towards the cure of souls, and which, in many cases, is more devout, religious and more humanitarian in outlook, policy and practice from day to day—I feel that these denominations should receive some sort of consideration, some better treatment by the Government. On this point, I am speaking mainly of the Wesleyan Church. Is it fair and reasonable to grant the Wesleyan Church £350 considering the entire amount allocated to the Anglican Church and the work which is being done by the Wesleyan Church? The Wesleyan Churches are filled whenever they are opened and the Wesleyan Ministers and Lady Leaders are doing quite a lot of work as compared with the Anglican Churches which are almost empty on every Sunday night and whose Rectors and Vicars are never seen in the houses of the

poor people, in spite of the fact that the poor people are the ones who go to the Churches. The disparity which exists between the amount granted to the Wesleyan Church and that allocated to the Anglican Church is startling. The work of the Wesleyan Church is so outstanding that it is unnecessary for me to say anything more about it. The Wesleyan Church does more beneficial work than the Anglican Church, and they show practical religion, practical christianity. We are also aware of the work which the Salvation Army is doing; on the last occasion they were granted £200 and, despite the crying needs of the people, they have only been increased by £50. I do not think that a grant of less than £1,000 for these denominations would appear to be fair and reasonable. The Evangelism Army should also be assisted in the work which they are doing. I have had the privilege of attending certain of their meetings and of seeing the good work which they are doing. They are doing good work and they should be assisted. What I have said of this denomination holds good for similar denominations. They do work of a devout nature, more so than the Anglican Church, they preach christianity day in and day out and they should receive some assistance from the Government. I hope that the Government will see their way to send down a separate Resolution for the purpose of assisting these denominations which are doing really good work—not like those persons who just go to the Treasury at the end of the month and draw money without doing the work which they should do. The time has definitely come when these denominations, small in the eyes of certain people but big in the eyes of God, should be given some greater consideration.

Mr. LEWIS: I think that this is a very opportune time for me to say something after the remarks of the hon. member who has just sat down. I think that with matters affecting the Church at present, we should not find any difficulty in speaking about this Government subsidisation of christianity and let the Government know where we stand. I would like to say that, from the remarks of the hon. senior member for Christ Church, it is my duty to state the case for those who do not receive any Government assistance and who find themselves without anything by way of monetary reward in the service to humanity. I think that a good case has been made out for doing something now. The hon. member has made a comparison of the work which is being done by those who get a handsome remuneration with that which is being done by those who do not receive any Government assistance. I fear that there is very little christian work being done for the remuneration which is being paid, and I think that they should be left alone and not be paid for work which they are not doing.

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

ADDRESS RE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that Order No. 74 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be taken as the First Order of the Day.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Michael:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Gov-

ernor relating to a Cost of Living Allowance to all Government Pensioners.

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

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to provide that all Government Pensioners be paid a Cost of Living Allowance as from the 1st day of April, 1946 at the rates set out in the following Schedule.

SCHEDULE

RATES

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

I take it that the members of this House will agree that just as the Government has seen fit to pay a Cost of Living Allowance to the people who are now working for them, they will also see fit to do the same thing for those who have worked for them and who are now, in some cases, receiving very small pensions and whom the present cost of living will no doubt hit very hard. I feel sure that the House will support this Address; I do not think that it needs any greater elaboration on my part. I beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I beg to second that. I do not think that it is necessary for me to say anything on the matter. These persons were receiving very small salaries when they were employees of the Government, and I think that their Cost of Living Allowance should be higher than those who are now receiving good salaries. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. ADAMS: I speak purely in order to say that I appreciate the interest which the honourable junior member for St. Michael is showing and has always shown in matters of this sort. I wish to assure him that the matter is now under consideration, so that he can rest assured that the Government will give very favourable consideration to this Address. (Hear, hear). I quite agree with the honourable senior member for St. James that it may turn out that 40% may not be enough in some bad cases. There are one or two hopeless cases of persons who have retired, persons like messengers whose pension is \$8 per month.

Mr. RAMSAY: I am very grateful for such a motion as this which is before the House. I can assure hon. members that I have been repeatedly approached in connection with the pensions of retired Servants of the public. However, there is one thing operating in my mind, and I hope that the Government will look into it. Speaking for myself, I do not think that it is reasonable to pay this Cost of Living Bonus as from 1946; I think that it should be paid as from 1944. That may sound horrifying to hon. members, but when pensioners tell you the amount which they have got from the Treasury, you are tempted to put your hand into your pocket and give them what is not yours. The Government would not be breaking any new ground if they did what I have suggested. This Government cannot justify their claims as being a Labour Government; they talk about coalition, but this Govern-

ment ought to come before this House and say that they are paying this Cost of Living Allowance as from 1944, and if they went back from 1942 they would get the prayers of the departed. I, personally, would be grateful if they could give a maximum of 120% instead of 40% as from 1946. If you make the maximum 40% as from 1946 I put my hands on my breast, raise my head and say "You are not doing anything, and I can hardly thank you for it."

Mr. SPRINGER: I am not prepared to vote for this Address as it stands for this reason; the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has pointed out that there are some extremely hard cases of persons who have retired after long service at a time when salaries were very low. These people have to go on living in 1947, and if you merely apply this percentage basis as set out in the Schedule, you will not be giving them what you consider fair and adequate, having regard to the people who are doing the same sort of work at a subsequent time. If this Schedule is sent up as part of the Address, it must be taken to mean that the House is limiting the amount which it is prepared to vote (Hear, hear). If the House says "We would like you to send down a Resolution to pay salaries or pensions at the following rates, how dare the Executive to alter it? (Hear, hear). I suggest therefore, that the words after "1st day of April, 1946," and the Schedule be deleted, and the following words inserted: "On a scale no less favourable than that applied to present employees of the Government." That is the whole question, but I do not agree that we should go up to £600. Persons who are in receipt of such pensions have no right asking for a Cost of Living Allowance.

Mr. GALE: I accept that amendment.

Mr. LEWIS: I take it that the Schedule to this Address will be taken out.

Mr. SPRINGER: Everything after the words "1st day of April, 1946", will be deleted.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable junior member for St. Michael and the members of the Executive Committee present that the Government has done something by way of a Cost of Living Allowance for Pensioners. I do not remember if it was done in the form of a Bill or Resolution, but I take it that the Government had a proviso in their proposals reading like this: "Provided that the total income of the particular persons do not exceed £200 per annum." (A MEMBER: That is in all Pension Acts; we cannot help that). I was hoping that the Government would see their way to do justice to those pensioners who have retired when the cost of living is so high, and I am glad to see that the matter is receiving attention. I deprecate the action of the Government in limiting any Cost of Living Allowance to the total earnings or income of the particular person. If the Government is paying a pensioner \$8 a month, £150 a year or whatever the amount is, the fact remains that the money which the Government is paying is worth less, and they should take steps, if it is not beyond their resources, to bring the amount up to what it should be. If they agree to pay a pensioner £150 or £250 a year and that is not worth more than £100 a year, they should consider that. I am suggesting to the hon. junior member for St. Michael that he should follow up this Address with the suggestion which I have made.

Mr. SPRINGER: I ask permission to make a statement. The honourable member has made two mis-statements of fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you making an explanation?

Mr. SPRINGER: I just want to say that it is a question of law which prevents a pensioner from earning with his pension more than what his substantive salary was after he has left office; it is not a question of War Bonus. The limit of the Government was not in respect of War Bonus, but in respect of the amount which a person might receive in addition to the salary which he was previously receiving. That is a question of law.

Mr. MAPT: I cannot agree with the remarks of the hon. junior member for the City. To stretch his argument to its logical conclusion, it would mean that the man who was receiving a pension of £500 a year, that money is not worth so much now and the Government should give him a Cost of Living Bonus. I think that there should be some limit. The hon. member must remember that that man was earning an adequate salary and could have put by a suitable amount as savings and also a suitable margin for extravagance; but the man below him could not afford to do that. I cannot follow the argument of the honourable member at all. There ought to be a limit, a point where the payment of a Cost of Living Bonus should cease. A man who is drawing £600 a year should not receive any Bonus.

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

The Address was passed.

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

Mr. GALE: As Your Honour pleases.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B).

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

Dr. WILSON: I object.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. RAMSAY, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, SPRINGER, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, GALE, and WILKINSON—11.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. LEWIS, CRAWFORD, TALMA, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING and S. A. WALCOTT—8.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye", and eight honourable members voting "No."

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended for the purpose of resuming Government Business.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I should like to say that I voted against leave being granted the honourable member to move for the suspension of the Rule because the matter with which the honourable senior member for St. John wanted to proceed is one of extreme urgency, and it would not have taken the House more than five minutes to deal with it. I am surprised that the question has been resolved in the affirmative. If it is the opinion of the House that this matter is not one of such extreme urgency as to be dealt with to-day, it is entirely a matter for the House. Again this afternoon I am going to endeavour to obtain the

leave of the House to deal with the Address tabled by the honourable senior member for St. John.

Mr. ADAMS: This matter is of such extreme urgency that it is being dealt with by the Government as an A-1 priority as the honourable senior member for St. Philip well knows. The honourable member has already made a suggestion as to who will go to the United States and when they will go. He knows that the matter is under consideration by the Government. I should like to say that the consideration of the Estimates is a matter which brooks no delay. Nobody could say that the Administration is not dealing with the matter of emigration; the matter is being dealt with as seriously and as effectively as the late Governor dealt with it.

The question that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended for the purpose of resuming Government Business was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When Government Business was last being considered, the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

THE ESTIMATES 1947—48

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply, we were considering Head XIX of the Estimates.

The question that the sum of £825 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XX — EDUCATION

The items and the amount to be voted totalling £197,363 were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to make the following alterations: that under ii. Second Grade Education, item 20, Grant-in-aid, (3) Coleridge School, the sum of £173 be added making a total of £423 to be voted; in (4) Parry School, the sum of £173 be added making a total of £1,069 to be voted and under iii. First Grade Education, item 22, Grant-in-aid, (2) Lodge School, the sum of £602 be added, making the total to be voted £7,232. The total amount to be voted under this Head will then be £198,311. The honourable senior member for St. George, who is a member of the Education Board, will deal with this matter when we come to it. There has been an urgent request for Assistant Masters at these Schools. It was unfortunate that the Estimates were prepared before this request was made. If honourable members need any special information, I will endeavour to get the honourable senior member for St. George back in the Committee.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £198,311 be voted under this Head.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I did not quite catch what the honourable senior member for St. Joseph said in respect of the proposed increases for the Coleridge and Parry Schools. Are these increases to supply the two additional Masters for which they had recently asked?

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: In connection with item 14, "Erection, maintenance, repairs and alterations to latrines of Elementary Schools". I would like to know if the Government is prepared to instal the water-borne system. Two new latrines are now being erected at St. Silas' Boys' and Girls' Schools. I think that there is a waste of public funds and it is very insanitary to erect latrines in the way in which these have been erected. No proper pits have been prepared and there is no water-borne system. I ask the Government to see in future when latrines are being erected at the schools, that the water-borne system is installed.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with the Lodge School, I am wondering if the honourable senior member for St. Joseph can shed any light as to the number of boys at this school at present. Before the suggested increase, we were being asked to vote £6,630 in respect of this School as against £6,301 in the case of Harrison College. I would like to know what is the reason for increasing the amount for the Lodge School by £602. All the assistance which the note gives is that there has been an increase of £2,725 on last year's amount but this additional increase of £602 is not referred to in the note. I am wondering, if the Lodge School only has 209 boys, why is there the need for this substantial increase in the amount which we have been asked to vote? Is it proposed to increase the staff? How many masters and how many boys are there at present? Before I vote this additional amount, I would like to know if we are justified in increasing the staff, having regard to the number of boys on the roll.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph has intimated that the honourable senior member for St. George will supply the information.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to postpone the further consideration of this Head. If honourable members want any information on this Head, they should ask for it before it is postponed.

Mr. LEWIS rose to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has asked leave to postpone the further consideration of this Head.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member has asked that we deal with any item about which we want any information before the consideration of this Head is postponed. In the meantime I want to ask the honourable member if he can give us any information in relation to the Education Bill. I would like to know if the Government will introduce that Bill on an early date or at some future date.

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest to the honourable member that he should give notice if he intends to raise the matter later on. I cannot possibly give him an answer on the matter now that we are considering the Estimates.

Mr. LEWIS: There are numerous anomalies, so far as the Headmasters of the small secondary schools are concerned, in relation to their salaries as compared with the salaries of their Assistants and with the salaries of Assistants in the First and Second Grade and Elementary Schools. They bear an unfair comparison and I hope that the honourable member will consider that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the honourable member speaking on? I think he is out of Order; I do not think that this is the correct procedure.

Mr. TALMA: I hope that I will be granted a similar privilege.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Chairman makes one mistake, it must not be perpetuated. I rule that consideration of that Head is postponed and the honourable member must write the items upon which he wants information.

Mr. TALMA: As far as I understand the honourable member, he has asked leave to postpone consideration of this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That has already been done. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has the Government Business in his hands and when he postpones a matter, the honourable member cannot carry it on.

Mr. TALMA: I am merely doing what the honourable member has asked me to do; that is to submit questions relative to items under this Head of Expenditure.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Consideration of this Head is postponed. We will consider Head XXI.

HEAD XXI—DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £21,885 be voted under this Head.

Mr. SPRINGER: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I understand that as far as the serving of animals at the Station is concerned, the Government does not allow a return. To my mind, that is a very unhappy state of affairs, because in the case of private individuals animals are allowed to return. I take it that the Government is trying to improve the breeding of stock in this island. I think it is unfair to ask a person to pay another fee of five shillings in case of a return. I throw out the suggestion as it has been given to me in the hope that the Government will take note of it and make the necessary adjustments. As regards the Watchman, I would like to know what the Government calls a period. How long is that?

Mr. ADAMS: A period was the term used last year to indicate that night and day were the same. Whether a person served at night or during the day, he received \$1. It is true that some cases were hard. These were the watchmen of whom I was speaking when I mentioned that arrangements were being made at the Agricultural Department, the Baggage Warehouse and one other place to have a subsequent watchman so as to shorten the hours of the regular watchman. A period is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or whatever the hours are—from day to day.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to explain for the benefit of the hon. senior member for St. Michael, that the Government is not breaking any bad ground if they do not allow any re-service. Animals of that quality are not generally re-served.

The question that the sum of £21,885 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXII—PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,066 be voted under this Head.

Mr. MAPP: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: With regard to item 14, "Upkeep Reading and Lecture Room". I wonder if the members of the Government can tell us whether it is proposed that this Reading Room will be opened at night. There is a great public demand for the opening of the Public Library at night so that people can go in and read. It is very desirable to have the Library opened at night, as in other countries, and I am wondering if the honourable member can tell us if it is proposed to render this very essential

service to the public by having the Library opened up to about ten o'clock.

Mr. HAYNES: Under item 13, "Upkeep Speightstown Library", I think that hon. members will agree with me that the sum of £85 is not sufficient for this purpose. I hope that the Trustees of the Library will consider something more extensive. There is a Reading Room in which you can hardly read a book. We have what is called a Mobile Library, and it is important that something cultural should be established. I am hoping that my remarks will catch the eyes of the Trustees of the Library and that some greater developments will take place. My remarks are most important.

Mr. SPRINGER: On the question of the Speightstown Library it is only fair to say that a scheme for the extension of the Library is being considered.

Mr. ADAMS: This matter of opening the Public Library at night was brought to the attention of the Trustees previously, but the rationing of electricity interfered with it. Like the hon. member for St. Lucy, I would like to see the Reading Room re-opened at night. I will draw the remarks of the honourable member to the attention of the Trustees.

Mr. SPRINGER: The Trustees are agreed on the matter of re-opening the Reading Room at night, but they are considering the extension of the service of the Library outside before dealing with the service in the City. When the service outside is completed they will return to the intensification of the service in Bridgetown.

The question that the sum of £2,066 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXIII—MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS

The items and the amounts to be voted under Sub-head (I)—Office of Chief Medical Officer—were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £1,025 be voted under this Sub-head.

Mr. MAPP seconded the motion which was agreed to.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

The items and the amounts to be voted under Sub-head (2)—General Hospital—were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £78,280 be voted under this Sub-head. Hon. members will notice that the addition in the Appendix is right but it is wrong in the Estimates.

Mr. MAPP: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I notice that our expenditure is continually going up and we are not getting any satisfaction with the patients at the Hospital. Perhaps the hon. senior member for St. Joseph will tell us whether there is any likelihood that the Scheme which was put forward some time ago will soon be put into effect. It seems to me that the present administration of the Hospital is not as efficient as it should be. One hears that the Hospital Board find it difficult to keep any of their Staff. A new matron or a new doctor will arrive there and in a few months it appears that they both wish to retire. As far as I know, the Staff has never been a full one. The state of affairs is not a very happy one there, and I hope that steps have been taken to see that a full and efficient Staff is obtained. I hope that some hon. member will reply to that matter.

Mr. GALE: I quite agree with what the hon. junior member for St. James has said. I do not think that the General Hospital can really cope with the number of patients which are being received.

The wards are overcrowded, especially the general wards. The same thing applies to Pay Ward "A"; there is a general overcrowding at the Hospital. The present facilities cannot cope with the number of patients who are attending the Hospital in these days, and it is an urgent necessity for the Government to consider the erection of a new Hospital as priority No. 1 in any scheme which they are putting forward.

Mr. ADAMS: The idea is to have the administration changed first and after that, the Government will give the necessary consideration to the removal of the Hospital. I may say, although I know that hon. members do not like to hear about the ten-year Plan, that under this Plan we will set about to build a new Hospital. As far as I am aware, the designers and the people who have been approached officially and unofficially have intimated that it will take some four years to build a new Hospital. Anyhow, we have to start early so as not to run the whole ten-year period if we decide to move it. I believe that the general feeling is that the General Hospital should be removed, but the present Government has not reached any decision in the matter.

Mr. LEWIS: I think that the hon. junior member for St. James appealed to the members of the Hospital Board to give him some information as to the reason why the Staff of the Hospital does not seem to be permanent, because there are always resignations and acting appointments taking place at the Hospital. I know that one reason for that is that they are trying to do as much as they can to accommodate the patients. The hon. member will understand that he might have got the impression which he has got because during the War period it was very difficult to get medical personnel. I know that one of the reasons why the hon. member might have heard about the resignations is due to the fault of the people themselves, so that cannot be altogether attributed to the Hospital Board. I would like the hon. member to know that it is possible for local men to get very attractive offers outside and so it is very difficult to keep them at the Hospital. I think that the hon. member will accept it from me that the Barbados General Hospital is certainly not the only institution of its kind which has suffered in this way in the West Indies. The hon. member will then get some idea of the difficulty which is being experienced at the Hospital. I think that the best has been done at the Hospital in the circumstances.

Mr. WILKINSON: I thank the hon. member for the information which he has given. There is one other matter to which I would like to refer. In the Appendix to the Estimates on page 64 under the Head "G. Establishment", we have the items 1, "Renewals and repairs to buildings and plant", £4,200, and 2, "Workmen's Compensation", £400. It appears that the Hospital is not in a very happy position where the repairs to buildings are concerned. Recently we passed a vote for the repairs, or I think I can say, the reconstruction of a certain building to be undertaken by the Public Works Department. (A MEMBER: The completion of the Building). Here we are asked to vote the sum of £4,200 in respect of repairs to buildings. I would like to know under whose supervision these repairs are going to be done. We certainly do not want a repetition of what took place in the last few weeks.

Mr. SPRINGER: This is not in the same category; this is a matter of maintenance. We have to paint the buildings and so forth. Last year the amount voted was £3,000, and owing to the increase in the prices of building material, labour and so forth, we have had to ask for an increase of £1,200 this

year. I understand that the price of paint has dropped. We have masons and carpenters to do this work as in the case of the public employees. This is not any question of large-scale planning.

The question that the sum of £78,280 be voted under this Sub-head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADDRESS *RE* SENDING OF WORKERS TO U.S.A. POSTPONED.

Mr. CRAWFORD: At this stage I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again. We have covered a lot of ground to-day and we may conclude the consideration of the Estimates on Thursday. I am suggesting that the House should be asked to deal with the Address tabled to-day by the honourable senior member for St. John. In support of this Address I say that it might be all well and good for people who are reasonably placed, and who enjoy three square meals a day to view the situation in this colony fairly complacently. Those who keep their ears to the ground know that it is not a matter to be viewed with any degree of complacency. Unemployment is rampant in this colony; every other man you meet is unemployed and within the next six or eight weeks the position will be far worse. There will be a short reaping season. Although some of us will be inclined to force the Government into action, we must satisfy the public that we are mindful of their interests, and that we are placing the control and protection of their interests in the most competent hands. People who ought to know better, and who know better are walking around with their cohorts saying that there will be no emigration this year. I am very concerned about this matter. Within the last few weeks I have spent \$15 of my own private money in sending cables in connection with this question of emigration. I feel that we are more than justified in dealing with the Address tabled by the honourable senior member for St. John. It has been suggested to me by a local Committee that members of the community would be willing to defray my expenses to leave the colony next week. I do not think that it is fair that the people of this colony who hardly have any money should be asked to do that. I think that the line of action to be taken now is to support the Address of which notice was given to-day by the honourable senior member for St. John.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the honourable member should put his motion into shape.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that the Chairman do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that. The remarks of the honourable member speak for themselves and they do not need any comment from me.

Mr. SPRINGER: Judging from the remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Philip, the ground upon which he is now placing the urgency of this Address appears to be, not so much the importance of action being taken by the House in order to produce results, but in order that the public might know and be assured that something is being done on their behalf.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. I apologise for the interruption, but I want to make it quite clear that my remarks rested on that point in the first instance, and secondly, and more important, that we should satisfy the public that the control and direction of the action which we would take would

be in the hands of people in whom they have some confidence.

Mr. SPRINGER: I think it is now quite clear as to what the honourable member means. I have only to say this: I have permission to say that the Government has not only decided for some weeks now that a delegation would go to the United States of America in relation to the question of emigration, but in fact, several weeks ago the Honourable Colonial Secretary and the Labour Commissioner were appointed to go to the United States of America at the end of last month. It happened that we received advice from Washington just before the departure of the Honourable Colonial Secretary to the effect that, as the Appropriations have not been dealt with by the Senate or by Congress of the United States, there was no useful purpose to be served by sending a delegation at that time. A week and a half ago when that reply was considered by the Government, it was further agreed by the Government, or rather confirmed by the Government on the recommendation of the honourable senior member for St. Philip—I have permission to say this—that His Excellency the Governor and the Labour Commissioner should go to the United States as soon as we receive word from Washington that it would serve some useful purpose to send a delegation. The question, so far as I know, has not changed since week before last. If any new advices have come, I have not heard them. In any event, the decision has been taken that whenever advices come, the Governor was authorised by us as a Government—we have to seek money from the Legislature if necessary—to go along with the Labour Commissioner to Washington at the appropriate time. The suggestion of the honourable senior member for St. Philip was really a confirmation by the Government because His Excellency has offered his services as a delegate whenever we think it necessary for him to go. On the last occasion when the matter was being considered, the honourable senior member for St. Philip himself suggested, when it was mentioned that the Honourable Colonial Secretary would have to go on leave, that no less a person than His Excellency the Governor should go to Washington. All of us without exception as members of the Government accepted that suggestion. When therefore the honourable member says that it is a matter of extreme urgency that the House should pass this Address asking His Excellency to send a delegation to the United States of America—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I suggest that the honourable member should read the text of the Address before he attempts to quote it.

Mr. SPRINGER: The Address reads as follows:

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House views with deep anxiety the statement made on the floor of the Assembly at its meeting on March 4th by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, Mr. G. H. Adams, to the effect that "the outlook for emigration at present is not rosy."

2. The House is of opinion that every possible action should be taken to procure a quota for our workers to enter the United States this year and with this end in view requests that a delegation comprising Your Excellency, the senior member for St. Philip, Mr. W. A. Crawford, and the Labour Commissioner Mr. Guy Perrin, should depart for Washington at the very earliest possible date in order to conduct negotiations with the appropriate authorities.

The name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip is the only addition. I do not know if the honourable member is now referring to the first paragraph of the Address as the operative part, but that does not alter what I have said. How can anybody suggest that the Government is not taking any action in the matter when the Government has already decided not only that a delegation should be sent at the earliest possible opportunity, but has mentioned the names of the people who are to go; and has been told not to send anybody yet? The Honourable Colonial Secretary was prepared to go to England and it was suggested that he should go to the United States of America and let his wife go on to England. It was only when we received word from Washington that he left by the "Strategist." How can the honourable member say that the House should tell the Governor, as we are being asked to do to-day, that a delegation should be sent when everything except the booking of the passages has already been done? When the Appropriations have been passed and word has been received here, it will make no difference to the plans except the House feels that it is essential that the honourable senior member for St. Philip should go. We have not yet decided that. If it is a matter of urgency that the honourable member should go, I agree that it is very urgent. As far as sending a delegation comprising His Excellency the Governor and the Labour Commissioner is concerned, all that has already been decided with the full consent and approval of the honourable senior member for St. Philip. I have asked permission to say this because I am getting weary of being put in such a position when honourable members move the passing of Addresses to the Governor from the floor of the House. Matters in Executive Committee are supposed to be confidential and members of that Committee are often placed in a position of not doing something which we have already agreed to do. I quite agree that the public should be kept informed of these matters and if that is the purpose of this Address, my only comment is that there are other ways in which the public could be informed more appropriately and more forcibly of what is being proposed. Just as I have got permission to-day to mention these facts, the honourable member could have got permission to publish in the newspapers or send by a message what has been proposed and planned to be done. I quite agree that publicity should be given to the matter; the public has the right to know what is happening. If the honourable member says that people are being told that there is not going to be any emigration this year, I cannot imagine who could be carrying about such news, because we ourselves know that the prospects of emigration depend upon what the American Senate passes where the Appropriations are concerned. The only purpose of this Address is to add the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip to the delegation. I cannot discuss the merits now; but if it is a matter of urgency, it is only that we should discuss whether the honourable member should go to Washington or not.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I need only say that perhaps the honourable member did not consider—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that honourable members should debate this matter with as much decorum as possible. We know how easy it is to be misunderstood.

Mr. CRAWFORD: All I intend to say is that the honourable member who has just spoken has, I am sure not by accident, omitted the most important part of my remarks. That part deals with the broad statement that I have been approached by a local Committee which has been set up for the purpose

of collecting funds in order to defray my expenses to Washington. I have told them that I did not see why, out of their meagre savings, if they feel I should go to Washington, that they should pay for my expenses if I am to represent them. That is why this action is being taken to-day.

Mr. ADAMS: I never thought that I would have lived to hear a member of this Assembly get up and stop urgent public business in order that he might get the taxpayers' money voted for him to get to America or anywhere else. I appeal to the members of the Opposition, whatever their feeling might be towards the Government, to be men and not let anything like that go forth from this Assembly. We had to pass an Executive Committee Act for the purpose of stopping these things. We had to pass an Act whereby only members of the Executive Committee can give notice of such measures. Here you get the hon. senior member for St. Philip saying that this is an urgent matter; he does not think that the poor people outside should send him to America and he is asking the House to vote money for him to spend! I appeal to the hon. junior member for St. James whose influence both inside and outside the House is tremendous, and whose sense of what is proper in the Assembly will, I am sure, prevent him from encouraging, even by his silence, the hon. senior member for St. Philip in perpetuating this thing. I would like to congratulate the hon. senior member for St. George on having put the position so admirably and generously and with that dignity which is associated with his every remark. The hon. member could have told this Committee that a Cable was received from the British Ambassador in Washington who sent to say this when Mr. Rankine would have altered his visit and fly up. "Cannot recommend visit by Rankine at present. Uncertainty as to future programme. Impossible to discuss future recruiting possibility." The hon. senior member for St. Philip knows all that and insinuates that we who know this, but only had our lips sealed, are trying to stop emigration, when we and he know that it is impossible to recruit any workers at the present moment. We have always had to bear these slings and arrows that we are stopping emigration when all we are saying is that the American Government is not recommending you to send anybody at the present moment. What has brought me to my feet is to make a direct appeal to the members of the Opposition in this House to see that the dignity of the House is maintained. No matter what the stage we have reached, when we have the hon. member getting up in this House and asking as a matter of fact that money be voted to be spent on himself and then saying that it is a matter of urgency to give him that money to spend on himself. I think it is time for some plain speaking to be done whatever the consequences may be. I will not sit here and see matters of that sort being indulged in without any criticism. Even if I lose my seat in this Assembly, I lose it with the sense that I have done my duty to the people over a number of years. I am not going to sit here and encourage people to have high hopes of emigration in a short time. How can we tell people that there will be emigration in a short time? I appeal to hon. members who are putting the dignity and decency of the House of Assembly of Barbados before any other consideration, not to encourage the hon. senior member for St. Philip in his suggestion to proceed with this Address this afternoon. In any event, the hon. senior member for St. George has pointed out that there is nothing which the Governor can do at the present moment. The selection of the Governor as a delegate to Washington was made at the instigation of the hon. senior member for St.

Philip and yet the hon. member is suggesting that this Address be passed! I do not think that I need say anything more to hon. members. The Estimates are before the Committee and I suggest that we continue with them inasmuch as the Other Place will have a grievance if we do not send them up earlier than usual.

Mr. TALMA: I cannot agree with all the remarks of the last speaker—

Mr. ADAMS: I should have mentioned that as soon as the situation is clarified we will take the necessary steps towards emigration and the hon. senior member for St. Philip knows that.

Mr. TALMA: I cannot agree with all the remarks of the hon. member who has just sat down. It must be borne in mind that on past occasions emigration started about the month of April or thereabout, and if some attempt is being made actually to bring this emigration scheme to fruition, it stands to reason that we cannot sit here and adopted a *laissez faire* policy; we must not leave any stone unturned. What we have to remember is that the hon. senior member for St. Philip has been, to a great extent, mainly responsible for emigration schemes in this colony as far as the United States of America is concerned, and the rank and file in the street feel that the hon. senior member for St. Philip, as a delegate to the United States of America in their interests, will be the type of individual who will leave no stone unturned in trying to secure a quota or in inducing His Excellency and other Officials who happen to be there, to do their utmost for them. The rank and file in the street feel that the hon. senior member for St. Philip has been responsible for bringing about recent emigration schemes and with his presence on the delegation they will be satisfied even although no quota may be granted. This Address is a means of satisfying the people not only that we are trying to bring about the emigration scheme but to see that it is done as efficiently as it can be expected to be done. The idea of this Address is not that the hon. senior member for St. Philip is spending the taxpayers' money; the hon. member is not spending the taxpayers' money for his own use. This is a question of paying for travelling expenses, upkeep and so on. It is ridiculous to suggest that the hon. member is spending the taxpayers' money on himself; that is beside the point. This is not a question of locking up a prisoner; this is a Legislative Chamber and facts should be faced. The hon. senior member for St. Philip does not want to squander the taxpayers' money; he is trying to get this Chamber to vote a sufficiently large sum of money so that His Excellency, the Governor, the Labour Commissioner and himself can proceed to Washington. The hon. member has an intimate connection in matters relating to emigration and his heart and soul have always been in this matter of bringing about emigration schemes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members must not talk when the debate is going on even if they disagree with the hon. member.

Mr. TALMA: I am accustomed to this behaviour. I am saying that the hon. senior member for St. Philip has his heart and soul in this matter of emigration. I had the privilege of reading this morning a letter from Brazil in connection with emigration. I repeat that this is not a question of squandering money. (A MEMBER: Nobody has said that.) This is a question of having a stronger delegation going to the United States of America—one in which people will have confidence that their interest will be represented at every turn.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I am glad that this discussion has taken place this afternoon. I have been

approached by several persons who have asked me about the prospects of emigration and I had to tell them that I did not know what was going on. I am glad, therefore, that the Government is doing what it is doing. (Cheers). What I think that this Address is asking for is an extra man with those who will be going and that man is to be a Labourite. I do not see that any harm will be done if this House sent three persons as a delegation instead of two.

Mr. DOWDING: I cannot say that I am pleased about this situation as regards emigration; it is a most urgent situation in this island at the present moment. A few months ago when we were all electioneering, all we heard about was emigration, emigration! but what has been done in the meantime? Nothing at all. Of what use are cables? We want to keep in personal touch with any part of the world where our people can go. To say that we are pleased with the present situation is to absolutely let the people down. It is time that we stop taking advice from so-called experts and get something done in the interest of the people where emigration is concerned.

Mr. WILKINSON: I agree that this discussion this afternoon has done a great deal of good. Members of the House who are not members of the Executive Committee have learnt much more this afternoon than we knew a fortnight ago. We have learnt that the Government is trying to keep in touch with the people in the United States of America, and had gone so far as to arrange for the Colonial Secretary to go up there. I do not think that this discussion has done any harm at all. The members of the Government know that it is our feeling that the hon. senior member for St. Philip should also proceed to Washington. I would not go so far as to say that it is necessary now to pass this Address this afternoon. We have had the matter fully ventilated. I do not think that at this hour we should have any discussion on this Address. I support the motion that the Chairman do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again with the idea of going home. We have already promised to come back here on Thursday and the majority of us intend to keep that promise. It is now after five o'clock and I think that we are all tired and want to go home. I think that we should adjourn at this stage.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Out of evil cometh good. The remarks of the honourable senior member for St. George are very illuminating. Most of us will agree that we were groping in the dark until the honourable member spoke. The honourable member has given us all the necessary information relative to this question of emigration and it seems to me that if it is the desire of the people of this country that a member of a labour organization, whether it be the Leader of one party or that of the other, should accompany the persons who have been selected to look after their interests, I cannot see anything wrong with that. Whether that member be the honourable senior member for St. Philip, the honourable senior member for St. George or the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, I would like to see something done for the people immediately just as anybody else in this House. If the information which has been given us this afternoon is correct, and it take it that it is correct, it strikes me that something should be done more quickly. If, as has been explained this afternoon, the Head of the Administration and the Labour Commissioner have been selected to go to Washington, I cannot see anybody inside or outside the House disagreeing with that. If the statement by the honourable senior member for St. Philip is correct, that

a deputation waited upon him and suggested that he should go to Washington and the honourable member is merely suggesting that, rather than go alone, he should accompany His Excellency and the Labour Commissioner, there is nothing wrong with that. I am very glad to know, from the information which we have got, that some steps are being taken in regard to this matter of emigration. I am not casting any aspersions on any section of this House by saying that any one section is more interested in getting people of this colony to the United States of America than another. (Hear, hear). Everyone is interested in seeing that people get there. I think that we should agree to the motion that the Chairman do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that I do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

The CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution, the consideration of several Heads of the Estimates and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

The House resumed.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: In view of the hour and in view of the fact that honourable members have promised to come back here on Thursday, we may adjourn at this stage. The Order Paper will remain the same. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next, the 13th day of March, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Dr. WILSON: I ask leave that my Address be made the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business at the next meeting of the House.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Thursday next, the 13th day of March, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The House was accordingly adjourned to meet on Thursday next, the 13th day of March, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.