

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th 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*), Messrs. J. T. C. RAMSAY, (*Chairman of Committees*), F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, A. E. S. LEWIS, C. E. TALMA, H. D. BLACKMAN, H. A. DOWDING, and V. C. GALE.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. WILKINSON, CRAWFORD, GARNER, Dr. CUMMINS, and Dr. WILSON enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

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

Messrs. ADAMS, HAYNES, and MOTTLEY enter the House and take their seats.

NEW MEMBER FOR ST. GEORGE TAKES HIS SEAT

Mr. SPEAKER informs the House that he has received a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary informing him that Mr. F. D. Mac Donald Symmonds had attended a meeting of the Governor-in-Executive Committee and taken the necessary oaths to serve as a member for the parish of St. George in the House of Assembly.

Mr. SYMMONDS is ushered into the House and takes his seat amid cheers.

MR. SPEAKER GIVES REMINDER TO VISITORS

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the House proceeds further with its business I want to remind visitors to this House that they cannot take any part, by way of applause or otherwise, in the proceedings of the House.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received Statements of Rev-

enue and Expenditure for the half year ended 30th September, 1947, from the Commissioners of Highways of the parishes of St. John and St. Joseph.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received also a Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning with an amendment a Bill relating to the Christ Church Foundation Schools.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Colonial Treasurer by the Commissioner of Police during the quarter ended on the 30th September, 1947.

NOTICES

Government Notices are as follows:

Mr. TALMA: Resolution to grant the sum of £38. 10. 5½ as an ex gratia grant to Edith Barrow, formerly employed at the Codrington Experimental Station of the Department of Science and Agriculture in consideration of her 21 years' service in that Department.

Mr. TALMA: Resolution to place the sum of £24,460 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the capital cost of the maintenance, expansion and development of fisheries production, marketing and distribution, and to provide for the recurrent expenditure to the 31st March, 1948.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £6,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement resolution No. 37 of the 26th March, 1947, to meet expenses in connection with the present emergency.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of £2,740 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of engaging on contract for a period of two years a Fire Brigade Officer.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to approve Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under section 37 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to approve Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under section 37 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

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.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I call for Private Members' Notices I just want to say that I have not perused the Notices which are about to be given by private members in order to see if they deal with subjects that are already on the Order Paper. I will accept these Notices but it may be that some of them will be disallowed by me.

Private Members' Notices are then given as follows:—

Dr. WILSON: Of the following Address:—

The House Of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly has the honour to inform the Governor of the lack of Communal Latrines in the Parish of Saint John.

2. In view of the indispensability of such, the House asks His Excellency urgently to take steps for the purpose of erecting such Latrines.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House Of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

1. The House of Assembly respectfully beg to draw to the attention of His Excellency The Governor the urgent need for immediate application to be made to The Colonial Development Corporation for Capital and technical assistance in the establishment locally of a yarn spinning industry of sufficient magnitude as to reduce substantially the number of unemployed persons in this Island and to contribute towards a supply of yarn for the Lancashire Textile Industry along the lines suggested by Professor Simey.

2. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps for immediately implementing this proposal.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Message and Resolution as well as of my intention to move later in the day for the passing of the same:—

The House Of Assembly

To

The Honourable The Legislative Council

The House of Assembly have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a Resolution which they have passed at their meeting to-day, and ask that if the Council are in agreement with this Resolution a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature be convened at as early a date as possible, to be fixed by the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker.

Resolved that in the opinion of this House it is expected that there be convened a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature for the purpose of considering the situation arising out of the present Dollar Crisis.

Mr SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly respectfully beg to draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor the urgent need for immediately setting up the necessary machinery for the floating of a public loan of not less than £5,000,000 for the purpose of making practicable the carrying out of such schemes as may be deemed expedient for ensuring the progress of this colony and the well-being of the inhabitants thereof.

2. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps for immediately implementing this proposal.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House Of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

1. The House of Assembly are of the opinion that a system of compulsory education should immediately be put into operation with Government Assistance being given to destitute children in the provision of a daily hot meal and clothing.

2. The House respectfully beg that Your Excellency will take immediate steps to implement this proposal.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to consider the advisability of

- (a) granting Industrial Scholarships to the United Kingdom or any other country where local students may be trained in the art of manufacturing cloth etc., and/or
- (b) engaging the services of capable instructors from overseas to teach local students the art of manufacturing cloth etc.

2. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to implement this proposal.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly are of the opinion that the erecting of a factory for the manufacture of ceiling boards from local megass is desirable.

2. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to consider the desirability of setting up a Committee to investigate the possibilities of erecting such a factory with or without the help of Government.

3. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to implement this proposal.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly are of the opinion that Age-grouping in Elementary Schools and Super-annuation in First and Second Grade Schools, as at present practised, should be abolished in the interest of the education of the poor children whose parents have been unable to send them to school regularly or at an earlier age.

2. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to implement this proposal.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly respectfully ask Your Excellency to consider the desirability of erecting a Secondary School for Boys and a Secondary School for Girls in the Parish of St. George thereby serving the neighbouring parishes of St. Joseph and St. Thomas.

2. The House respectfully request Your Excellency to send down the necessary legislation for the erection and maintenance of the aforesaid schools.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly are of the opinion that immediate steps should be taken to set up machinery for subsidizing the growing locally of a large crop of Indian Corn.

The House respectfully request Your Excellency to send down the necessary legislation for the implementing of this proposal.

EXCUSE FOR ABSENT MEMBER

Mr. WILKINSON offers an excuse for the absence of the senior member for St. James (Mr. S. A. WILCOTT) who is indisposed.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I propose to re-appoint the Committee which was appointed during the last session to consider the amenities of the House as follows:—The Senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. ADAMS), the senior member for St. Philip (Mr. CRAWFORD), the junior member for St. Peter (Mr. RAMSAY), the junior member for St. James (Mr. WILKINSON), the junior member for the City (Mr. LEWIS), the junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER), the junior member for St. Philip (Mr. GARNER), and the senior member for the City (Mr. MOTTLEY). I will associate myself with the Committee.

REVISION OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER: I also want to inform the House that I propose to invite certain members of the House to join me as a Committee to consider the

revision of the Rules of the House. The principal idea is to have a Rule which will result in the saving of a great deal of time by not having to read the clauses of lengthy Bills that come before the House.

SELECT COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER: I discharge the Select Committee which was appointed to consider and prepare a draft Reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency at the opening of the present Legislative Session.

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 Government.

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

COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Dr. CUMMINS: The first Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £5,159 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 March, 1948, estimated at £1,902. The addendum sets out very clearly why this sum of money is asked for. As regards the question of capital expenditure, the increase in the cost of furniture, equipment, linen, crockery, etc. is due to circumstances over which we have no control. These estimates were prepared in 1943 and since then, as honourable members know, there has been a considerable increase in the cost of materials, abroad as well as locally, and in the cost of labour. The building of quarters for the matron is a new item in connection with this scheme. It was originally intended that the matron should be housed in the hospital but on further consideration it has been considered advisable to build quarters for her for the following very good reasons. If the hospital was operated with the matron residing in it, as was formerly intended, there would be no room for certain cases, such as pregnant women who have developed kidney trouble and toxemia before or even after they give birth to the baby and also cases of puerperal infection,—cases which should be isolated from the general ward. No provision was made for that and inasmuch as there should be provision of this sort in a properly run maternity hospital, it has been decided that quarters should be built for the matron. Now, the amount of £1,902 is in excess of the original estimate for recurring expenses. In the first place, I should like to say that the grant from Colonial Development and Welfare included recurring expenses for five years. Since then, we have had to make certain additions and adjustments. We have had to include an anaesthetist for whom provision was not made in the original scheme. An anaesthetist would have to be called in in certain cases and he would have to be paid. It was also originally intended that there should be two resident midwives but the proposal now is that there should be three and the number of trainees is also to be increased from ten to twenty. Honourable members can see, therefore, the reasons for the increase in the

estimate for recurring expenses. Now, the hospital is expected to be opened in a very short time. I suppose it will be asked: why not go back to Colonial Development and Welfare and ask for this increased amount? To do that will take a considerable amount of time. His Excellency would have to send down a Message for the approval of this House; then the matter would have to be submitted to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies and the Secretary of State for the Colonies; then a Resolution would have to come before this House before the money would be available for this purpose. Again, as honourable members know, the sum of £800,000 has been allocated to this colony by Colonial Development and Welfare in connection with the 10-year plan and it is felt that it would be better if the Legislature would vote this amount for recurring expenses and leave the money from Colonial Development and Welfare to be spent on much larger schemes. I have heard it mooted on my left that the Government is asking for this money and that nothing has happened as yet at the Maternity Hospital. That is quite true but honourable members will remember that when the building was taken over it was an ordinary dwelling house and it takes time to convert it into a hospital suitable for what is intended. Again, we have to depend on certain equipment from the United Kingdom which took time and is still taking time to arrive; consequently the work has been held up but we are hoping to open the doors in the very near future to pregnant women for anti-natal treatment as was intended. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that and I would like to say that I consider the sum of £5,159 a comparatively small amount to be spent upon ensuring that the future generations of this island are brought into the world under the best possible conditions (Cheers.)

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—I have listened very intently to the information given us by the senior member for St. Thomas but I think he has withheld a lot that he should be able to tell us. First of all, he tells us that it will take £1,257 to finish the hospital but he has not told us how much has been spent so far in altering and improving the residence in Bank Hall which was bought for this purpose. The next thing is this. Paragraph 2 of the addendum states—and I remember when it happened—that £3,000 a year for 5 years was voted for recurring expenses. Now, Sir, apart from the matron who has just been here some months now and the doctor who is supposed to be taking charge of the hospital and who, I understand, demanded his fee after he came back from taking the Course although he did not pass the examination and, perhaps, the watchman nothing has been done in that place, as far as the public knows. All this money has been voted and we are told that they still want £1,902 more to pay for recurring expenses. To my mind, we want a little more information about this matter. Naturally, I would like to see this hospital operating but I would like to see it being operated properly. I agree with the idea of spending £2,000 to build quarters for the matron. Ten trainees for a hospital like this are too small a number; twenty are necessary and to accommodate twenty trainees it will be necessary to build quarters for the matron. The other items need further explanation and I am hoping that the senior member for St. Thomas who has everything up his sleeve will be able to give us a clear conception of what is happening.

Mr. WILKINSON: I, like the senior member for St. Andrew, would like some more particulars about (a) and (c) of this Resolution. Every member of this House is overjoyed at the idea of having this institution established and we agreed to that unanimously three years ago. But when the Government comes here and tells us that for the next three or four months it requires for recurring expenses an additional £1,902 I do think that that needs a little more explanation than what the senior member for St. Thomas has given us. I, like the honourable member who has just spoken, think it is wise to build a separate residence for the matron, thereby achieving two objects—one making her comfortable and a little farther isolated from the patients and the other allowing more room for the trainees; that, I think, is a wise move. We all know that in these days things are expensive. The cost of materials is high and I am not surprised to see that to build quarters for the matron is going to cost £2,000. A few years ago it would have cost less than half of that amount. It does not seem very much money we are asked to vote to-day but honourable members must bear in mind that we have a very bad year or two ahead of us. Few of the honourable members present can remember such a terrible drought as we have passed through this year and we all know that that means the circulation of less money; therefore, it behoves us, members of the House, to watch the small amounts which, added together, make a big sum. We must see how the taxpayers' money is being spent and that is the sole reason for the objection which comes from this side of the table.

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not know that I can give any more information than what I stated in my opening remarks. The purchase price of the building was £4,500; the structural alterations cost £2,100 and I believe that originally £1,500 was voted for structural alterations. Furniture and gynecological equipment cost £2,480 and those are some of the figures in respect of (a). As far as (c) is concerned, there was no provision for a cost of living allowance in the original estimate and a cost of living allowance has been provided for the matron, a resident midwife and the anaesthetist; that helps to bring the additional amount for recurring expenses to £1,902.

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

PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND FOR SELAH BOYS' SCHOOL

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Sir, is for the sum of £400 to purchase three cases of land adjoining the Selah Boys' School as a playground for the school at £125 per acre and to meet the legal and other expenses of the sale. As honourable members will see, the price charged the Government is £125 per acre and while the Government feels that this is an exorbitant price, it has chosen to pay it, rather than not have the playground for the school. If honourable members feel like attacking the Government for paying all this money for this piece of land, the Government agrees with them but prefers to have the land as a playground for the school than to let it go because at the present moment we are renting $\frac{1}{2}$ acre as a playground for the school and that, together with $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, we propose to buy. It would be a pity not to buy the land because the school, as I think the junior member for St. Lucy will agree, is sadly in need of this extra piece of land as a playground. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—I quite agree with the honourable introducer of this Resolution that it is necessary to have this playfield. As a matter of fact it is necessary to have playfields for all the elementary schools but I think that we are being called upon to pay a very high price for these three acres of land in the parish of St. Lucy. I do not know if it is arable land but it seems to me to be a very stiff price to pay for it. I would not like to see this Resolution rejected, inasmuch as it is for the purchase of a playfield, but I do think that the price of the land is very much on the high side.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—So far as I can hear from this side of the table, the honourable junior member for St. Michael is suggesting that the price of the land is steep. I take it that he is not suggesting that we should not vote this money. Of course, there is always that difference of opinion between sellers and buyers of land in every district as to what is an equitable price to pay. The honourable member who introduces this Resolution has conceded that this school is sadly in need of the playground. I suggest to the Government not to stop there. There are other schools which are sadly in need of playgrounds. St. Clement's Girls school, for instance, is just as sadly in need of a playground and I need not mention Holy Innocents Boys' and Girls' Schools. Let the Government deal with this question boldly and provide playgrounds for all the schools, particularly now it has seen how the House welcomes this Resolution.

Mr. HAYNES: I too am glad to see the effort which has been made by the Government to purchase at least one playfield but I hope that the Government is not making the mistake which it made in connection with the purchase of the New Steamers' Warehouse, that is to say, it is not acting *ultra vires* by not first obtaining permission from the Board of Health to purchase this land. I should like some information on that point because I believe that there is a tenantry attached to Harrison Plantation and, consequently, permission would have to be obtained to purchase this land.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I am very glad to see that the government has broken new ground. Usually, the Government does not get compliments for doing things and I should like to compliment it on this act. I would go further and say that now that the government has decided to provide more recreational facilities for the children I would like to see more educational and cultural facilities provided also and not have the schools, like monastic walls, closed after school hours. I would like to see more light in the schools at night, so that people can get together, exchange their views and have a better understanding of democracy. It is catastrophic to see so many schools closed after school hours and so many people sitting around the hedgerows at night. Not only the bodies should be looked after but amenities should also be provided for the people to enable them to develop their mental faculties.

Mr. ADAMS: Already there has been a suggestion that this land may be used as a community centre and I mention that, because it may be cheaper in the end for community centres to be attached to the schools. As regards the remarks of the junior member for St. Lucy I thoroughly agree with what he has said and I am going to appeal to him and others to join this Government in what I personally at any rate have seriously in contemplation, that is, to pass a special Act in this House providing that we should pay not more than £50 an acre for land for

playfields, if wealthy landowners would not give parts of their lands for playfields. For the Government to be forced at the point of a pistol to pay £125 per acre for land for this purpose is atrocious, although according to the law a jury might have assessed this land at £150 an acre. If wealthy landowners would sell their land at a reasonable figure or even give some of it for playgrounds, as one or two of them have done, in every parish the Government would not have to come here and ask for this fancy price for land. The Government has been contemplating for some time the purchase of a playfield for every school but it is up against these exorbitant prices which, it is hoped, will in process of time be less.

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 reports the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

PROVOST MARSHAL'S (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for Christ Church,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Provost Marshal's Act, 1904 (1904-6).

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,—Section 3 of the Provost Marshal's Act provides for the appointment of a Chief Deputy Marshal and two Deputy Marshals to the Provost Marshal's Office. Within recent times it has been found that the number of deputy marshals is not sufficient to cope with the volume of work in that office and this Bill proposes to increase the number from two to four, so that the work can be more efficiently done and less strain put on the shoulders of the present deputy marshals. The Bill also provides for an increase in the daily rate of pay for attendance and performances of the requisite duties at the sitting of any of the superior Courts, in the case of a deputy marshal from 2/- to 3/- and in the case of a deputy marshal appointed under section 70 (1) of the Act from 2/- to 5/-. as the present rate is considered inadequate. The Bill contains a suspending Clause whereby it will be brought into force in the usual way by proclamation in the Official Gazette. I would like to draw the attention of honourable members to the fact that the present deputy marshals are called upon to issue summonses and do things of that nature all over the island. They are not given travelling allowance and the work has increased to such an extent that it is considered necessary that the number should be increased so as to avoid any hardships being imposed on them. It is patent to the persons who attend the Provost Marshal's office, and it should be more patent to the members of this Chamber, that three men could not be expected to carry through levies all over the island without any proper remuneration for travelling and also to attend the Court of Grand Sessions and other superior Courts day in and day out. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Clauses 1 and 2 are read and are agreed to.

Clause 3. Subsection (2) of section seventy of the Principal Act is hereby amended by deleting the words "a sum of two shillings" occurring at the end thereof and substituting therefor the words "sums of three and five shillings" respectively.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to move that that be Clause 3 of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: I would like to draw to the notice of the Government that there is much dissatisfaction existing among these deputy marshals relative to travelling allowance. I understand that these marshals receive a very paltry sum by way of travelling allowance and I feel that the Government should pay them travelling allowance on the same basis on which travelling allowance is paid to officers of other Departments. These men have to travel in buses as far as St. Lucy's parish and they have to put up with much inconvenience in the performance of their duties. I would suggest to the Government to place these Marshals, as far as travelling allowance is concerned, in the same position as that in which officers who draw travelling allowance are placed.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to inform the honourable member that the Government has had that phase of the question under consideration for some time and if he had listened to my remarks carefully he would have heard me make reference to it.

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.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motion of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN in each case, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1941—1946) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, —Second reading of a Bill to grant additional sums of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the years ended 31st March, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, and 1946 respectively.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—Honourable members will be spared the necessity of talking for the next two or three hours. I regret that through an oversight or pressure of work these appropriations which should have been passed during the past five years have not been passed. This Bill is a comprehensive Bill and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am just asking for a little information. Probably I am very dense but I do not understand the necessity for the passing of this Bill. Every year, as far as I remember, as soon as we pass the Estimates we pass the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: These are supplementary Resolutions which have been passed and they are always required to be passed in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to observe that I sincerely hope that the particulars in this Bill have been carefully checked with the supplementary Resolutions that have come to the House from time to time during these years.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member has already spoken.

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

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

The preamble, clauses 1 to 5 inclusive, schedules 1 to 6 inclusive are read and are agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Chairman reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT TO CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION SCHOOLS BILL.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that, in accordance with Rule 262, the amendment of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill relating to the Christ Church Foundation Schools be considered forthwith.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the amendment of the Council to the Bill relating to the Christ Church Foundation Schools be considered forthwith is put and resolved in the affirmative with division.

Mr. ADAMS: The amendment, Sir, is a very simple one. The word "or" dropped out of the print and has been inserted by the Other Place. Section 5 (2) as sent up to the Other Place, reads "All debts and liabilities which are due and owing to are to be discharged by the trustees...." The word "or" has been inserted after the word "to". I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

On the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the amendment is read a second time and is agreed to.

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

REPLIES LAID.

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 6 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Philip.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to lay the replies to questions No. 15 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy.

OMISSION OF BREAD FROM DIETARY OF INMATES AT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to comment upon the replies given to my questions I asked:

(1) "Is the Government aware that bread is excluded from the dietary of inmates at the Government Industrial Schools?"

(2) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government

(a) please state the reason why,

(b) take the necessary steps to ensure that some of the excellent bread made at Glendairy's or bread from other sources is made available to the inmates of these Institutions?"

I have just received the replies which are as follows:—

1. Yes.

2. The diet was revised as a result of recommendations made by the Chief Medical Officer in 1944 and is now adequate and well balanced. It includes biscuits which are better for the teeth of young people than white bread and are less constipating and have the same nutritional value. It is not proposed to make any change in the diet at present.

Sir, it is true that I am not a dietician; I know very little about what is a well balanced diet and what is not; but I say with all due respect to the Chief Medical Officer and those who have to do with the dietary scale at these Institutions that if bread is good for them at their tables at home surely it is good for these unfortunate inmates at these Institutions. I feel that it is not so much a matter as to whether there is any nutritional value in bread or biscuits, but it is a matter of a variety of food. I do not contemplate giving these inmates only salt bread but sweet bread and cakes at times. I regard these boys and girls as the unfortunate victims of circumstances; in many cases they are not to be blamed for their plight. Their parents are at fault plus the fact that our economic set-up has made them what they are and has placed them where they are. In many cases they contribute nothing to the State because there is a vicious circle which really entwines them and they cannot break away from it on account of our economic set-up. Most of the boys in the Institution can be very useful citizens to the community if they were given a chance; the very fact that they were mischievous shows that they had something worth while in them. I do not say that with any sense of pride but because it is a fact. If some of these boys had had the opportunity and advantage of a good education they would have filled responsible positions: some of them would have been Barbados scholars.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question under discussion is the question of the diet supplied at the Institutions.

Mr. GARNER: I feel that something should be said of the circumstances which brought these boys there. As everyone knows, these boys are treated as if they were criminals; but I do not think that the founders of the Institution intended that they should be treated as such. The idea was that these boys should be reformed and if that spirit pervades us to-day I do not see why they should not be treated as boys who are to be reformed. If you stigmatise them as criminals the least you can do for them the better you feel that you are punishing them. That is why I want to point out that these boys are not so much to be blamed when in truth and in fact the circumstances surrounding them make them criminals. I have visited these Institutions and I must confess that a slight change has been made but it is not all that we would like it to be. I take it that bread in its various forms should be given to these inmates. As you know biscuits to-day are not what they used to be in years gone by. I would argue with any dietician that the biscuits of to-day are constipating because there are no ingredients in them. If these inmates eat a lot of biscuits they must constipate them. As a matter of fact, I had to discontinue using the shortening that was about here because it was rancid. I do not know if they begin to use it again but the biscuits are poor and not up to standard. If we in our private lives and in our homes want bread for our children I do not see any reason why we should not give bread to these unfortunate children. Bread is due to them; we as civilised human beings owe it to them. I must again emphasise that

these children are only victims of circumstances and we should be endeavouring to reform them rather than punish them. It is not that when you punish delinquent children that you can get the best out of them; it is by methods of reformation that you can bring back these children to the realm of honest society. If we really mean to carry out what the founders of the Home intended originally, we would change our minds towards these unfortunate children and treat them as human beings. When I visited the Institutions on the last occasion and learnt that biscuits are served to these children and they get no bread I said that I would ask this question in the House. It seems that the person who recommends the diet has had something to do with these replies. I do not feel that it is right for people to answer our questions and dictate to us: I feel that these inmates should not only be given these biscuits which are constipating but they should also be given bread in its various forms. Not long ago I visited the Mental Hospital and saw on the racks some lovely loaves of bread; when I made enquiries about them I was informed that they were baked at Glendairy's and sent to the Mental Hospital. If we treat the mentally defective as human beings we could also supply the inmates at the Government Industrial Schools with bread if we really want to reform them. Reformation of these inmates is needed and we should treat them kindly by giving them fairly decent food because, after all, they do a very hard day's work in these Institutions. I have some hard things to say when the replies to my questions in connection with a system which obtains at the Institution for boys comes down. The boys are treated by the Superintendent—

Mr. SPEAKER: You had better leave that out.

Mr. GARNER: It burns to the core but I will bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker. When I begin to talk about Institutions knowing what I have seen in similar Institutions in America, the system which obtains here is a disgrace to the island. I think it is well that this Government see about the dietary enough to say that the diet is balanced; I have passed through the Institution on several occasions and saw gravy on potatoes; there were a lot of fish scales and apparently a few pounds of fish had been used in making a lot of gravy. That is the sort of treatment which these boys get when they have to do a very hard day's work. It is not the sort of treatment that civilised people should mete out to their less fortunate brethren. After all, if we are civilised and any member of our society makes a mistake certainly he should be punished; but that punishment should be of a reformatory nature. If you are punishing a person and you do not have any idea of reclaiming him for honest society then your job is in vain. If we sit here from time to time and allow these disgraceful acts to be perpetrated against these boys in these days of grace I do not think that we are worth our salt. These boys fare badly not only where the food is concerned but otherwise. People must have a properly balanced diet and it is especially so with these youths who have to do work which calls for more strength than is normal with boys of their age. In these replies it is stated that biscuits are better for the teeth of young people than white bread; but I feel that just as my children should have a variety of bread the inmates of these Institutions should have a variety of bread as well. I will not labour the point any more but I hope that something will be done to help these unfortunate boys in the way of giving them proper food because, I repeat, they have to do very hard manual work. They do not have merely to attend to the kitchen gardens and things of that nature; they have to do laborious work. The

Government is making some sort of money out of these boys because they do not have to pay outsiders to do the work, and the least the Government could do is to take some of the earnings of these boys and give them proper food. As I said before, these boys must be punished in some way but they are delinquents; some of them have no homes and when a boy who has no home commits an offence you must punish him in the same way as you would punish a boy who has broken faith with his home. I think the time has come when we should regard these boys in a more civilised and humane manner; what we would like for ourselves in our homes we should mete out these unfortunate inmates of these Institutions.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second the motion and I shall be very brief. I must confess that I am honestly shocked at the replies to these questions. First of all, if I may use a very unparliamentary expression, apparently the Government have, so to speak, passed the buck to the Chief Medical Officer. The reply to the first question is "yes"; as to the second question the reply does not say that the Chief Medical Officer says that the inmates should not be given any bread. Everyone in this Colony knows that the Chief Medical Officer would be more humane than that. It is a question of variety. Which of us in this House would say that because somebody tells him that biscuits are better for the teeth than bread, that would be a reason for cutting out bread entirely from being used in the household? I think that this is a rather evasive reply; the question asked is really this: Why has bread been cut out of the dietary of the inmates at these Institutions? I am surprised that the honourable junior member for St. Philip has not attacked the matter from that angle. Sir, it must go out that in Barbados the Chief Medical Officer says that of all Institutions in this island the Government Industrial Schools must not be supplied with bread. That is what it amounts to. I fully appreciate that the inmates of these Institutions have been drawn from the homes of people like myself, and as the honourable junior member for St. Philip has said, that was due to circumstances over which they had no control, and particularly due to the economic set-up of the colony. If any of us had been told that the reason for which bread should be cut out of the diet is that sugar-cane is better for the teeth would he not say that sugar-cane is better for the teeth? I remember that when people were being selected at Queen's Park for employment in the United States of America a number of them were turned back and I was told on enquiring that there seemed to be a deficiency in the food obtained. If people are able to care the bodies of their children when they are growing up the children will have good teeth. It is absolute nonsense to say that biscuits are better for the teeth than bread. I challenge anybody to say that because a dietician says that biscuits are better for children than bread he would stick to giving them biscuits and no bread. I suggest strongly that replies of this nature should never have been sent down to this House; they might have been sent down ten years ago when people were not fully acquainted with the conditions of existence. I repeat that replies like these are shocking; this is just passing the buck to the Chief Medical Officer who has not yet said: "I have told the Government to stop supplying bread at these Institutions." He might have said that the diet should be balanced. As regards biscuits, they are very good but the Chief Medical Officer does not say that bread is bad. I feel that unless a leopard can shed his skin the members of this House must feel that it is only a question of circumstances that

have caused many of these children to be in these Institutions — circumstances over which they had no control. (A MEMBER: Age has something to do with it.) And possibly age! as an honourable member has suggested. These replies are not fair to an intelligent body of people because the Government have said nothing more than that they know that these inmates do not get any bread and I suppose what is behind it is that bread is too expensive. The Government say that the diet was changed; possibly it was changed from something that was carrying these inmates to their graves. Surely even the hon. member who is in charge of matters relating to this Department with his medical knowledge and his knowledge of local conditions will be bound to admit that some of these recommendations should be a little more humane. Who either inside or outside this Chamber with any control over a family would cut out bread entirely from the diet and supply biscuits because they are better for the teeth of young people? The Government should have said that sugar-cane is better for the teeth than bread. One of these days they will tell you that almonds are better for the teeth than bread. I think that the Government should be very cautious about sending down replies of his nature to this House, because to-day hon. members can really see that the buck is being passed.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member who has just sat down had not spoken I would not have said anything. The honourable member has advised us that we must not play politics with the people's food; but if there ever was a case of playing politics with the people's food the honourable member has furnished it this afternoon. I will not trespass on the reply which will be made by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas, but I must protest against the remarks which the honourable senior member for the City has used in connection with the Government. I must protest against the accusations that we are giving answers which cannot bear examination and of passing the buck to the Chief Medical Officer. I should imagine that a child of four would know that when questions are put to the Government—they are put formerly to me while the member of the Executive Committee who is in charge of the particular Department is going to deal with them. But if a question is asked about fisheries to whom must we turn for a reply but the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries? With regard to this question to whom must the Government turn for a reply but the Head of the Institution and in the matter of diet to the Chief Medical Officer? Doubtless the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will deal with other points which have been raised. I only wish to make my protest against these accusations which have been made against the Government. The honourable junior member for St. Philip gave us a lot of bad points and he has completely missed a lot of good ones. He was in a local preacher's frame of mind over these Institutions; he has in his possession the Report of the Committee—

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member to avoid using expressions which are not necessary.

Mr. ADAMS: Local preachers preach the gospel throughout the island.

Mr. GARNER: I must object to that; as Leader of this House the honourable member should have more dignity in debate in this House. When the Leader of the House makes remarks like those which he has made after a member has brought something before the House, what kind of Leader can he be?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have taken note of that.

Mr. ADAMS: Your having taken notice of that, Mr. Speaker, will cause me to withdraw the remarks. The honourable member is so thin-skinned; if he will only read a few of the speeches which take place night after night in the House of Commons he will not adopt that attitude. The honourable member has in his possession a copy of the Report of the Committee which was appointed to make recommendations for the re-organisation of the Government Industrial Schools, and we have said far worse things about these Institutions than the honourable member has said. He would make it appear as if the Government has done nothing when the Committee has reported condemning Dodds more strongly than he has done. Things were so bad there that while the Committee was sitting we made a report that the kitchen was in a disgraceful condition and we provided practically a new kitchen. What is the use of playing politics when the honourable member knows that the Government is making recommendations with regard to these Institutions? If he had his copy of the Committee's Report before him he would see that stronger criticisms about food have been made than he has made. I merely rose to my feet because of the accusation that the Government is doing something dishonest. With regard to the question of bread and biscuits I should like to say that ten years ago Sir John Hutson in the course of conversation on food values informed me that you might just as well eat cotton waste as to eat white bread in Barbados. From that time I have hardly eaten a pound of any white bread, strange as that might seem. I know some children who will not touch white bread; they must have biscuits. I repeat that the honourable senior member for the City is definitely playing politics with food.

Dr. CUMMINS: I am dealing particularly with bread and biscuits. There is absolutely no difference in food value between bread and biscuits. There are both made of the same wheat flour. Personally, I use 75% biscuits in my home; I must have warm biscuits with my dinner every night. The honourable senior member for the City has said that bread has been cut out of the dietary at these Institutions; but there has not been any such happening. The hon. member is labouring under a false impression.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have never said that. What I said was that the answer to the first question is "yes" and that the Government have said so. The Government have said that bread is excluded from the dietary unless the hon. member has a different meaning from that.

Dr. CUMMINS: The hon. member said that bread had been cut out of the dietary which gave the impression that bread was formerly used and now biscuits are being used instead. That is the impression which I got. I will read a minute by one who has been at the Institution for 21 years: It says that bread is not included in the routine dietary; as recently as March, 1946, the diet was reviewed and approved by the Chief Medical Officer. Bread has never been included in the dietary. It is part of the Chief Medical Officer's duty to give advice as to the diet to be issued at these Institutions. Paragraph 166 of the Report of the Committee appointed by the Governor to make recommendations for the re-organisation of these Institutions says this:

"In 1946 the Chief Medical Officer reviewed the diet scale and reported that it represents an adequate and reasonably balanced diet. The fact that each child received one pint of whole milk per day in addition to meat, fish, eggs, fruit and green vegetables was satisfactory. In order to increase the

supply of eggs, fruit, tomatoes and greens, he recommended that School authorities be instructed to develop this side of their work fully."

I myself took the opportunity to visit the Government Industrial Schools; I saw the diet scale and from my knowledge of dietetics and food values I am convinced that the diet is well balanced. This question of bread and biscuits is one of personal taste; there are those who prefer bread to biscuits and there are those who prefer biscuits to bread. Personally, I prefer biscuits at dinner time. As regards the remarks of the honourable senior member for the City I should like to point out that biscuits demand a certain amount of mastication which is really better for keeping the gums hard than in the case of bread. It is the scientific opinion to-day that the amount of pyorrhoea caused not only in Barbados but throughout the world is due to the fact that we are getting away from the primitive days when people ate hard food which helps to harden the gums. We have advanced in our civilisation; but hard food which demands a certain amount of mastication is certainly better for the gums. The honourable senior member for the City feels that these replies would not be countenanced by the Chief Medical Officer but the Chief Medical Officer says that there is no difference from the nutritional point of view between bread and biscuits; there are young people with good teeth at the Government Industrial Schools and as biscuits are less constipating than white bread there is no point in substituting bread for biscuits. I think that I have dealt with the scientific and the nutritional points of view in respect of biscuits and bread; as far as the question of the conduct of the Schools is concerned that will be dealt with later on.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put, I merely want to say that I am surprised that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas should have stopped his quotation as to the feeding services at the Institutions so short. At the paragraph where the honourable member stopped he would certainly convey the impression that all is well with the dietary scale at the Institutions.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MR. LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—Before the House proceed with the consideration of Private Members' Business, I should like to do something which I omitted to do earlier to-day. I ask for two weeks' leave of absence from my duties as a member of this House as from the 18th instant.

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

RATE OF INTEREST PAID BY PEASANTS. DISCUSSED ON MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move the adjournment of the House for five minutes in order to make a few observations on a matter of importance. The matter which I would like to discuss concerns peasant proprietors—

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. How is the honourable member entitled to make that motion without obtaining the leave of the House?

Mr. SPEAKER: Any honourable member can move the adjournment without leave after two o'clock.

Mr. MAPP: As I have said, Mr. Speaker, the matter which I would like to discuss concerns peasant proprietors in this island. I represent a constituency

where peasant proprietors form the backbone and indeed the peasant proprietors throughout this island are assuming more and more importance in our set-up. It is true that this Government has been paying more and more attention recently to peasant proprietors throughout the island but the time has certainly come when it must increase the tempo of its assistance to these peasant proprietors, and take all steps necessary to make them a greater and more contented body in this community. We are faced with restrictions in our imports and day by day we know that we have to look forward to improving the food supply of the people of this colony. One of the most important ways by which the Government can help the peasant proprietors is by removing the provision whereby they have to pay interest on sums of money which they borrow from the Peasants' Loan Bank. The Government has been supplying a great need in this community by giving capital assistance to the peasants but a burden has been created on these peasants on account of their having to pay a high rate of interest on money borrowed from the Bank. That burden is illustrated by the fact that many peasants do not use the opportunity offered them by the Government to borrow money from the Bank. I say that this Government, if it deserves to be called a Labour Government, must seek at once to remove that burden from the peasants and allow them to make loans at a lower rate of interest, say 1 %, if not free of interest. The rate of interest which the peasants pay on their loans at present must be appreciably reduced if the peasants are to become a more solid backbone of this community. The percentage of holdings owned by peasants in this colony as compared with the big land-owners is small, and the only way in which the peasants can overcome their burdens is by having some capital reserve at their disposal. The peasants are faced with having to pay greater prices for labour and haulage to the factory; in fact, the overhead charges have gone up and the burdens of the peasants are tremendous. They have a very small proportion of land at their disposal and their profits are very small and complaints are being received day by day that they might be forced to plant food crops merely. Their expenses far exceed their receipts. I know that this Government will consider this matter immediately; in fact they are already considering it. It is a matter which deserves prompt attention. Every year we hear the division of land being preached and it is a matter which requires serious thought at the present moment when our greatest consideration must be to increase the value of our exports in relation to that of our imports. One of our most pressing necessities is to enable these small holders to intensify their efforts at greater productivity, and one of the best means of doing that is to allow them to borrow money from the Bank either free of interest or at a very low rate of interest. I do not think that I have much more to say in connection with this matter. It has already been discussed by the Government and I hope that something will promptly be done now that the matter has been brought forcibly to the attention of the Government. I feel sure that all of us would like to see the peasants of this island a stronger body than they are at present. We are bound to admit that the situation as regards our food supply is most serious today and we must intensify our efforts to bring about a system of catch crops whereby we can increase our food supply and at the same time maintain our present sugar crop. If we do not take such measures as I have recommended we will find that the peasants will lose badly. I do not think that I should say anything more as I know that the Government is considering the matter

already and I only hope that they will pay early attention to it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to second the motion for the adjournment merely for the sake of making a few observations. Never have I seen a more wilful waste of the time of this House than the time which has just been taken up by the honourable member who has just spoken. Last Tuesday the honourable senior member for St. Joseph begged to be allowed to move the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) so as to deal with Government Business, and promised that we would be able to proceed with Private Members' Business to-day. Earlier to-day I gave notice of a Resolution calling for a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature to discuss what in my considered opinion is the most important question facing this colony today. The question has been discussed at length by the Other Place and by the Chamber of Commerce, and we as the elected representatives of the people should pay some attention to it on the ground that our very existence is threatened as a result of the Dollar Crisis. Now the honourable junior member for St. Thomas gets up and on a motion for adjournment takes up a long time in suggesting that the rate of interest paid by peasants on loans from the Peasants' Loan Bank should be lowered or abolished completely. Last Tuesday the honourable senior member for the City brought up a very important question in this House—the question of the dumping of 13,000 fish into the sea after they had been caught—and the honourable senior member for St. Peter castigated him for not going to the Minister of Fisheries, God knows who he is—

Mr. TALMA: I should like to inform the honourable member who is speaking in that manner which is characteristic of him that the fish were dumped when he was a member of the Executive Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The first time that the Government were told about it was last week. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph declared that the honourable senior member for the City should have reported the matter to this Minister of Fisheries and that he was only wasting the time of the House to make any suggestion about cold storage. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas belongs to the same Party to which the honourable senior member for St. Peter belongs, the Party to which the honourable senior member for Christ Church believes he belongs. (MEMBERS: Shame!) Now in this matter of reducing the rate of interest paid by peasants on loans, could not the honourable junior member for St. Thomas go to the Minister of Agriculture about it? Of course, I doubt whether the Minister of Agriculture knows a cape hole from a straight bank. All the honourable junior member for St. Thomas had to do was to go to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him to get such and such a thing done. The honourable member, instead of doing that, gets up and makes a long speech and when he is finished only two people know what he has said—God Almighty and himself. After all, is it really fair for this sort of thing to go on? I can tell you that they have no settled programme for relieving the colony in the critical time through which it is passing; there are people who grapple four seats on the Executive Committee and call themselves the Government. I will not sit here and allow anything to interfere with people who really have a programme from getting something done. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas says that he knows that the Government have the matter under consideration and that they are giving it early attention; yet he wastes the time of the House so that it can appear in the Press that he has said something about the peasant proprietors. (A MEMBER: You do the same thing).

That is the sort of thing which we are not going to have very much longer; we shall be moving the adjournment of the House from twelve o'clock and nobody will get anything done. We know what the consequences will be. If the honourable junior member for St. Thomas had only enquired from his Party, he could have been told that for the last six years people in this Chamber have been endeavouring to get the rate of interest paid on loans from the Peasants' Loan Bank reduced only to be told by the Government when some members of his Party were members of the Government that that was not practical, that with the small amount being loaned by the Bank at the time there was a small amount of revenue coming in and it did not permit of any reduction in the rate of interest. I repeat finally that this morning the House were told that we hoped to deal this afternoon with a motion in relation to the Dollar Crisis and if honourable members feel like prolonging this discussion with respect to a reduction in the rate of interest to peasants, it can be prolonged. I want to make it perfectly clear however, that as long as I have tabled in this House anything which I believe is of importance to the colony as a whole, for the future whether there is Government Business to be considered or not, I am going to utilise every method at my disposal to have my motion discussed. I shall take every opportunity that presents itself to have it discussed whether any motions sent down by the so-called Government get discussed or not.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have no desire to challenge the self-styled Sir Oracle of this House in any of his statements, but I should like to ask this question; in a matter which affects vitally the economy of this colony—this happens to be an agricultural community and the peasants who are a small part numerically happen to play an important part in it—how can any honourable member stand on the floor of the House and accuse another honourable member of wasting the time of the House by presenting something which is in the interest of the people who sent us here? Earlier today owing to our set-up—

Mr. CRAWFORD. I should like to ask the honourable member where, during the course of my remarks, did I accuse the honourable junior member for St. Thomas of not representing the interest of any section of the community? I drew a comparison between the matter which he was discussing and that which the House were hoping to discuss this afternoon. That question is of more importance than the one which he was discussing.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am accustomed to these exhibitions of disturbance by the honourable senior member for St. Philip. He tries to make himself clear because he thinks that he will be misunderstood; before he began to make the comparison he challenged the honourable junior member for St. Thomas with wasting the time of the House. As an after-thought he, with his bright idea—he is the only man in this community who has the interest of the people at heart—

Mr. CRAWFORD: After all, we expect that people who are elected to this House are capable of understanding what is said on the floor of the House. I drew a comparison as to the relative importance of the matter which the honourable junior member for St. Thomas was discussing and the matter of the Dollar Crisis. The motion suggesting that the interest paid by peasants on loans should be lowered is of less importance.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: As a member of this House I say that I am accustomed to all these interruptions which we get from the honourable senior member for St. Philip. We are discussing a question relative to the peasants and, as I was saying, the honourable senior member for St. Philip is the

only man who has the interest of the people at heart. The other twenty-three of us are the enemies of the people; but we know that the honourable member in his vain-glorious attempts will be found out sooner or later. (A MEMBER: Not by you). Some people are vexed over their birth; I happen not to be vexed over my birth, I am grateful to those who brought me here. Charity begins at home; I am not one of those who feel that they have not arisen from the agricultural class. I do not happen to live in manor. Today we have before us this problem as regards the peasants who have never had the opportunity of getting sufficient loans and I make this statement—

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable members must not interrupt when another honourable member is speaking.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In a community such as this especially now that we are faced with a restriction in our imports, we have to see that the peasants are getting sufficient assistance from the Government. As the honourable junior member for St. Thomas has said, it is clear that the peasants cannot do their best for the community owing to economic strangulation; they cannot borrow as much money as can reasonably be put in their hands. There is no proper system of irrigation so that the poor people can get the best returns from their land. Many peasants are forced in the circumstances to plant canes and to plant them at a loss. They cannot risk to plant vegetables because they cannot get the necessary protection; if they plant vegetables they are not sure that they will reap them. They will plant and some other people will reap; therefore they have to plant the crop which they are most sure of reaping and that is the cane crop. In other parts of the British Empire like East and West Africa people are given grants so that they can carry out their agricultural projects. We have been told that we have to restrict our imports and I cannot see that the time is not well spent in focussing the Government's attention on a section of the community which can be of vital assistance in this food and economic crisis through which we are passing. We have to depend upon the products of this island for food and while it is good to talk about the Dollar Crisis we should like the Imperial Government to release more dollars to us. We know that many of the sterling areas are still closed to us and we also know that this Dollar Crisis does not affect us alone. I welcome any joint Conference of the Houses of the Legislature, as a matter of fact I would like a joint Conference of the West Indies to be held because I feel that the only way in which we can face this crisis is by taking united action. In any case, we have to turn our eyes and see about our own situation at home. No one who has been representing a rural constituency and knows the persistence with which the peasants have been forcing themselves on him to do something for them could be accused of wasting the time of the House in this matter. The Government should be made to know how much the peasants are suffering. The Peasants' Loan Bank was started, in the days when the peasant proprietor was at a low stage, as an experiment and now you have to allow the Bank a lot of money so that the desires of the people can be carried out. The estates are planted in food crops and sugar cane; we know the protection which the big estates get and we know that the small peasant holder does not get the same protection. All over the world the small man suffers more than the big man and in this crisis we have to turn our eyes and see what we can do to help our internal economy. Any of us who have studied this subject or moved around the people on account of our interest in them will always realise that no discussion, especially when it affects the economic situation or condition of the

peasants, can be termed a waste of time. Like the honourable senior member for St. Philip, if I wanted to waste the time of the House, I could send an honourable member outside for a piece of paper and talk until he brings it. I could go back over all the years and recall what has happened in responsible quarters to show what we did. But I will not do that; I will only deal with this problem to show the turn of certain honourable members' minds. When an honourable member brings up something of public importance certain honourable members are seeing red. It is wrong to accuse the honourable junior member for St. Thomas of wasting the time of the House because he brought up this matter before the House. If it had been brought up by the honourable senior member for St. Philip and the honourable junior member for St. Thomas had said that the time of the House was being wasted, we would know on Saturday in red type who wasted the time of the House.

If honourable members want to leave the Chamber there is no law to prevent them from doing that. Those of us who respect the Rules of the House and you, Mr. Speaker, will respect your rulings. We will not challenge your authority or that of the Chairman by saying that we will walk out of the Chamber; we will remain here to carry on the business which is before us. We have reached the stage when we have to do some plain speaking about people. As regards the question which is before us we can go on discussing it because, to my mind, it is a question of primary importance. With all the assistance which we give to the peasants we have come to the stage where they will be called upon to grow more food crops and bear a greater burden than they were bearing before.

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the honourable members for St. Philip not to interrupt; I can hardly hear what the honourable senior member for St. Peter is saying.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The more they get on like that, the longer they will make me stand on my feet. They may as well possess their souls in patience, because nothing they do will prevent me from speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can leave that to me. I will carry out the Rules of the House.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I should like to remind honourable members and the Government that some months ago it was mooted in this colony that a basis should be laid down for calculating the price to be paid for peasants' canes. A Committee was appointed to consider Professor Shephard's Report in connection with this matter—I cannot disclose the findings of the Committee because I happened to be a member of it; but one thing I can say is that when the findings of the Committee are published the public will realise how important this discussion is. The public will be able to see how important this discussion is in the light of what the Committee will have to report. We paid a lot of money in order to get Professor Shephard here to recommend the method by which the price to be paid for peasants' canes should be calculated and I am sure that those who sat as members of the Committee—the honourable junior member for St. Lucy was a member of it and he will tell you in the light of his experience that we need to go into this question which affects the peasants. I am sure that there are those of us who realise that as a result of this matter having been brought up this afternoon the Government's attention has been focussed on it. It is a matter with regard to which urgent remedial measures should be taken so as to relieve a very important part of this community.

Mr. RAMSAY: I beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr. MOTTLEY rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you speaking on that motion?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am speaking on the motion for the adjournment of the House which has been made by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas. I am doing so being fully conscious of the importance of the question. I rise to support the honourable member because I feel that this question is one of importance, not that there is not a more important question that should be discussed this afternoon unless honourable members, more especially those who are responsible to the Government, are really looking for trouble. I do not mind from which side of the House a question comes; unlike some of the more impetuous youthful members I am prepared to support it if it is for the good of the community. This question which deals with the peasants of this colony is a very, very important one; it has been raised this afternoon by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas and it hinges more especially today upon what I hope this honourable House will take the opportunity to discuss later this afternoon, that is, the Dollar Crisis. All the remarks which we have heard made in support of this motion point to the fact that it is necessary to give the peasantry of this island more effective and immediate assistance. As a member of this House, as a member of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank I have discovered, and everybody must know, that the interest on loans from that Bank has been reduced to 3½% while the peasant proprietors are still asked to pay 5% on their loans from the Peasants' Loan Bank. If you want to help the peasant proprietors you should give them the opportunity of paying less interest on their loans. (Cheers). I have not seen anybody who can control the rain. Everybody must know that if you want to have catch crops you must have some form of irrigation and while I am not prepared to say that money is being frittered away. I feel that a lot of money is being spent that could otherwise be spent for the immediate relief of the peasantry. Later this afternoon I hope that members who are taking this Party question too seriously will see that this question relative to the Dollar Crisis is bound to be discussed because nobody knows how long this crisis will last. You will get areas outside the British Commonwealth—

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member had better reserve that until later on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: My point is that you cannot give immediate relief to the peasantry unless you can have some form of irrigation but it must be well known to honourable members that windmills for this purpose will have to be imported from the dollar areas. Coming back to this question of the peasantry, I sincerely hope that this House in its entirety will be behind the findings of the Conference which has been advertised to be held by one of the Parties in this House—the Congress Party—to assist the peasantry of this colony. (Hear, hear). The honourable junior member for St. Thomas from the floor of this House has anticipated that Conference and has made a perfectly straightforward attempt to show that this House will be behind the findings of that Conference. All of us, I take it, will agree that the peasantry of any colony is the backbone of the colony. I have much pleasure in supporting the honourable junior member for St. Thomas in the motion which he has made. I should like to say that anyone who heard the honourable senior member for St. Peter on the question of playing politics last Tuesday and heard him to-day would not believe that he is the same person. I take these things with a smile.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the question before us. In doing what is being done the honourable member is just wasting a certain amount of time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The truth is that the remarks which have been made on this motion for the adjournment of the House must do some good, and the effect of them should be that when one Party is dealing in Conference with the peasantry of this colony, it will be assured of the support of all sections of this House in its findings for the bringing forward of all measures that might benefit the peasantry of the colony. I hope that I am not accusing anybody of wasting time because I will talk when I want to do so. Everybody must agree that this is a very important question and let me say finally that however important it is an immediate and effective relief can only be obtained for the peasantry of this colony if this House seriously discuss the question of the Dollar Crisis this afternoon.

Mr. COX: I should like to associate myself with what has been said concerning this question about assisting the peasants and I should like to go a little further. The peasants have been made to bear the brunt and burden of the day for all these years. We are well aware of the fact that on account of the increased cost of materials, on account of the increased cost of labour, transportation and things of that sort, on account of the static prices which have been paid by the plantation owners to peasants for their canes, the peasants have been labouring at a loss. That is why I highly compliment the honourable junior member for St. Thomas on having raised this question this afternoon. As the honourable senior member for the City has said, the Bank which lends money to the planters has reduced its rate of interest from 5% to 3½%, yet the peasants who suffer more than the planters are called upon to pay interest at the rate of 5% on their loans. We know as a fact that the peasants have to go cap in hand at times to borrow money from the factory or plantation owners and the result is that the peasants have to send their canes to the particular factories from which they borrow money whether those factories are paying higher prices for canes than other factories or not. I say that the peasants should be relieved from that situation; there could not be a better happening than for the Government to undertake to lend them money free of interest. Quite recently I spoke with Dr. Saint on behalf of peasants who got only a small amount of the manure which came into the colony and others who did not get any at all. That means that the productivity of the peasants' land would be reduced. I feel that it is high time that the Government should seek to grant the peasants loans free of interest and when fertilisers come into this colony ensure that these people get a fair share of the fertilisers rather than allow the plantation owners to get all of them. In going through a Commission of Enquiry I have found out that the peasants feel that the members of this House do not represent them at all. If we are prepared to do something to relieve the situation where the peasants are concerned we should bring this matter to the notice of the Government and ask it to do all that lies in its power to make these people free to sell their canes in the open market rather than have them under the obligation to sell them to the particular plantation owner from whom they borrowed money. Let the peasants borrow from the Government and let them have the money free of interest.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to inform honourable members that the Government is aware of the fact that a healthy peasantry is the backbone of any country. Probably in the past the Government

might have been unaware of that. The honourable member who has spoken in the manner in which he has spoken should have known better; I refer to the honourable senior member for St. Philip. He says something about the Minister of Agriculture not knowing a cane hole from a straight bank. If the honourable member had had the privilege of studying science at Harrison College—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I studied botany for five years at Combermere School.

Mr. TALMA: It might be that because the honourable member has not secured the portfolio for Agriculture or become the Minister of Agriculture he is attempting to break up the Coalition Government on those grounds.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The grounds are that I know something about agriculture.

Mr. TALMA: A Peasants' Association was formed and founded by the Progressive League in December, 1940. It so happened that I was the Secretary of that Association and I have been reading matters in this connection. The honourable member who is trying to be sarcastic and is acting in a manner which is not at all becoming—

Mr. SPEAKER: This debate is becoming a question of personalities. If the honourable member will stick to the point without being personal we will get some work done.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Previous to the formation of that defunct Association I wrote articles for the "Observer" which led to the formation of the Association.

Mr. TALMA: I should like to remind the honourable member that during the last session I gave notice of an Address dealing with subsidisation—

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with this particular matter; you are now speaking on a motion for adjournment made by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas in order to discuss something relating to peasants. There is no need to go into ancient history as to what was done or not done because it has nothing to do with what is now before the House.

Mr. TALMA: Reference has been made to Professor Shepherd's Report; I should like to remind honourable members that I am aware of the various reports which have been adopted in the past—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not what we are dealing with.

Mr. TALMA: The Government is aware of the plight of the peasants—their transportation difficulties, lack of finance and high charges for transportation and labour. The vehicles which are used for transportation are owned by the capitalists or by others who have some money and who are not peasants in reality. The labour charges have been increased about 200% or more due to the high cost of living. As to the question of irrigation I should like to say that 16 experimental pumps have been erected in various places and they are being observed to see whether the irrigation of the land will be beneficial to the peasants or not. The honourable senior member for the City has mentioned that interest at the rate of 3½% is now paid on money borrowed from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank; we know the history of that Bank, we know that money was sent down by the Imperial Government so as to assist agriculture in Barbados. In those days the position was different; the money was put to the service of the plantation owners and little or nothing was done to assist the peasants. I appeal for the co-operation of Labour members in matters of this sort; nobody should discredit an honourable member who rises and makes a point in the interest of the island as a whole.

It is not a question as to who does it, the point is that it is in the interest of the island as a whole. Much to the disappointment of some honourable members I am taking charge of the portfolio for Agriculture, which, apparently in their estimation, I know nothing about. As a member of the Board of the Peasants' Loan Bank I will see that I do not sit back and do nothing as a member has done for six or eight years. (A MEMBER: Whom does he mean?) I refer to the honourable senior member for St. Philip.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I utterly refuse to sit here and listen to that. The only occasion on which the honourable senior member for Christ Church sat as a member of the Board of the Peasants' Loan Bank he was unable to contribute a single word on that occasion. If he refers to the Minutes of meetings of the Board he will be able to see what I have done as a member of the Board for six years.

Mr. TALMA: The honourable member was not present on that occasion and still he can tell you what took place. He is sure of his facts when he is not present just as the "Observer" is sure of its facts every Saturday.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am getting tired of telling honourable members that they must keep to the point. It is just a waste of time mentioning who has done something and who has done nothing. Let us get on with the debate.

Mr. TALMA: I shall endeavour to get the suggestion made by the honourable junior member for St. Thomas implemented so that peasant proprietors can be allowed to pay a rate of interest no higher than that paid by plantation owners. I think that that is only fair to the peasants. We want to have a healthy peasantry divorced from the plantation owners.

Mr. GARNER: I did not want to add anything to this debate; it has descended to such a low level that I am wondering where is the dignity of this House as led by the Leader and his satellites. It is no respect to you, Mr. Speaker. It is time that the people see that they send responsible persons to this House, persons who do not go into the gutter but who know about the economic life of the community. Telling an honourable member about his birth is not the business of this House. If the honourable junior member for St. Thomas says that he wants to discuss this matter concerning peasant proprietors, we can discuss that and discuss it like statesmen; but descending into the gutter cannot do anybody any good. I caution honourable members on this 11th day of November that if they continue with this hostile, low-down behaviour they will see other members encircling the whole Table pretty soon. I am forced to say what the honourable junior member for St. James has said that when they were gentlemen in this House they did not descend to tell their brethren where they were born and the circumstances in which they were born; they were gentlemen, but now you get people from the gutter telling people that they were born in the gutter. I do not know how you feel about this Sir, but it is a disgrace and when a man of colour gets into that Chair they will not have any respect for him. The dignity of the House should be upheld. Here we have this behaviour by members of a Party and the Leader of the Party does not say anything about it! We have the blind following the blind but in the kingdom of the blind the one-eyed man is king. It is a shame—

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member to be a little more calm and let us get on with the debate.

Mr. GARNER: I bow, Sir. This question could have been dealt with quite easily. We have had it from the Leader of the House when the Leader of

the Congress Party was a member of the Executive Committee and a question was raised by a member of this Party, that the question could have been put to the Leader of the Party and he could mention it before the Executive Committee. The same thing could have been done in this case. If the honourable senior member for Christ Church says that he is in charge of Agriculture and a member of his adopted Party had a question to bring up, certainly he could have gone to the Minister of Agriculture and say: "I think the time has come when the peasants should pay 3½% interest on their loans; as a member of the Executive Committee will you please see what you can do about this matter?" During the past week an advertisement appeared in the Press stating among other things that the Congress Party would hold a Conference with the peasants or small cane producers of this island and this move has been made this afternoon just to forestall that.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the honourable member says that one Party is outdoing the other—

Mr. GARNER: In fairness to the public I think that that should be said. This is only because of jealousy and I appeal to honourable members not to allow their jealousy to run so far.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is just wasting time; let us get on with the work of the House.

Mr. GARNER: With regard to the findings of the Committee which sat to consider Professor Shephard's Report, everybody knows that they will be published in due time. In this connection the honourable senior member for St. Peter has made some remarks which I will not deny or confirm; but I am sure that a mere asking for a reduction in the rate of interest paid on money borrowed from the Peasants' Loan Bank cannot really help to any appreciable extent the plight of the peasant proprietors because there are very few peasants who use the Bank; they do not like their names advertised. Some of the peasants have not got clear title deeds and people do not like to be embarrassed by having their names appearing in the Press. They prefer to borrow money privately. Be that as it may, if taking off 1½% interest is going to help a certain few I say "yes" to that; but that is not such a burning question as to take up all this time in the House. That can be dealt with in Executive Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I gather that the honourable member is in favour of a reduction in the rate of interest. That being so, he admits that this and other suggestions would be of some assistance to the peasants and what is the good therefore of debating who has done something first or in the second place? Everybody is in agreement that something should be done.

Mr. GARNER: I want honourable members to know that I am in sympathy with the peasants. I happen to be a peasant myself. I think that we owe a lot to the peasants of this island. I think that while a lot of heat has been generated, all that was necessary was to do the right thing at the right time and not waste the time of the House throwing stones and mud. Meanwhile a most important issue is left untouched. I feel that honourable members should change their attitude in this House because after all, spectators and people from the middle and upper classes who come in here will be disgraced. Even some of the people from the gutter who are in the gallery bemoan this debate this afternoon because it has not done anybody any good. It does not help honourable members to be throwing stones. I have been born in the gutter and I will remain in the gutter to help those who are in the gutter.

Mr. ADAMS: After hearing the honourable junior member for St. Philip I apologise to local preachers. I cannot imagine any local preacher behaving as the honourable member behaved a few minutes ago. The speech of the honourable senior member for the City was full of some reasonable things; but the honourable junior member for St. Philip seems to have forgotten that this is a political Assembly, that there are political parties, and that every now and then some member of a party tries to steal a march on the others. All that has happened is that the honourable junior member for St. Thomas managed by a fraction of a second to rise before the honourable senior member for St. Philip—hence all this noise.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I never attempted to rise when the hon junior member for St. Thomas rose from his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would prefer if honourable members would keep to the particular matter before the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I even went to the honourable junior member for St. Lucy and suggested to him that he should proceed with his Address which was first on the Order Paper and I would proceed with my Resolution after that.

Mr. ADAMS: We have had some political education in this country and until the country says that it wants to bring back in this House people like the hon. junior member for St. James, we will have to have these little unfortunate clashes.

Mr. GARNER: I have been accused of behaving in such a manner that the people of this colony may bring back in this House people like these on this side of the table.

Mr. ADAMS: And he along with his party is already trying to do that; but as long as we of the Labour Party of Barbados have the confidence of the people, in spite of the abysmal ignorance of people who talk about a vote of "no confidence" in the Government and about the Government being defeated, we are going to be kept here. I ask hon. members to read Parliamentary procedure. This Government is working in the interest of the people and nobody can make it depart from the task which it has set itself. (A MEMBER: The people of St. George are behind you). The election in St. George was won as a result of money—

Mr. SYMMONDS rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the hon. member to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. ADAMS: I withdraw the remarks; I do not mean to cast any reflection on the hon. junior member for St. George who, I have no doubt, will stick to his election promises, and work for the good of the community. Here we have a situation where we find that one Labour Party is allying with the rich and trying to destroy the other. The position was the same with the German industrialists and Hitler, and in Jamaica the capitalists have joined with Bustamante to destroy Manley.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the good of the peasants.

Mr. ADAMS: I am just replying to the hon. junior member for St. Philip. With the type of person he is, a debate of this sort will take place all day long.

Mr. GARNER: There is a vast difference between debate and behaviour. When you get people giving away *Official Gazettes* and trying to run me out—

Mr. ADAMS: I am not interested in the honourable member being run out; his friends will run him out. As long as this Government has

been entrusted with the government of this country, it will do its utmost to fulfil its election promises and to carry out its policy on behalf of the working classes of this island. No alliance between those who have got much of their wealth out of the toil and sweat of the masses and the honourable senior member for St. Philip and his friends can possibly turn this Government from its duty. (A MEMBER: The voters will do that). We are not like those who promise things which they do not intend to carry out. I am not afraid of any threats or deliberate playing to the gallery Tuesday after Tuesday. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has assumed this afternoon that nobody will be found in this place to oppose the holding of a Conference between the two Houses of the Legislature and he became annoyed because the honourable junior member for St. Thomas made this motion. It is clear that everything that this Government can possibly do to make this island self-sufficient during this difficult period must be done and obviously in an agricultural community you can only do that by helping the peasantry. If the honourable junior member for St. Thomas in his own way has made a beginning why should it be said that he is wasting time? Night after night in the House of Commons members air their views and questions are asked at the rate of one hundred a night; there is nothing wrong with that. But honourable members will not read or learn or hear. It is a pity that the honourable junior member for St. George did not suggest that compulsory education for members of this House should be introduced. No member of this House is against the passing of a Resolution for the Government to make its best effort, for all Parties to put their heads together and face this Dollar Crisis; nobody is against that for one half second; but just because this debate started before the honourable senior member for St. Philip started off with his motion we are to have this exhibition of behaviour which is an indication that the people of this colony are going to bring back in this House the class of persons to which the honourable senior member for St. Philip is allied. I say that the people of this colony will find that they are welcoming an adder into their bosom; they will cut their throats before they do that. If people think that any alliance with the rich people of this colony will help the poor, some of the unfortunate people who think that they are being helped will suffer in the process.

Mr. SPEAKER: Having said that let us get on with what is before us.

Mr. ADAMS: Every back-bencher has the right to make his contribution to any matter; even a little newspaper reading will tell people that. Some honourable members seem to think that because other honourable members are supporters of the Government they must not express their own views from the floor of this House. Some of my opponents are really amusing. At one time you hear that some honourable members are "yesmen"; they cannot open their mouths for themselves and when they open their mouths for themselves you hear that they are wasting time. The trouble with that Party over there is that they are too slow. I hope that when the honourable senior member for St. Philip moves the passing of his Message asking for a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature, none of us will waste any time with it because we all know that we should put our heads together and do our best and see what can be done in connection with this Dollar Crisis. I hope that we will not waste any time in ranting against the British imperialists. We have to remember that we are not yet a republic; we are still a dependent colony—

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not debating that.

Mr. ADAMS: The only thing we can do in this crisis is to put our heads together and make suggestions as to what can be done about it. I would like to see honourable members including members of the Congress Party make some suggestions to the Government—out of the mouths of babes and sucklings you get wisdom occasionally (Laughter)—in relation to this problem. I am sorry if I seemed to have tired the House but for an honourable member to lose his temper because his opponent is quicker than he, is childish. The arguments of the honourable junior member for St. Philip will be infinitely more effective if he shouts a little less and attempts to speak in a cool manner.

Mr. BRANCKER: I do not intend to speak at any length on this matter or to attempt to give honourable members any advice as to how they should speak. I hope that I will be forgiven if I discuss the plight of the peasants. The grievances from which the peasants of this colony are suffering have been raised in this House time and time again and it is the duty of the Government to relieve them of these grievances. As far as the question of the weighing of peasants' canes is concerned, the Government should see that Inspectors are present at the factories whenever these canes are being weighed so as to ensure that there will not be any repetition of what has been happening for all these years; and of that terrible incident which took place at Spring Hall Factory not very long ago when the weight of a lorry load of canes was tested and found to be over 500 pounds in excess of what had been registered. To ensure that the peasants' canes are properly weighed and the correct weights recorded is the first duty of the Government, particularly in the case of sugar factories where the tickets are not given to the peasants but are kept and hidden and the peasants are told that the weights were so much and so much. Whatever price is being paid a ton of canes is not going to be a ton. Another point is that the Government should ensure that there is a fixed price paid for canes, and that matter has been closely investigated by the Committee appointed to consider Professor Shephard's Report as to the method of fixing the price to be paid for canes. As regards the interest paid on loans from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank we have reduced the rate, and I suggest that in respect of the Peasants' Loan Bank—the honourable junior member for St. Thomas has said that he knows that the Government is giving consideration to the matter—the amount of consideration by the Government will not be so small as reducing the rate of interest from 5% to 4½% or 3% but that the loans will be absolutely free of interest to the peasants. Of course it costs money to run a bank; it costs money to run the various departments which are necessary for the public; but because it will cost a little more money to run this Department if you do not charge 5% interest that is no reason why the money should not be raised. With some peasants it is made obligatory on them to give their votes to the factory owners at election time, and I feel that we should allow the peasants to get their loans from the Peasants' Loan Bank absolutely free of interest. There is no justification in charging them one quarter of 1%. To use an unparliamentary expression it is the inescapable duty of the Government "to go the whole hog." I feel that when we amend the law as soon as possible and the peasants are given their loans free of interest, we will have done something for the good of the peasants, something which is worth while, when you recall that they are a long-suffering section of the community. These 19,000 people have

for years been suffering as a result of the Government having taken no interest in them; they have been the victims of exploitation by the factory owners and they have long been cultivating their land at a loss. I feel that the least the Government can do is to take the necessary steps to have the grievances of the peasants one hundred per cent removed and let them have their loans free of interest from the Peasants' Loan Bank.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker,—I want most heartily to support the honourable mover of the adjournment of the House so as to discuss this question this afternoon. I feel that remarks have been made which have contributed towards shedding some light which the peasants will be glad to receive. The honourable senior member for the City has drawn to the attention of this House that the peasants of this colony are required to pay a higher rate of interest on their loans from the Peasants' Loan Bank than the owners of estates have to pay on loans from the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank; and that is a state of affairs which any Government which has been elected by the vote of peasant proprietors and work people should not countenance for one second longer. (Cheers). The peasant proprietors are the people of this island who should be grateful to the honourable junior member for St. Thomas who has made this motion for adjournment this afternoon. I want strongly to support the remarks of those honourable members who suggest that the peasants should be granted loans free of interest; I go further and suggest that all peasants who at this period of crisis in our history, with a tremendous food shortage facing the island, endeavour to plant food crops so as to assist in remedying this situation, should receive encouragement by way of subsidisation from the Government. (Cheers).

Mr. RAMSAY: I want to assure this House that I must deal with things in a practical way. If anyone says that the peasants are not the backbone of this community that is due to the lack of reading and of commonsense. I want this House to be practical; you cannot get something out of nothing and manna is not going to come down from Heaven. I will ask that the peasants be allowed to pay a rate of interest as low as possible; what is allowed the plantation owners should also be allowed the peasants. (A MEMBER: Lower than that). That is my idea and I want to be practical. I know you should not borrow money unless you can pay something for it. I am not subscribing to any free loan. I say: let the peasants pay interest at the lowest possible rate and let the plantation owners pay the same rate. They are all inhabitants of the country and I say that we should not discriminate. As regards the scale beams at the factories we would like the weights to be shown from both sides; I cannot say at present that anything is wrong about the weights because I cannot prove it. I know that my people are very suspicious and I would like the Government to see that these scales should be marked on both sides so that the wayfaring man can see the weights. I moved that the question be put just now so that all this bickering and quarrelling should cease. It does the Chamber no good to talk about how many of us have come from the gutter; it is disgraceful to see what we have gone on with to-day. Yet if we are children, it takes all of this to make the world. This island is in a serious plight and we should do everything possible to see that the peasants get a square deal. The honourable junior member for St. Lucy has referred to the incident at Spring Hall Factory. I do not know any thing about it but it will take a lot to satisfy the peasants. If you are going to

put people in the scale-beams permanently you will have to rotate them otherwise the peasants will not be satisfied. I know that the Government will do everything possible in this matter but they must not come back to this House with any scheme in which there is no commonsense. It is lunacy to say that people should borrow money without having to pay any interest on it. If the planters want money and the peasants also want money they are all Barbadians—they are all good, sound Barbadians—let them pay the same rate of interest. I do not appreciate anybody getting something for nothing. Up to the present time I have not heard that plantation owners do not pay any interest on their loans. I should like to say this: if I lend anybody money and he is selling shingles it is gratitude at least for him to sell them to me. How can you expect to borrow money from Bulkeley's and sell your canes to Lower Estate? That is not fair. Let the peasants have their loans at the same rate of interest which the plantation owners pay. We want social legislation passed; we want many things done and where is the money coming from? If we are to get all these things let us have commonsense. Four by four is sixteen; you cannot make it forty-four. I want honourable members to use their commonsense; do not let us ask the Government to send down legislation to lend people money free of interest. That is not practical. Professor Beasley will be against it; Cameron Tudor will be against it; I will be against it; it is not commonsense.

Mr. MAPP: When I moved the adjournment of the House in order to discuss this matter I did not imagine that the debate would have gone to such lengths. I thought that a matter of this sort would have received such wholehearted support from members of this House that we could have discussed the dollar crisis and all other crises this afternoon. I do not rise to speak very often in this House and I do not think that anyone could charge me with speaking on a purely personal basis. I hope never to do that. My reason for raising the matter in this way is this: obviously it would take a long time before you could discuss an Address in connection with the matter because the Address would have been pushed at the bottom of the Order Paper. Admittedly, this question has been raised before but the point is that nothing has been done. There was therefore nothing left for me to do but to raise the question again at the earliest possible opportunity. Too long have we in this colony been dealing with purely personal motives and not with principles. As long as I am a member of this House I hope to deal with principles, whether they are in connection with capital or labour, and not with personalities. I do not waste any time in replying to puerile suggestions; I should just like to say that when an honourable member charges me with saying that I know that the Government has the matter under consideration and is giving it early attention that is not correct. What I said was that I know the Government has the matter under consideration and I hope that they will pay early attention to it. The fact that the big land-owners can borrow money at the rate of 3½% interest while the peasants have to pay a higher rate must cause some alarm to those who have the interest of the small man at heart. This is a matter which, to my mind, should be raised at the earliest possible opportunity and that is why I raised it this afternoon. I was hoping that the matter would have been discussed within half an hour and we could discuss something else afterwards. This idea of interest started with the Jews; they started this system of usury. If you lent a man money for investment and he made a profit he had to pay you something in addition to what you lent him. In

this case we are saying that the situation of the peasants is so serious, the hardships which they have to endure are so great, that the Government should create a subsidy on their behalf. When I spoke in the first instance I suggested that the rate of interest paid by the peasants should be lowered or abolished but I am definitely in favour of its being abolished. We want to assist the colony in being more self-supporting. The small landowners must be assisted in intensifying their efforts at greater production and they are in a serious plight at present. I now ask leave to withdraw my motion.

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

RESOLUTION RE DOLLAR CRISIS.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—In pursuance of the notice which I gave earlier to-day I now beg to move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolved that in the opinion of this House it is expedient that there be convened a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature for the purpose of considering the situation arising out of the present Dollar Crisis.

Later I want to move the passing of a Message to the Other Place embodying the terms of this Resolution. It is a late hour now and I presume that at the joint meeting of the Legislature which is proposed, honourable members will be able to discuss at length the various aspects of the situation and even go further and make proposals which in their considered opinion will be of advantage in meeting the situation. I do not think it is necessary for me to make any long speech at this stage in support of the motion which I have just made; I merely want to emphasize the importance of this proposed Conference by observing that even in the matter which we have just discussed the question of stepping up the food production of the colony and making the colony more self-sufficient nothing can be done until such time as we have solved the difficulties arising out of the Dollar Crisis. Honourable members have talked glibly about irrigation units and those who face the situation as it really is will realise that in this matter of increasing our food production we can do nothing as long as the present drought lasts. Irrigation is the only thing that would be of assistance to us but with the present restrictions which have been imposed in this colony as a result of the dollar crisis we will not be able to get units for irrigation purposes. As I said in this Chamber before, one restriction is that applications for materials for capital development will not be permitted unless the equipment is of such a nature that it will be able to repay the investment within two years. Obviously units for irrigation will be included in that category in the sense that no fan mill or pump can repay its capital costs in twenty-four months. It is necessary to solve this question in some way or other and in spite of the admonition that we should not talk plainly to the British Government it is absolutely necessary for us to impress with every means at our disposal upon the British Government the fact that in our opinion it is impossible for us to exist or maintain a reasonable standard of civilised existence and it is impossible for us to put into operation what is proposed in these restrictions and let the matter rest there. Although I am at a great disadvantage in that I do not want to detain the House, I want to make a few of the points which have occurred to me. I feel that we shall have to do one of three things, namely, we shall have to take steps to ascertain in some way or other the extent of the loss in revenue which this colony will suffer from these proposed re-

strictions and then perhaps ask the British Government for an additional grant over and above the £800,000 which we have allocated to us from the Colonial Development and Welfare Department to cover the loss in our revenue; we shall have to insist that the best possible price is paid us for our main export crops in order to bring the price for our export commodities into some millions considering the price we have to pay for our imports. Incidentally I should like to say in passing that if, for instance, last year we had been paid the price for our sugar which the British Government paid other people that would have resulted in the circulation of another two and one-half million dollars in the colony. The other alternative is that we shall have to push as rapidly as possible plans for our own industrial development here. The honourable junior member for St. Philip has given notice of an Address calling for a capital of half a million dollars to be spent on a programme of industrialisation and we would be well advised to establish a Colonial Development Corporation with the capital suggested and get financial assistance for industrial development from the proposed Colonial Development Corporation. It is important that honourable members appreciate how necessary it is for some immediate steps to be taken in this matter; it is also very important to point out to the British Government that putting these restrictions in force in the way suggested must result in unbelievable privation and misery and perhaps an increase in crime. In an important matter like this honourable members are at a great disadvantage because through lack of time and light they will not be able to make the contributions which they should make. It is almost four weeks now that I have been endeavouring to get the House to discuss this matter, and although it is very urgent rather than push through this Resolution this afternoon without honourable members having the opportunity to express what is operating in their minds and give a pointer both to the local Government and the Colonial Office as to the serious attitude we are adopting, it might be better, if honourable members do not object to postpone the passing of the Resolution until next Tuesday. I feel that it is highly important that honourable members of this Chamber should be able to make some contribution to this debate. I am therefore quite willing owing to the lateness of the hour to agree to the postponement of the debate until next Tuesday if honourable members so desire.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second the motion for the passing of the Resolution this afternoon. If we express our views now we shall have to repeat them in the Other Place. The Government is more than willing to give credit to any member of this community for any suggestion which he makes. I suggest that members of the community make recommendations and send them to the Government with their names and addresses. If we are going to have a joint meeting of the Houses of the Legislature must we express our views now merely for them to be read in the Press next day?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member seconding the motion?

Mr. ADAMS: I am seconding it with pleasure. Honourable members do not realise the difficulties that we are up against in not being an independent territory. The Colonial Office told us clearly what the position would be and if any member of the community thinks that he has views to express as to what should be done in this crisis the Government will be pleased to receive them. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has suggested industrial de-

velopment: other suggestions have been made one of them being that the Department of Science and Agriculture should give cabbage and yam plants and so forth to the peasants practically free. I suggest that this Dollar Crisis is much too serious for us to make Party capital out of it. Let us pass this Resolution and ask the Other Place to meet us. There is no meeting of the Executive Committee this week and therefore no proposal will come down unless we meet. The Order Paper as far as Government Business is concerned has been cleared to-day for the first time in half a century or more, and if there is no meeting of the Executive Committee there will be no work to be sent down. The House will have to be adjourned for a fortnight.

Mr. WILKINSON: This is a matter on which every member is going to speak, and as the honourable senior member for St. Philip has suggested, we can deal with it at our next meeting. In any case I do not think that anybody will be against the passing of this Resolution and I ask honourable members to follow my example and vote for it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It may safely be said that this colony is still a glorified Crown Colony and we are at a loss to understand how the Colonial Office is telling us that they are hoping to give us a greater opportunity to manage our own affairs and then we hear something else over the British Broadcasting Corporation. Whatever may be said, it must be borne in mind that such regulations as might apply to other colonies which are more self-supporting than we are, might not apply here. Anyway I will reserve my suggestions for the joint meeting of the Legislature.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I cannot see honourable members. I am appealing for light.

Mr. MAPP rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the honourable member has already spoken.

MEMBERS: Question! -

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

MESSAGE RE JOINT MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that the following Message do now pass:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

The Honourable the Legislative Council

The House of Assembly have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a Resolution which they have passed at their meeting to-day, and ask that if the Council are in agreement with this Resolution a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature be convened at as early a date as possible, to be fixed by the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker.

Resolved that in the opinion of this House it is expedient that there be convened a joint meeting of the two Houses of the Legislature for the purpose of considering the situation arising out of the present Dollar Crisis.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day fortnight, the 25th day of November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to move as an amendment that the words "this day fortnight, the 25th day of November, 1947." be deleted in order to insert the words "this day week, the 18th day of November, 1947."

Mr. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: I should like to repeat that there will be no meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday and therefore no work can be sent down. If we meet next Tuesday we may easily get through Government Business by two o'clock and in the following week there will be no Government Business to be done. I am asking honourable members to kill two birds with one stone; the Other Place has to meet and consider our Message and then arrangements have to be made for us to meet them.

Mr. SYMONDS: There is much Private Members' Business on the Order Paper to be done and I rise to support the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: A motion has been made that this House do now adjourn to this day fortnight, the 25th day of November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon. An amendment has been moved that the words "this day fortnight, the 25th day of November, 1947", be deleted in order to insert the words "this day week, the 18th day of November, 1947." The question therefore is that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of the motion. 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:—Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT, COX, MAPP, TALMA, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, WILKINSON, RAMSAY, and Dr. CUMMINS—9.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. SYMONDS, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY and HAYNES—7.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been decided in the affirmative, nine honourable members voting "Aye", and seven honourable members voting "No". The question now is that this House do now adjourn to this day fortnight, the 25th day of November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned