THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th November, 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. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. A. E. S. LEWIS, L. E. SMITH, M. E. COX, R. G. MAPP, F. L. WALCOTT, D. A. FOSTER, C. E. TALMA, H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., V. C. GALE, and E. L. WARD.

Prayers are read and Mr. MOTTLEY and Dr. WILSON enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 28th October, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended 30th September, 1947, from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. George.

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

Report of the Department of Science and Agriculture for the year 1945—46.

Report of the Harbour and Shipping Master's Department for the year 1946.

Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1946.

Statement of expenditure of the Housing Board to the 30th of June, 1947.

PETITIONS.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of the parish of Saint Michael in the said island praying the House to pass a Bill authorising them to sell Henry Norman Leacock and Arthur Spencer Bryden as Trustees of Kensington Cricket Grounds 4,888 sq. ft., of land adjoining the said Cricket Grounds and to apply the moneys arising from the said sale in effecting repairs to the house of the Curate of Saint Mary's Chapel.

The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present a petition from the Committee of Management of The Barbados Youth Movement praying the House of Assembly to pass a Bill incorporating the Movement under the name of "The Barbados Youth Movement" and granting the movement the powers and authorities necessary to enable the movement to carry out the purposes for which it has been created and established.

The language of this petition is respectful, temperate, and decorous and I ask that it be taken as read.

Both petitions are taken as read.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £5,159 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost:

(a) of completing the construction and equipping of the Maternity Hospital, estimated at £1,257;

(b) of building quarters for the matron, estimated at £2,000; and

(c) of recurring expenses until the 31st of March, 1948, estimated at £1,902;

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £400 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to purchase three acres of land adjoining the Selah Boys' School as a play ground for the school at £125 an acre, and to meet the legal and other expenses of the sale.

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

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. MOTTLEY: Of my intention to move the adjournment of the House later in the day to discuss the question of Fisheries.

Mr. GALE: A Bill entitled the Saint Mary's Chapel (Curate Residence) Act, 1947.

Mr. BRANCKER: A Bill entitled "The Barbados Youth Movement Act, 1947."

QUESTIONS.

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

Whether Government has written to Commissioners of Health of five parishes refusing to assist their respective parishes with a grant to enable them to make reasonable increases in the remuneration of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Country Parishes?

2. Whether Government is aware of the existing high rates of taxation in certain rural parishes of this Island, and the expressed inability of parishioners thereof to pay an even higher rate?

3. Will Government reconsider its decision not to provide additional grants as asked for above; bearing in mind particularly the recommendation in the memorandum of the C.M.O., that Government be responsible for payment of the Chief, and the Senior Assistant Sanitary Inspectors of each parish?

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

1. Whether attention of Government has been drawn to reports of meeting of the Barbados Bus Owners' Association recently published in the local press and the complaint made against the Department of Highways and Transport?

2. Is the Government making enquiry into the justification or otherwise of such complaint?

Mr. DOWDING enters the House and takes his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On the motion of Mr. GALE, seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, a Bill entitled the Saint Mary's Chapel (Curate Residence) Act, 1947 is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. BRANCKER, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, a Bill entitled the Barbados Youth Movement Act, 1947, is read a first time.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

GOVERNOR WILL ATTEND TO RECEIVE REPLY TO HIS SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Orders of the day are called I should like to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has intimated that he will receive the Reply of the House to his Speech at 2 o'clock to-day in the Council Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CANON FARRAR.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker,—Before we proceed to the Orders of the day I crave your indulgence to make a few remarks in respect of the late Canon Farrar who was for many years Chaplain of this House. You were a member of the House, Sir, during part of that time and you know Canon Farrar as well as I do and I do think that every member of this House would like it recorded in the Minutes that we sympathize sincerely with his widow in the irreparable loss which she has sustained. Canon Farrar, during the time he was here, always inspired one with the spirit of God. I remember attending a funeral in St. Lucy some years ago which was conducted by the late Canon Farrar and at the conclusion of the performance of the funeral rites I remarked to the then Bishop—Bishop Bentley—that I have never attended a funeral before which was conducted so sincerely as was done by the late Canon Farrar on that occasion. I move, Sir, that this House pass a Resolution, a copy of which should be sent to his widow, expressing our sincere sympathy with her in the loss she has sustained by the death of such an ideal husband and charming father.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to second the motion for the passing of the Resolution and although I did not know Canon Farrar for as long a time as the junior member for St. James knew him I wish to say that my knowledge of him as Chaplain of the House and a Clergyman of the Anglican Church always made me respect him—I think it is not too much to use the word "revere"—as a man of sterling worth and a true christian gentleman.

At the request of Mr. SPEAKER, honourable members stand while they pass the Resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. G. C. MAHON.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I rise to bring to the attention of this House the fact that Death has also removed from this community Mr. Gerald Clarke Mahon who was at one time a member of this House representing the constituency which I now have the honour to represent. The late Mr. Mahon I first knew about 1924 when we at the same time and for the first time contested seats in the election in the parish of St. Thomas. His actions and behaviour, not only at that election but throughout the period in which I have had to deal with him in politics, made me respect him a great deal. He was a man of few words but of sterling character,—a man who would not stoop, I am sure, to do anything that he thought would besmirch his honour and his character. Without much more ado I beg to move that this House place on record its sentiments in respect of the loss which this island has sustained through the death of Mr. Mahon and that a letter be written to his widow expressing our condolence with her in her sad bereavement.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—I rise to second the motion of the honourable member. I did not have the pleasure of sitting in the House of Assembly in the days when the late Mr. Gerald Mahon represented the parish of St. Thomas but as an outsider I always used to admire his liberal outlook and also the serious way in which he used to undertake the scanning of the Government's expenditure. The senior member for St. Thomas has put everything pretty fully and has left very little for me to say. Barbados, I feel, is the poorer for the passing of Mr. Gerald Mahon from among us.

At the request of Mr. SPEAKER, honourable members stand while they pass the Resolution.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

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

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO HOSPITAL BOARD'S PENSIONERS

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—The first Resolution is for the sum of £400 to be granted to the Hospital Board to pay a cost of living allowance to persons in receipt of pensions from the Board with effect from the 18th April, 1946, to and until the 31st March, 1948, as was done in the case of persons in receipt of pensions from the Government. The rates, terms and conditions of the

allowance are based on those set out in Resolution No. 82/1947 which authorised the payment of a cost of living allowance to government pensioners. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Of course, we all agree with this Resolution but I am wondering if there are any more of this nature to come. We do not view with favour—on this side of the table anyhow —these Resolutions coming down in driblets. We have agreed to the principle of a cost of living allowance but I hope that the Government will assure us that this is the last of these Resolutions to come down.

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

LEGAL EXPENSES RE PURCHASE OF NEW STEAMERS' WAREHOUSE

Mr. TALMA: The next Resolution, Sir, is for the sum of £360 to pay the legal expenses amounting to £259, in respect of the purchase of the New Steamers' Warehouse and to meet the rent of the Commercial Hall building at the rate of £100 per annum for one year from the 1st August, 1947. We are all conversant with the New Steamers' Warehouse which has been sold to the Government and honourable members are also familiar with the legal process involved owing to the fact that under the Public Health Act it was not possible to convey this property in the usual manner. Specific performance proceedings had to be taken in the Law Court and those, in themselves, caused the legal fees to be as substantial as they are—£259. That course was unavoidable owing to the provisions of the Public Health Act, so I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—I notice that according to the addendum most of this money is for legal expenses. It seems to me that this was a very expensive conveyance and I would like the honourable member to give us some more information. It looks to me an extraordinary thing that the Government without paying stamp duty had to pay all this money to have that building transferred to it.

Mr. WILKINSON: Before the honourable member replies, perhaps he would be able to answer at the same time a query which I shall put to him. I would like to know if the Government has come to any decision as to what is to be done with the ground floor of this building. I understand that when the original Resolution was passed to purchase this building, there was some talk of putting the Post Office on the ground floor but many members did not approve of that idea and we were informed that when the time came we would be notified as to the use to which the ground floor would be put. I would like to know whether Government has yet come to any decision in the matter.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—Relative to the first question by the senior member for St. Andrew I attempted to explain in my opening remarks how this substantial amount of legal fees was arrived at. I attempted to explain that owing to the provisions of the Public Health Act it was impossible for Messrs. Da Costa & Co., Ltd., to have carried through the sale out of Court. An action of specific performance was brought in the Court and that entailed heavy expense by way of fees for Counsel and Solicitor. Had it not been for the provisions of the Public Health Act which has many defects up to now, it stands to reason that the Government might have effected a saving in respect of the transfer of this building to it. Relative to the question of the junior member for St. James I thought the honourable member would be conversant by now with the fact that it is not the intention of the Government to put the Post Office on the ground floor of this building. Negotiations are on foot to find a suitable place for the Post Office but as far as the downstairs of this building is concerned, it will be leased to the same Messrs. Da Costa & Co., Ltd. and they will provide a section of it whereby a staircase will be erected on the southern end and it will be possible to utilize the upstairs as government offices.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In other words, Mr. Chairman, the reply which the senior member for Christ Church has given really tells us that we are paying these legal fees as the result of the enactment of legislation which neither the lawyers nor anybody else can understand and which, I understand, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has instructed the Government to have amended. The hasty enactment of the Public Health Act—

The CHAIRMAN: I want to tell the honourable member that if he is going to discuss the public Health Act in an adverse manner he has to move the repeal of it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have no intention to criticize the Act adversely but the honourable member for Christ Church having stated the reasons for this expenditure it seems to me that I should be given the latitude to say, at least, that it would appear as though we are paying as the result of an Act which was hastily passed.

The CHAIRMAN: You cannot criticize an Act which has been passed by the House—hastily or otherwise—unless you move for the repeal of that Act.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, but the fact remains that we have to pay this expense as a result of the Government having had to go into Court to obtain a ruling in respect of legislation which was recently passed in the form of an amendment to the Public Health Act and if I understand it correctly, even the Secretary of State for the Colonies has drawn to the attention of the Government that either the draughtsmanship or the enactment of that legislation seems to be out of order.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not think that the senior member for Christ Church quite understood me. His reply was in relation to the use to which the top floor of the building will be put. I quite understand that the top floor is to be used for government offices and that a staircase will be erected to enable people to get to those offices but what I want to know is whether any decision has yet been arrived at by the Government as to the use to which the ground floor will be put.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member said that it will be leased to Messrs. Da Costa & Co., Ltd.

Mr. LEWIS: I would like to know if the senior member for Christ Church can supply the House now or at some future time with any information about the terms of the lease. I should like to tell him that there is good reason for making that enquiry.

Mr. TALMA: All the ground floor of the premises situate on the Wharf and Parry Street in the City of Bridgetown, known as the New Steamers' Warehouse, except the portion thereof in the south-eastern corner thereof arranged for by the parties, will be retained by Da Costa & Co., Ltd., and the

rent will be a yearly rent at £500 on equal monthly instalments of £41. 13. 4. payable on the last day of each month, beginning with the 31st August, 1947, the Company to pay also all rates, taxes and assessments imposed on the Company in respect of the said premises by way of occupancy and not to make any structural alterations to the demise premises or any part thereof or to do any act, deed or thing whereby the said premises or any part thereof may be injured. Those are the main terms of the lease. It is the regular type of lease that is drawn up in connection with business premises and if the junior member for the City wants any further information I would be quite willing to give him the various other terms which are really not as material as the ones I have already outlined.

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

REIMBURSING MEMBERS OF THE BARBADOS ENGINEERING TRADE UNIT FOR LOSS OF CLOTHING

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £280 to meet the cost of reimbursing fourteen members of the Barbados Engineering Trade Unit for the loss of clothing as a result of enemy action while proceeding to the United Kingdom to join His Majesty's Forces. As will be seen from the addendum, the House has already passed a Resolution to pay seventeen members of this Unit for the kit that has been lost and recently the Governor-in-Executive Committee received an application from another member. Thirteen, however, have not made their claims and the rate of remuneration for this eighteenth member has been fixed at the rate—£20—already fixed by the House. It is a simple matter and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BRANCKER: What strikes me about this Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is that as long ago as 1942 the amount of £20 each was regarded as adequate and the sum of £340 was voted by the House for 17 members of this Unit. Well, if £20 was an adequate sum to pay these people for the loss which they sustained in 1942, will that amount be sufficient to reimburse them in 1947 for what they have lost? That is how the matter appears to me. I am not saying that we should give these people the actual amounts which they claimed but they should be put in a position to cover their loss at the prices prevailing to-day because I am sure that there is hardly any article which is not costing more in 1947 than it cost in 1942. I am wondering whether the Government will not consider a proportionate increase in this amount.

Mr. ADAMS: There is something in what the honourable member has said but the honourable member must remember that everybody's loss was not the same, the Government considered what was an adequate amount to reimburse each member of the Unit who has suffered a loss of kit and it arrived at the conclusion that that amount should be £20. The honourable member's argument would really be destructive because, as I say, everybody's loss has not been the same. I think that point was raised in 1942 when the first Resolution came down, and it was pointed out that the Government was giving no less than what a member of the unit claimed to be his loss.

Mr. WARD: Although the senior member for St. Joseph has given a reasonable explanation I still agree with my colleague that this amount of £20 each which may have been adequate in 1942 is not adequate in 1947.

Mr. ADAMS: There was nothing to prevent every member of the Unit who suffered loss from sending in his claim in 1942. The Government does not even know where some of these people are but it is asking that the money should be there in case the other thirteen send in their claims. Two of these people died and the money has been paid to their legal representatives.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the three Resolutions are read a first and a second time and are agreed to.

THE QUARANTINE BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas,—Second reading of a Bill relating to quarantine and similar matters.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—This Bill seeks to carry into effect certain recommendations made in the Report of the British West Indian Conference which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, in November, 1943. The Bill is drafted along the lines of the Draft Ordinance contained in the Report, except that clauses 12 to 17 inclusive, reproduce corresponding provisions of the Quarantine Act, 1909, with slight modification and that the Bill contains amendments which were necessitated by the concluding of the International Sanitary Convention, 1944, and the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation, 1944. The Bill is very long and it is hoped that the House is in such a mood as will permit us to get through with it to-day. It is regrettable that all these clauses have to be read but we are hoping that in the not too far distant future, provision will be made in the Rules which will enable us to get through a Bill of this nature as quickly as possible. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN: I want to draw to the notice of the Committee that owing to the voluminous nature of this Bill, the Chairman proposes to have the entire Bill read and if any honourable member wishes to debate any particular clause he may do so when we come to that clause, if it is the desire of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no rule to permit all the clauses of the Bill to be read uninterruptedly in Committee and they will have to be read and passed clause after clause. All we have is history and we have to go by history until the Rules are amended There is a Select Committee considering, at present, amendments to the Rules and I have a suggestion to make to that Committee which will obviate the necessity of having to read every clause of a Bill of this nature.

Clauses 1 and 2 are read and are agred to.

Clause 3. (1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be a Quarantine Authority.

(2) The person for the time being holding the office of the Director of Medical Services shall be the Quarantine Authority.

(3) The Governor may appoint

(a) such medical officers in the service of the Crown in this Island, as may from time to time be necessary, to

be Health Officers for the purposes of this Act;

(b) such other Health Officers, and such Visiting Officers as may from time to time be necessary for the purposes of this Act, who shall receive from the Public Treasury for the duties performed by them fees or allowances in accordance with a scale to be fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and approved by resolution of the Legislature.

(c) such quarantine guards and other employees and servants as may from time to time be necessary for the purposes of this Act who shall be remunerated from moneys to be provided from time to time by the Legislature for the purpose.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that that be Clause 3 of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not quite understand the meaning of the word "guards" in line 1 of sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 3 of this clause. There is no definition of "guards" and I would like to know if the wording of the sub-paragraph is all right.

Dr. CUMMINS: I take it that the "quarantine guards" will be constables, for instance, who are posted to watch a ship.

Mr. WILKINSON: I quite understand that. It obviously means people who are sent alongside a ship to prevent others from going on board or landing. I am only wondering if the wording is all right. Anyhow, if the proper Authority is satisfied with it, I am too.

The question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 4 and 5 are read and are agreed to.

Dr. CUMMINS asks for and is granted leave to postpone the consideration of Clause 6.

Clauses 7 to 20 inclusive and Regulations 1 to 54 inclusive are read and are passed.

At this stage 2 p.m., Mr. SPEAKER resumes the Chair.

PRESENTATION OF REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER informs the House that he has received a Message from His Excellency the Governor that His Excellency is in the Council Chamber and awaits the House with their Address in reply to his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER, and honourable members, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, proceeded to the Council Chamber and Mr. SPEAKER reads and delivers the Address of the House in reply to the speech which His Excellency delivered at the opening of the present legislative session.

Mr. SPEAKER and honourable members return to their Chamber and Mr. SPEAKER says:—

I have the honour to inform the House that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor in the Council Chamber to present their Reply to the speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver at the opening of the present legislative session, His Excellency was pleased to make a Rejoinder which I shall read:—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for your Address in reply to the speech which I delivered at the opening of the Legislature on the 7th of October.

2. I am grateful for your assurance that the many matters of importance which will be laid before you during this Session will receive your careful and sympathetic consideration.

3. I note the expression of concern by the Honourable House regarding a reduction in imports. My officers are fully alive to the need for selective restriction, and your representations will be borne in mind.

HILARY BLOOD,
Governor.

It being after 2 p.m. Mr. SPEAKER adjourns the House until 2.45 p.m. in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

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

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I am suggesting that we agree to the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) so as to finish these very long bills. In that case the Government will not ask for the suspension of these Rules again next week. I ask leave to move the suspension of these Rules. Let us get these very long bills out of the way.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I wanted to ask leave to deal with a Resolution urging a joint session of the two Houses of the Legislature for the purpose of considering the present dollar crisis and taking steps to deal with it. I understand also that another hon. member gave notice to-day of a motion with which he hoped to deal this afternoon—a motion which is of more importance than the Quarantine Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether leave should be granted the honourable member to move the suspension of the Rules or not. Objection having been taken, I shall have to put the question. The question is that leave be granted the honourable member to move the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) for the purpose of continuing Government Business. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

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

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended. I should like to say that the motion for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) is merely formal because there are no replies to questions ready. The whole object in moving the suspension of Rule 61 (b) is to try and get these long Bills out of the way. I say again that the Government does not propose, if we get these Bills out of the way, to ask for the suspension of these Rules again next Tuesday. Such replies as are ready may be debated and Private Members' Business can be proceeded with.

Mr. CRAWFORD: While I appreciate all that has been said, the honourable senior member for the City gave notice of a motion in connection with fisheries—a vital article of food for the people of this colony—and from what I understand the matter is of considerable importance and the honourable member was hoping to deal with it at 3.30 o'clock this afternoon. Again I do not think that anybody would urge that the passing of the Quarantine Bill this afternoon is of more importance than taking practical steps to deal with the present dollar crisis. I think that most of us know that a meeting of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce is being held on Thursday to discuss what steps they will recommend should be taken, and it is but fitting that the Legislature should give a lead. Bearing in mind the motion passed by the Other Place last Tuesday, it is

high time that both Houses of the Legislature get down to this question and do something about it. I am therefore opposing the motion for the suspension of Rule 61 (b).

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second the motion for the suspension of the Rule.

The question that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. RAMSAY, LEWIS, BRANCKER, MAPP, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, F. L. WALCOTT, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, DOWDING, GALE, WARD and Dr. CUMMINS—15.

Noes: Messrs. CRAWFORD, MOTTLEY and HAYNES.—3.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, fifteen honourable members voting "Aye," and three honourable members voting "No."

THE QUARANTINE BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: When the adjournment for lunch took place, the House was in Committee on the Bill relating to quarantine and similar matters.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee on this Bill before the adjournment we had passed the Regulations of the first Schedule.

The remaining Schedules and Regulations were read and passed.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—Earlier in the day I got permission to postpone Clause 6 and I now beg to move that this Clause be reconsidered.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Dr. CUMMINS: Sub-clause 3 of this Clause reads as follows:—

(3) The power to make rules under this section shall be without prejudice to any power to make regulations under that sub-section may, for the purposes therein set that rules shall not have any force or effect if and to the extent that they are at any time inconsistent with any regulations in force by virtue of section five of this Act.

I beg to move that all the words in line 3 of this Sub-clause except the first word "under" be deleted in order to insert the words "Section 5 of this Act *vice versa*; provided."

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which which agreed to.

Clause 6 as amended was passed.

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

The House resumed and Mr. SPEAKER reported accordingly.

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

REFRIGERATION OF FISH DISCUSSED ON MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,— Before the consideration of further business is begun, I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to speak on a matter in connection with fisheries. I should like to say that as a result of the fishing Regulations passed by this House, as a result of the austerity campaign now being launched in Barbados, I met a representative gathering of fishermen and present with them was the Fishery Officer. After several matters had been discussed, some very startling information which was confirmed by the Government Fishery Officer was brought to my notice, and I think it is right for me to bring it to the notice of the Government and the House.. When I shall have given the facts, I cannot see any member of this House not being surprised and not willing to do all that is necessary to assist in the matter. It has been revealed that in these days of hardship privation and want — in these days when food can hardly be obtained at any price at all — within recent months 13,000 fish have been caught and thrown back into the sea. (A MEMBER: Why?) The facts have been confirmed by the Fishery Officer; in two nights 7,000 fish have been thrown back into the sea. Someone on that side of the Table wants to know why that has been done. Of course, it must be fairly obvious to the most ignorant that I would have had to obtain the reasons for such a thing having been done so as to apprise the House of them. It must be borne in mind that the Government has not made any arrangements for the refrigeration of fish and our means of fishing are still primitive. Our fishing boats go out to sea and they are dependent purely upon the wind for returning. Sometimes fishermen return between 11 o'clock at night and 1 o'clock next morning and after making a very handsome catch, after very hard work to catch several thousand fish, they find that people are asleep; then the existing Regulations state that fish cannot be carried about and sold after a certain time, after they have been ashore for a certain time and the fishermen find it very difficult to dispose of their fish. Consequently the fish become spoiled and they either have to be made into manure for which no means are being offered in this colony, or be thrown back into the sea. I do not want to raise any unnecessary alarm about this matter as I have already said in this House, but surely the gentlemen responsible for the administration of the Government should welcome this information and do all in their power to remedy this state of affairs. Someone might ask: how can this state of affairs be remedied? Before I get to that point, I think it is non-controversial to say that when fish are brought ashore and there is nobody to buy them, they spoil very quickly unless facilities for refrigeration are provided for them. A fact which has also been brought to my notice is that it is difficult for any appreciable number of fishermen to get accommodation for fish at any of the local ice factories. As honourable members know, there is a refrigerating plant at the Public Market which is closed down very early in the afternoon and I am told by the Fishery Officer that that plant cannot supply sufficient refrigeration in order to preserve fish for human consumption. This is not a question of playing politics: this is a question which should concern every single member of this House, and it only remains for a suggestion to be made — a suggestion which one feels is in the interest of all concerned. We know that quite recently the South Caribbean Forces were withdrawn from this colony and it has been brought to my notice that they used the cold storage department of the Barbados Ice Factory which could freeze down to 20 degrees. I feel in view of the fact that only last week we passed under the subsidisation scheme a large sum of money to subsidise Canadian fishermen, it would not be asking too much of this Government to rent that department of the Ice Factory and make the necessary arrangements whereby fishermen from all over the island can have their fish stored free of charge. I say free of charge because I know that there are certain capitalists in the fishing business who have actually made application to the Control Authorities to be allowed to get down refrigerating plants for this purpose. I am

told with some authority that this application has been turned down because the plants must come from the United States of America or Canada. It seems to me that when people who have money at their disposal to get down refrigerating plants make arrangemnets with the local ice factories to have their fish placed in cold storage as against a number of fishing boat owners and fishermen in this island who would never have such favours granted to them, I think it would be well for the Government to take immediate steps to put into effect the suggestion which I have made. I am not criticising any individual or any Government; but I say that it is practically criminal to stand here and allow fish to the number of 13,000 to be thrown back into the sea after the fishermen have worked in the weather to bring them ashore. More especially is this so when you realise that in St. Michael with a population of nearly 30,000, it is a most pathetic sight to see people trying to get fish and willing to pay any price for them. I feel that I have not exaggerated the matter in any way. I say that the gentlemen who are responsible to the Government in this House should in no uncertain terms express the Government's view of the matter either in one way or in the other. I say that within twenty-four hours with the type of Government which we have, arrangements should be made to offer some means of preserving this important food for the people of this colony. After all, there is at least one commodity that we are able to get locally and that is fish. I hope that what I have said will be taken in good faith and acted upon. I hope it will not be taken as any political splashing; this is one of those things which those of us who really keep in touch with the people and know something of the people —not those who pretend to keep in touch with the people—are willing to have done. Before I sit down, let me issue a warning: all is not well with the fishing industry. It would be well for the Government to make some investigation and see what is wrong. I hope that the remarks which I have made will not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second the motion of the honourable senior member for the City with regard to this matter of the fishing industry. It is no doubt rather astounding to hear that there is a scarcity of food and fish have to be thrown away. Everything should certainly be done in order to obviate this state of affairs. There can be no doubt that our fishing industry is still being carried out in a somewhat primitive way; we have not got any cold storage facilities for fishermen who bring in their fish late in the evening so that the fish can be made marketable. There is no place where they can be kept until the next day, and I quite agree with the honourable senior member for the City that something should be done to prevent this waste of very valuable food in these days. As the honourable member has suggested, there is a certain space at the ice factory which was used by the military people as cold storage for their supplies and that space could be used to assist in this matter. I have no doubt that now that this matter has been brought forcibly to the attention of the Government, they will take steps to remedy the situation. I would like to point out that the matter is not one which can be easily handled because if fish which are not properly cleaned are put in cold storage and then taken out and hawked about the streets, they are likely to be spoiled. If some arrangements can be made for the fish to be sold direct from the cold storage that would be very much better for the public. I will not detain the House any longer; the honourable senior member for the City has brought this question very forcibly before the House and I only rose to support him as I also had an interview with the Fishery Officer yesterday and he confirmed what the honourable member has told the House to-day.

Mr. RAMSAY: I am not speaking on this motion from a political standpoint; I am throwing out a warning. I am calling upon the members of this House to draw on their intelligence. On the surface an ordinary question has been put forward asking that something be done to preserve fish instead of having them thrown away; but I should like to point out that if we are not very careful with this refrigeration business if and when it is started, if people are allowed to hawk fish along the street after the fish have been taken from the cold storage we may have one-tenth of the population of this island wiped out overnight as a result of ptomaine poison. I am asking the Government to get some scientific knowledge in this matter before they attempt to put fish, flying fish in particular, in cold storage. I have not forgotten what the late honourable junior member for the City, Mr. Peirce, told us from his seat in this House, namely, that he had made enquiries in Canada and America and it was found very difficult to handle flying fish where cold storage was concerned. I say: do not let us start this business until we get some scientific knowledge about it, otherwise many people will be killed from ptomaine poison.

Mr. TALMA: I must say that I feel very grateful in having a matter such as this brought to the attention of the Government. I can assure honourable members that the matter will receive the immediate attention of the Government. I need hardly remind honourable members that I happen to be one of those persons who are interested in the welfare of the fishermen. (Hear, hear). I have fought for the fishermen not only in this House but outside the House and I have actually got results. If I took an interest in the fishermen when I first entered this Chamber, it stands to reason that now I have an opportunity to do something constructive for them, I shall not leave any stone unturned in that direction. Honourable members will remember that I had an Address passed asking for the erection of a fish market at Oistin about two or three years ago; not only did Oistin's Town secure a fish market and refrigeration will be supplied, but Speightstown will also receive similar treatment. That has been agreed upon and within a short time actual work will be started. The suggestion which has been made by the honourable senior member for the City is an ideal one and apparently a most practical one inasmuch as it has proved to be successful. If the Government implement that suggestion there will not be any loss either to the fishermen or to the community as a whole. I also assure the honourable member that I will do my untmost in that respect. I also assure the honourable junior member for St. Peter that we will bear in mind his sound advice; we will make investigations and ascertain whether his statement relative to the refrigeration of flying fish is really the case or not. (A MEMBER: It is correct). None of us happens to be an expert in a matter of this nature but we can get expert advice relative to it. I give the honourable member the assurance that a thorough investigation will be made to see that no harm or danger will be created to the community in this matter.

Mr. LEWIS: There are one or two aspects of this matter which call for some comment. We have had a Fishery Officer here for some time and fish have been thrown away; suggestions have been made and as far as we know the Government is hearing about this matter for the first time. That is one aspect of

the matter. The next aspect is that we claim to be keeping in touch with the people from day to day and it is only because some fishing Regulations have been passed, and honourable members have been pointing out that they have been passed, that they get to know anything about fish being thrown away, cold storage or anything else. This is a very serious matter because if the Regulations had not been passed we would not have known anything about the throwing away of fish. The honourable junior member for St. Michael only had his interview yesterday and fish have been thrown away ever since. While I commend those honourable members for having brought this matter to the attention of the Government, I would like the Government to understand that if the fishing Regulations had not been passed they would not have heard anything about the matter at all. The Regulations have been in force since the 1st of July, 1947, and they take effect until they are approved by this House. A serious state of affairs has been revealed here to-day. I think it was the duty of the Fishery Officer to bring this matter to the attention of the Government. Fish have been thrown away some time ago and I am surprised that the Government is hearing about it for the first time to-day. I hope that the fishermen will not be fooled that we were keeping in touch with them from day to day; we only got in touch with them because some of us went to tell them what the Regulations are. The honourable junior member for St. Michael only heard about this matter yesterday. If we are interested in the people we should be ashamed of what has happened. (Mr. MOTTLEY: You never had any interest in them). Whether it is a question of interest or otherwise we have come across this matter purely by accident, and we should be honest enough to admit that.

Mr. HAYNES: I was at the point of raising the matter as it has been raised by the honourable junior member for the City, especially the point in connection with the Fishery Officer not revealing these facts. Most of us have seen the advertisement in the daily "Advocate" that refrigerators were to be sold by the Army command at the Garrison when they were closing down. Such refrigerators could have been purchased by the Government and placed at various vantage points, perhaps like Speightstown and Holetown. I understand that these refrigerators are gasolene operated. Instead of this being done, this Officer and his Board sat down and allowed these refrigerators to be sold to a certain hotel for scrap-iron prices and the fishing industry has not been benfited from that. This is only one instance of a Government Department where they sit down and let things fall to the ground and take no action whatsoever. I am really tired of making such comments in this House. We are continually voting money for various matters and nothing is done in this matter simply because the Heads of these Departments, well it is the Fishery Officer in this case, are either not interested or they do not take the trouble to keep their business in front of them. If they were private individuals running these concerns I am sure that they would take particular pains and bring these things to the notice of their Board but they cannot bring them to the notice of the Government. I think it is unfortunate for the Government if they allow these things to pass unheeded.

Mr. WARD. I feel that the blame for this whole position falls upon the shoulders of the Fishery Officer. He is being paid for doing a specific job—to further the interest of the fishing industry of the island. If he knew beforehand that fish were thrown away on more than one occasion I feel that he has absolutely neglected his duty in not bringing the matter to the notice of the Government. It should not be left to a member of this House to bring this matter to the notice of the Government when we have an individual paid by the people of this island to look after the fishing industry of the island. We have recently passed Regulations controlling the fishing industry and it is very hard on these fishermen for us to compel them to do certain things when the Government is doing nothing at all to assist them after they have performed a very strenuous day's work in catching fish. I know that things are not well with the fishing industry because I have been approached by fishermen in my district and they are not at all satisfied with certain Regulations; they have asked that my colleague and I meet the Fishery Officer and have certain things explained. I feel that we have simply created a post to no benefit to the people at all, and if these conditions continue we will be going backward instead of going forward. Unless we can do something to assist the fishermen of this colony, unless we try and enable them to market their fish we will be doing them harm. With regard to the question of obtaining a refrigerating plant, I feel that it will be a difficult thing to tell fishermen at Bathsheba that they must bring their fish to Bridgetown and put them in cold storage. If you are to have cold storage at all you must have plants erected in different parts of the island and you also have to bear in mind what the honourable junior member for St. Peter has said, namely, that if you put fish in cold storage at night and allow people to hawk them along the streets next day we will be making the population of the island a little less. I feel that the whole question should be gone into very carefully lest we arrive at any rash decision and let us see if we can really do something for the good of the fishermen and save food from being wasted in these hard times which stare the island in the face.

Mr. COX: I do not feel that the solution for this problem is to put the fish in any cold storage. I have always said, and I repeat it again, that what we suffer from is the lack of the proper distribution of the fish. When fish are caught the Government should make it their duty to transport such fish to various centres where people will meet to purchase them. That is what is needed. If you put fish in cold storage in the City during the night you will find that next morning you will be distributing them in the parish of St. Michael and may be some parts of Christ Church, but not in the parishes of St. George and St. Thomas etc. I cannot see how that can solve the problem. I know that people would be glad to get fish at the time when they are being thrown away. I repeat that the best method of dealing with this matter is to have centres to which the fish can be transported and people can make purchases of them.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I agree with this laudable venture but there is something which stinks—not the fish on this occasion. We have here a kind of ministerial set-up; we have just passed Regulations dealing with the fishing industry and what I am surprised about is that the Fishery Officer, a Government Officer, can go on a stage with the honourable senior member for the City and say something about fish being thrown away when he has not said anything about it to the honourable senior member for Christ Church who is in charge of matters relating to fisheries in this House. Mr. SPEAKER, I say that it is a sad state of affairs to find a Government Officer going to a member of this House other than the right member who has control of the policy regarding fisheries in this House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. In fairness to the Government Officer I should like to say that he did not come to me: I went to him in order to confirm my facts.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The senior member for the City went to the Fishery Officer and the Fishery Officer went with him to meet the fishermen. The Fishery Officer is giving him this information not for the use of politics but to inform the public that there is this serious situation existing. The situation is a very serious one and neither the honourable senior member for St. Joseph who is the Leader of this House, nor the honourable senior member for Christ Church who is in charge of matters relating to fisheries in this House, knows anything at all about it! Any normal person can see that there is something sinister about this situation because, obviously, any Government Officer should make it his duty from a departmental point of view to let the member of this House who is in charge of matters relating to his particular department know about any situation relating to that department. It has been said that this serious situation was existing not last week but for some time. Why is it then that the Fishery Officer did not draw that to the attention of the Government? You can obviously see what the position is: imagine that you had a business with which something went wrong and the manager of that business does not tell you that something has gone wrong but you hear that from outside! This is a serious matter. Of course I do not blame the honourable senior member for the City for making as much use as he can of any officer of a department: I will do the same thing myself; but I repeat, this Government Officer should have informed the Government of this serious situation. We have Dr. Saint who is a member of the Governor-in-Executive Committee and the Head of the Agricultural Department and the Fishery Department and there is no evidence to prove that he knows anything about this situation: the people who have agreed on a policy do not know anything about it and how can you have a Government Department working like this? It would seem as if there is some sabotage and I say that it is a serious state of affairs on the part of any Government Officer who can tell a politician that something is wrong in a particular department but does not tell it to the member of the Government who is in charge of matters relating to that department. With regard to this question of getting a refrigerating plant, some people when it suits them like to bring in everybody and talk about the people; but I like to be consistent. By that I mean that while I would like to have this plant so as to preserve the fish for the people, I would really like to see the people getting the fish, not the fish being taken out of cold storage and sent to the hotels. Even now there is a shortage of fish but only in respect of certain people and we do not want this plant for the benefit of people who are not getting as much fish as they used to get while other people are not getting any at all. There are approximately 75,000 people in the parish of St. Michael and in this matter of refrigeration you cannot destroy the argument that provision will have to be made with respect to certain areas so that the people in those areas will be able to get fish. I do not care anything about this matter having been made a matter of political priority by the honourable senior for the City, but I say that it is a sad state of affairs and far from being right—I am not now defending the honourable senior member for Christ Church because I feel that he is quite capable of defending himself—for an honourable member to accuse the Government of not doing anything from information which he has received from a Government Officer when that Government Officer has not given that information to the proper quarter. That seems to be a bit of sabotage.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am very grateful that apparently the time has come when the people of this colony have made up their minds to return to this Chamber members who are capable of appreciating a point at issue, and who when they rise from their seats will be capable of making some valuable contribution to the point under debate. Apart from the diarrhoea of irrelevancies to which we have just listened by the honourable member who has just sat down the honourable member knows nothing at all about the matter under discussion but who, in his anxiety to say something, not only betrayed his ignorance of the matter but—

Mr SPEAKER: I think that the honourable member can discuss the matter without casting any reflection on or making remarks about other honourable members.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable member not only betrayed his ignorance of the matter but he unjustifiably censured the Fishery Officer. The Fishery Officer did report the matter to the Control Board and where is the justification for claiming that there is any sabotage? The honourable senior member for St. Joseph is a member of the Control Board and it should be within his knowledge by now as to whether this matter has been reported to the Control Board or not. The Fishery Officer has said that he reported the matter to the proper authorities. The Colonial Office, the people of this colony and I will be glad to know that Barbados has ministerial responsibility; we have never had it before. The honourable senior member for St. Peter has said in effect that if a Government Officer has any complaint to make he must carry that complaint to a member of this House and not to the Head of his particular Department. The honourable member means that the Government Officer in this case should have carried this complaint to the honourable senior member for Christ Church who has some connection with the Government. I presume that the honourable senior member for Christ Church—

Mr. TALMA: I would like to get an explanation from the honourable member—

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you making an explanation?

Mr. TALMA: The honourable member has intimated that I am a member of the Government and that I am in some way connected with fisheries.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I did not say that. I said that the honourable member has some connection with the Government. I presume that the honourable member, speaking as a result of that connection with the Government, expressed gratification to the honourable senior member for the City for having brought this matter to the attention of the Government. I feel that this matter which has been exposed here today is of considerable importance to the people of this colony, that is why at an earlier stage I attempted to get honourable members to agree to have the matter discussed; and if the honourable senior member for the City had not shown his practical knowledge of the procedure in this House and taken advantage of a motion for adjournment to discuss the matter, it would not have been ventilated at all. I was amazed to hear the honourable junior member for the City say that he hopes the fishermen will not be fooled by our claiming that we keep in touch with them because if the Regulations had not been passed we would not have heard anything about this matter at all. Nobody in his right senses, and I am sure the fishermen will not except that merely because an individual is a member of this House he has to maintain constant contact with them or any group

of people in this country; but if the Legislature pass Regulations which deal with a particular type of individuals what is more reasonable than to expect that a member of this House who is interested in these individuals will get among them and discuss the Regulations with them and find out whether or not the operation of those Regulations will work any hardship on them? In other words, there was nothing to prevent the honourable junior member for the City, if he wants to imply that he is also interested in the fishermen, from doing what his colleague has done: that is to say if fishing Regulations have been passed and there was something affecting the fishermen, he could go to the fishermen and ask them——

Mr. LEWIS: On a point of explanation. This is not a Department which was neglected; we have a Fishery Officer there. These Regulations were in force from the 1st day of July this year and the honourable member should know that. When these Regulations were actually passed by this House, they were in operation for some months and nobody seemed to know anything about the situation existing with the fishermen until the Regulations were sanctioned by this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are getting away from the point; we are only now having a passage of words.

Mr. CRAWFORD: If remarks have been used we should be able to reply to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I agree but you can make that reply very short.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for the City is not a member of the Government and the first time he saw the Regulations was when they were to be discussed in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the honourable member will keep to the point.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I appreciate Your Honour's ruling and I shall be as brief as possible. I just want to observe finally that the information given by the honourable senior member for the City is of such vital importance to the people of this colony especially at the present time, that no time should be lost by the responsible authorities in putting into effect the suggestion of the honourable member. It is unfair and unwarranted to see sabotage or anything sinister in the remarks of an honourable member who attempts to bring any matter to the notice of the Government unless he belongs to a particular camp or group. Honourable members should not from their seats in this Chamber attempt to go out of the way to accuse Government officials of unfair practices or consort with other honourable members in any sinister plot when they know nothing about the facts. I repeat that the Fishery Officer, so far as I have been informed, has attempted to discharge his duties because he has reported this matter to the Control Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like a member of the Government to say something on behalf of the Fishery Officer.

Mr. WILKINSON: I will attempt to bring back this debate to the point from which it started. The honourable senior member for the City has told us that he has been informed that a certain number of flying fish and other fish had to be thrown back into the sea, and that is something which you, Mr. Speaker, and all of us will agree is very regrettable in these times when there is a scarcity of food. I cannot blame the Fishery Officer as I believe that he has made some recommendation. I should like to know what would be the use of a refrigerator say, at Oistin's Town when you have fish coming in at midnight? The solution of this problem is not an easy one. If fish are put in refrigerators and are taken out and hawked about the country they will become very dangerous as Your Honour knows. It seems to me that this is a matter in which the Government can help and free enterprise should come in. What we really want is cold storage for fish at several points about the country; we want the means to transport fish which come in between midnight and 1 o'clock in the morning to those points and we also want the means of transporting the fish to shops about the country where there will be small refrigerators; otherwise I see a great danger in keeping fish in cold storage in Bridgetown. That might be all right for people who live near the town, but if private enterprise is allowed to run this business, they would have to get the fish from one cold storage to the other. If you talk about selling the the fish wholesale to the hawkers after they have been taken out of cold storage I think it would be preferable to dump the fish into the sea. I cannot see that the Fishery Officer is to be blamed in this matter at all. I do think that he must have reported that fish have been dumped into the sea and that has been going on for years as we know.

Mr. MOTTLEY: At least the persons who are constitutionally responsible in this matter should make some remarks, but before that is done I should just like to reply briefly to a few remarks which have been made by some honourable members. It must be obvious by now to the inhabitants of this colony that during my brief stay in this House I have really tried to bridge a gap. But Sir, the mentality—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the honourable member should bring that into the debate.

Mr. MOTTLEY: After hearing the honourable senior member for St. Peter speak about sabotage I crave Your Honour's indulgence to allow me to clear not only myself but also the Fishery Officer. That is my position, Sir, and my colleague who cannot help at any time showing his malice and ill feeling—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has no right to impute those motives to other honourable members and I ask him to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to withdraw the remarks Sir, I have never accused any member of this Government or of any former Government of anything; but in good faith I brought this matter to the notice of the House and to the notice of the Prime Minister outside this House. What would have been easier than for me to play politics and call a meeting in Queen's Park and say: "You have a Labour Government and they allow people to throw away fish." It is not my intention to play politics with the people's food. I told the Leader of the House that in discussing the Regulations with the fishermen they said that a hardship had been inflicted upon them and I tried to point out that—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is defending a position which he has taken up and I do not think that anybody is questioning his motives. The honourable senior member for St. Peter questioned why the Fishery Officer did not bring the matter to the notice of the Government.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The honourable member distinctly said that something stinks and it was not the fish. I am a member of this House not at the will of the honourable senior member for St. Peter or at the will of his Party, and it is my duty to ask any question I like to ask. I am ashamed to see that the minds of some honourable members have not risen with their bodies to this Chamber. As far as manners are concerned, a lot can be learnt from this side of the Table. It is regrettable that honourable members should lose their temper. What is the position? You pass a Fishing Industry Control Act giving the Governor-in-Executive Committee the power to make Regulations and for the benefit of the honourable junior member for the City who thinks that he is the educationalist in this House and knows

everything, I should like to say that the Leader of the House distinctly made it clear that those Regulations cannot be amended without the approval of the Attorney General. If the honourable junior member for the City is adopting a Jekyll and Hyde attitude—

Mr. LEWIS: I would just like to offer an explanation.I never said anything about amending the Regulations; I pointed out that they were in force before they came before this House. Even if they were rejected by the House that would be without prejudice to anything done under them.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not see that there is any necessity of bandying words across the Table.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have brought a matter to the notice of the Government and I have done so in good faith. It is unfortunate that honourable members have seen fit to make accusations and say stupid things. If honourable members had not talked about sabotage and about people not being interested in the fishermen until the Regulations were passed by this House, I would have made my motion, sat down and would have taken it for granted that the Leader of the House would put into operation what he told me privately. There is nobody who can deny that my interest is so bound up with that of the fishermen that I cannot get away from it even if I would like to do so. Unlike my colleague, my interest is bound up with that of the fishermen. I am not a member of the Parties which form the Government, hence I cannot get any inside information. I represent the City of Bridgetown and as one who is interested in the fishermen, they get in touch with me quite easily. There is no necessity for red tape to get in touch with me and I was asked to discuss the Regulations with the fishermen. In discussing the Regulations—if this will help honourable members—I noticed that there is a misunderstanding among fishing-boat owners and they are approaching the Goverment in the matter. I like to be above board; I told them that the Regulations were in their interest but certain amendments were necessary. It is no fault of mine that they did not approach the honourable junior member for the City: the position is that in discussing the Regulations certain facts were revealed to me and I think it is my duty to bring them before this House. As to the suggestion which I made, I know that the honourable senior member for St. Michael will always oppose anything from this side of the Table. So much for his limitations. I know that there is a bye-law which says that you cannot put fish in cold storage and then let people go around and sell them. That bye-law is in force today; but it is a fact that fish come in between midnight and 1 o'clock in the morning and there is absolutely no means of disposing of those fish among the inhabitants in the various villages. When you ask the Superintendent of every Institution what he is doing in the matter of food and he tells you what the position is, I cannot see that anybody can be against the suggestion I have put forward. The bye-law says this "No person shall place or attempt to place fresh fish in cold storage unless the entrails and offal shall previously have been removed and the fish thoroughly cleansed". All I am saying is that several thousand fish have been thrown away; the temperature of the cold storage at the Public Market is not good enough for preserving them but the Army used a department at the Barbados Ice Factory which I am told is good enough for this purpose. I agree therefore, that arrangements shauld be made even at Government's expense for the storage of fish when they come in late rather than have them thrown back into the sea. It has been suggested that the Waterworks Department truck should be used to collect the fish at whatever expense to feed the starving people of this colony; I should like to say that I am in agreement with whatever is for the good of the people. I am not indulging in personalities because if we do not sink them we are looking for trouble. I agree with the honourable junior member for St. Peter that every possible attempt should be made to see that no harm is caused to people as a result of the use of fish which have been put in cold storage. The honourable member knows that fish are caught, cleaned and put in the refrigerator. There is no salmon or corned beef to be obtained now and if we can collect fish and put them in cold storage we may be able to provide a sufficient quantity of food to help us in our difficulties. I hope that I have not generated too much heat in this matter; I had no intention of generating any heat in the matter at all more especially because of the fact that I had put the matter to the Leader of the House who saw the wisdom of my suggestion, expressed his appreciation of it and actually said that he would bring the matter to the notice of the Head of the Administration. (A MEMBER: And still you bring it up in the House?) My duty is clear cut; just as people come here and raise tweedledum and tweedle-dee it is my duty to raise matters that are of paramount importance. Sir, too much time is wasted in asking questions in this House, instead of asking whether the Government is aware of what happened, I went to the Fishery Officer and got the facts so as to expedite the matter, because it would have taken six months before it could be discussed in the House in the ordinary way.

Mr. RAMSAY: On a point of explanation. The honourable senior member for the City has said that I know that fish are caught, cleaned and put in the refrigerator. I know no such thing.

Mr. ADAMS: Before the question is put, I would like to say that I would not in the normal course of events have spoken after the honourable member who has replied. I pointed out to him that I was awaiting some information and thereupon he got up and made his reply, I am glad that it has happened like this, however. because I have been given the opportunity for apologising to the House for having caused this debate. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has said that if the honourable senior member for the City had not shown his knowledge of the procedure in this house and taken advantage of a motion for adjournment to raise the matter———

Mr. SPEAKER: I would not like the honourable member to start discussing that point.

Mr. ADAMS: So many wrong things have been said that—

Mr. SPEAKER: I have stopped honourable members when they went from the point and I hope the honourable member will not—

Mr. ADAMS: I will not say anything more than I feel should be said.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall stop the honourable member if I think he is going too far.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable senior member for St. Philip has said that the matter would not have been ventilated if the honourable senior member for the City did not know the procedure. I thank the honourable senior member for the City for his attitude towards the Government and for saying that he does not blame this Government or any other Government. I must also thank him for his mildness in speaking of the Government and of me in particular. He says that too much time is wasted in the House asking questions instead of going to the Head of the particular Department and passing on information which you have obtained. I wish that honourable members would always abide by that rule. I am as much to be blamed for causing this debate as any other member. At twenty minutes to four when the Quarantine Bill was being dealt with, the honourable member spoke with me in the

lobby of the House over this matter. I regret that I cannot find him not guilty of making a public display when he need not have done so. I am equally guilty of telling him to raise the matter on the motion for the adjournment. It is not playing the game when we are trying to get some Government Business done to interrupt and raise a matter on a motion for adjournment: the honourable member would still have had his chance of ventilating his subject after Government Business had been finished. I may mention that I told him that I would go to Government House to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, bring up the matter there and ask the Governor to put it on the agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee and we would hammer out something to put before the House by next Tuesday. I could not do anything more than that. If the honourable member had come to me last week or last night I would have done the same thing. When matters are brought to my notice I have frequently asked the Head of the Department or the Colonial Secretary whether he knows anything about them. I say this; too many people in responsible positions in this colony do not mind what reckless misstatements they make or what deliberate lies they tell. Those misstatements will have some political effect and so long as they are confined to the heat and passion of election platforms it may be that not very much harm is done; but when from the floor of this House people make statements, which if examined, are without foundation, it is time that the public take a serious view of every utterance of members in this House. Last Tuesday the honourable senior member for the City said that food was thrown away in the harbour. That might be true. I asked Dr. Saint if he knew anything about that and he replied "No", and that when he read it he asked Mr. Bishop about it and Mr. Bishop said that nothing had been reported to him about that. Therefore, neither Dr. Saint nor Mr. Bishop knew anything about it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am bound to make that point clear; neither Dr. Saint nor Mr. Bishop has anything to do with the Sanitary Department which is responsible for the dumping of food. I never make any statement unless it is a statement of fact. The Sanitary Authorities who are responsible for examining food in the shops would know about this matter. I feel that this food should have been used for pigs' food rather than be dumped.

Mr. ADAMS: The only thing of which I am accusing the honourable member is his worrying to bring up the matter in the House when I had given him the assurance that I would mention it before the Executive Committee. I am equally guilty because I told him to raise it and he would get the credit for making the motion and the public would know that he had ventilated the matter. On this last point when I was interrupted unnecessarily by the honourable senior member for the City, if you ask what is the Food Control Board doing about this matter or what is the Government doing about it or why cannot people get fish or rice, if you ask such questions in time you will get a sufficient number of people to believe that the Food Control Board is not doing anything. When reckless misstatements are made from the floor of this House that is a very serious matter. I got the honourable junior member for St. Peter to go to the telephone and make enquiries and he tells me that Mr. Bishop and Dr. Saint have said that nothing has been reported to them by the Fishery Officer. If the honourable senior member for St. Philip has any information that the matter was reported to the Food Control Board he should tell the House and the public. People who make misstatements—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I cannot have anybody say that I make misstatements. The honourable senior member for the City who discussed the matter with the Fishery Officer, was the source of my information that the Fishery Officer had reported the matter to the Food Control Board. (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER: When a member of this House makes a statement or supplies information it is to be taken that the information which he has supplied is correct.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of explanation. It is true that I gave the honourable senior member for St. Philip that information. It is also true that the Fishery Officer and Mr. Withnall, who made application for permission to buy the refrigerating plant, made that statement to me. Mr. Withnall gave as his reason for wanting to buy the plant the amount of fish which were being thrown away.

Mr. ADAMS: That only shows how careful honourable members should be to test the source of their information and I invite the honourable senior member for the City to pass on his advice to other people. We are reaching the stage when there is much to be done and we have been reminded by the honourable senior member for the City that there is an austerity campaign staring us in the face. It is incumbent upon us to try and get as much work done as quickly as possible; let us put aside mere éclat and popularity and having people say: "You should have heard Mr. So and So on the people's food to-day." In his reply, the honourable senior member for the City said a lot that he had not said before. Twenty minutes to four o'clock to-day is the first time that this matter was brought to the notice of any member of the Government ! I gave the honourable member an assurance that I would take steps in the matter as speedily as possible having agreed with his points; but the matter could not rest there. I wish to say this; that as both honourable members who are now leaving the House reminded me, this is not a matter which can be easily handled for the particular reason given by the honourable junior member for St. Peter, namely that there are many dangers attached to the sale of fresh fish which have been put in cold storage. The honourable senior member for the City was rather temperate at first and I regret that many motions are not made in that same mild way in which he began. The honourable member is like a barrister who reads from a Law Report; he does not read the part below what he has read because it does not always help him. The bye-law following that which the honourable member has read should be an indication that this matter of retailing iced fish is not an easy one. It was not until I had to defend a fish hawker who was pushing a cart with iced fish up Roebuck Street—I confess my ignorance—that I knew that there was a bye-law which says that you cannot hawk iced fish along the street. The bye-law says this: "Fresh fish which has been in cold storage shall not be hawked about the streets or from house to house, nor shall there be in any case a long period than half an hour between its removal from cold storage and its replacement therein if intended for sale." It is an offence to keep iced fish out of the refrigerator for longer than half an hour and unless people have refrigerators in the City area near the Ice Company they are running the risk of ptomaine poisoning if they sell these iced fish. Do honourable members not see the danger of the indiscriminate sale of iced fish? I made the suggestion to the honourable senior member for the City that we would need a mobile distributing unit. Unless you sell fish to people within half an hour after they have been taken out of the refrigerator and the fish are going to be cooked within that time you are probably distributing death and disease. I repeat that I shall bring the matter to the notice of the Government to-morrow: I shall endeavour to have it put on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday and we shall get the best advice

we can as to the possibilities of refrigerating fish. I will give credit to the honourable senior member for the City for having brought up the matter; the usual hitting at the Government is behind some of this agitation but I see in the Press that the honourable member had the courage and the straightforwardness to tell the fishermen that the Government is really trying to do its best for them and that the fishing Regulations are not against their interest. People may get hot and bothered and repeat in parrot like fashion things that are useful, if sometimes unworthy, at election time but they should be careful as to what they say in the House. The honourable senior member for St. Lucy, who is not in his place, is one of the most level-headed members of this House when he addresses it; he does not say preposterous things merely for effect, but even he uttered what on a little reflection will be found to be utterly unjustifiable. He remarked that the Government is calling upon the fishermen to carry out certain Regulations and is not doing anything for them. The honourable member could not really have meant that. When the fishermen have had the benefit of loans, when the Regulations have arisen out of what the Government has done, when there is the very existence of a Fishery Officer to put the fishing industry on its feet, when the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation has produced what I go so far as to say is their best pamphlet on the work that has been done in fisheries, when the various channels are being widened, how can anyone give the fishermen the impression that the Government is not doing its best for them? I do not know if the honourable member on my right has drawn attention to the fact that the Government is about to send down legislation to put fish markets on a proper footing and this legislation will come before the House within a week at the latest. To quote the honourable senior member for the City, we cannot play politics with the people's food; we are faced with a diminution in imports and it is essential that we should do our best for the fishing industry. On this question of refrigeration and distribution of fish we are going to hear that the Government has no right to trade against people who have spent thousands of dollars to bring machinery into the island. The honourable junior member for St. James, who is often at cross purposes with us in respect of certain problems, has often reminded us about that. When any question of this sort is brought up it is only that those who bring it up want to show that the Government is neglectful of their duty. I regret that the honourable senior member for the City has made this lapse because instead of the unnecessary airing of this matter, he could have notified Dr. Saint or myself about it; and what is blame on the Fishery Officer should be more so on the honourable member who has as much right as anybody else to go to Government House about it. If he does that only one person hears it; but if he raises the matter here the newspaper reproduces it more or less accurately. I apologise to honourable members for having spoken until the shadows of night have begun to fall but I feel that if any honourable member hears anything really worth while he should tell it to the Government: he should not say that his brother or his cousin told him since it often happens that when you begin to press it you cannot find the origin of the thing. There is nothing more to be said on this matter and the House can await the action of the Government in relation to it.

Mr. BRANCKER: Inasmuch as the honourable and learned member who has just sat down has reminded us that what has been discussed this afternoon may well see the light of day in the daily journal of this island, and he has referred to something which my colleague has said, namely, that if the Government calls upon the fishermen to do certain things the Government should also do something for them, I think that I should make a few remarks. What my colleague was endeavouring to point out was that the Fishery Officer or the Government through the Fishery Officer, or the member of the Executive Committee who is in charge of the Fishery Officer, has not so far, given information to the fishermen as to the effect on them of the Regulations which have been in force from July of this year. Unless you explain them—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member making an explanation for another honourable member?

Mr. BRANCKER: I am doing that and I am also speaking for myself. I was saying that the Government Officer has not gone around as much as he might have done and cleared up the various misunderstandings which arose among the fishermen when the Regulations were published in the newspaper. My colleague and I have had that interesting duty to perform and we feel that if the Government Officer had done that, it would not have been necessary for us to have to do it. Apparently some objection has been taken to the honourable senior member for the City having availed himself of the services of the Government Officer; but that strikes one as being an extraordinary attitude to adopt because we appoint these Officers to be at our beck and call. As to the point about provision being made for refrigerating plants, in connection with which we have been promised that a Resolution will come before this House, I suggest that one or two particular districts should not be selected for the erection of these plants and leave other districts without any. There must not be any attempt made to discriminate or make people feel that certain districts are pleasant in the sight of Government and those districts must get priority. The Resolution must be comprehensive and make provision for the erection of these refrigerating plants in every district or parish in this island where the fishing industry is carried on. In short, only the parishes of St. Thomas and St. George should be excluded.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 11th November 1947, at twelve o'clock noon. Now that I see the Deputy Clerk producing artificial light I take this opportunity of saying that I propose next Tuesday to ask your Honour for leave to move for the appointment of a Select Committee—the same Select Committeee which was appointed before the prorogation to make recommendations as to the improvement of the acoustic properties and other improvements of this House—to see after the installation of electric lights in the Chamber so as to provide for possibly a few occasions such as this.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have spoken with the Manager of the Barbados Electric Supply Corporation over this matter and the difficulty is that in a Cham-

ber of this size and general layout the lighting will be poor. We can get the lights but they will not be powerful. However, if the honourable member insists in getting them, I will get them. I will appoint the Committee next Tuesday.

Mr. RAMSAY: I beg to second the motion for the adjournment.

The question that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 11th November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 11th November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.