THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 7, 1947.

Pursuant to prorogation, the Legislative Session of 1947-48 was opened by His Excellency the Governor Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., in the Council Chamber, Public Buildings, at 12 o'clock, noon, to-day.

The following Members of the House of Assembly were present: His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs J. T. C. RAMSAY, A. E. S. LEWIS, F. L. WALCOTT, L. E. SMITH, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, M. E. COX, Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. D. D. GARNER, C. E. TALMA, E. D. MOTTLEY, W. A. CRAWFORD, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., C. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., and E. L. WARD.

Honourable members being in their places, the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms enters the Chamber and informs Mr. SPEAKER that His Excellency the Governor is in the Council Chamber and is ready to receive the House.

Mr. SPEAKER and the other honourable members of the House, preceded by the Acting Marshal carrying the Mace under his arm, proceed to the Council Chamber and wait on His Excellency, who delivers an Address as follows:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

On this occasion, when the three branches of the Legislature meet on the threshold of a new Session, I take the opportunity to greet you, and to welcome you on your return to your twofold task of considering and disposing of legislation which is placed before you in the belief that it will make for the progress and welfare of Barbados, and of recording by free debate your views on matters of public interest.

Since the last Session opened, the Legislature has lost two valuable members. Mr. Clifford Thorne in his retirement, and Mr. John Rankine in his new and greater sphere of activity as Chief Secretary of Kenya, have our best wishes: we hope that their memories, so long in the one case, and so short in the other, of the time spent and the work done in the Legislature will be happy and pleasant, and that they will be as conscious as we are of the great and timely help they gave in the task of directing affairs in this Island for the common good.

The passage through the Legislature of a number of important government measures has been delayed by the Prorogation. To certain of these I shall refer in greater detail later. But you can look back with modest satisfaction on the work done during the 9 or 10 months of the last session. Indeed, I doubt whether in the period under review much more work could have been got through than that which has found its way to the statute book, so long as the House of Assembly is content to follow traditional arrangements, sitting only once a week, and trying to carry out, in what should be solely a legislative and debating assembly, certain purely administrative duties.

Among the more important bills which were passed by both the Houses and have received my assent are: the Sugar Industry Act; the Pensions Act; the Factories Act; and the first two of the four acts required to modernise the medical services of the Island *viz:* the Department of Medical Services Act and the Barbados General Hospital Act. Important amendments were made to the Education Act and to the Colonial Secretary's Office Act.

I should like to make special reference to two matters which were incidental to the passage of the medical legislation and of the amendments to certain acts. For many years it has been the custom that Barbados legislation should be so drafted as to require an amending act every time additional pensionable staff is required. Even in the days when changes in the establishment were rare and there was no great pressure of other legislation this method of procedure was cumbersome. Now, with rapidly developing Government services and an extensive social legislation programme, such procedure is a serious drain on your time, to say nothing of the additional work thrown on the Crown Law Office and required by reference to the Secretary of State for non-disallowance. This has been appreciated by the Legislature, and the procedure adopted in the acts to which I have referred allows alterations in the establishment to be made by resolution. I hope that this arrangement will be extended to cover all Government departments, and I have in mind the possibility of a general Civil Establishments Act which, while retaining full control in the hands of the Legislature, would make their task in dealing with establishment matters, and mine, considerably easier.

The second point to which I wish to refer is the matter of the appointment of advisory boards and similar bodies. It is, I believe, generally accepted in other colonies, that such appointments should be executive and not legislative acts; in other words, it is the duty of the Legislature to agree, or not to agree, that a board should be appointed for a particular purpose, but, once the Legislature has agreed, it is the duty of the Executive to appoint the board. I am well aware that, in certain West Indian colonies, the system of appointments to boards by the Legislature still exists; but it exists, for the most part, in colonies where the Executive is not so freely representative of the Legislature as it is here. I believe that the proper procedure in Barbados is for such boards to be appointed either by the Governor after consultation with the Executive Committee, or by the Governor-in-Executive Committee, and I hope that there will be a general consensus of opinion that this arrangement should be followed in future.

Matters of general interest discussed by way of resolution during the session included:—the purchase of the Bay Estate; enquiry into the possibility of constructing a deep water harbour; improved water supplies; salary revision; and subsidization.

Much time was also occupied in the lower House by private members business which included discussions leading to the presentation of Addresses, or to the passage of legislation relating to such widely diverse matters as the divorce law; the curtailment of the powers of the Legislative Council; the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England in Barbados; nationalization of public utilities; relief works against unemployment, and emigration.

Throughout the session I watched closely the working of the "Bushe Experiment", and from time to time took such action as I believed the Secretary of State would approve to give it every opportunity to produce sufficiently definite results for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom eventually to decide on the ultimate political set-up for Barbados.

I believe that one political lesson is being rapidly learnt: it is that the progress and welfare of this country do not depend on an overruling master in the Colonial Office, nor on a mysterious "he" living in Government House, nor on a nebulous "they" chosen by him, at random or for personal reasons, but on the electors of Barbados who, of their own free will, return members to the House of Assembly: and that those so returned cannot shelter behind the alleged sins of omission or commission by other people but must account in due course to their fellow countrymen for what has been done or not done during the sessions which make up the all too short life of a local parliament.

The Addresses passed by both Houses relating to the power of the Legislative Council to alter or reject bills passed by the House of Assembly did not reach me in time for them to be considered in Executive Committee before the session ended. Since the House of Assembly considered their address a matter of urgency, I sent copies of both addresses to the Secretary of State without comment, promising a further communication after Executive Committee discussion, and when the Hansard and an analysis of the voting became available. At the same time I shall forward my own comments as, I hope, a completely impartial observer of the position.

But, whatever may be the decision on this specific point, I believe that the time is coming, if it has not already come, when quite apart from the powers of the Legislative Council and with no specific political point in view, the membership of the Council might well be appreciably increased so that wider representation may be given to various shades of opinion in the community, and the

work of the Chamber facilitated by the presence of experts in such matters as agriculture, finance, and the like. In this way, I believe the Council could contribute in an appreciable degree towards the creation of well-informed public opinion by initiating debates on matters of general interest, based on complete and accurate information regarding the subjects discussed.

I must refer to two important matters which have been engaging close consideration while the Legislature has stood prorogued. The published reports of the Montego Bay Conference have confounded the pessimists and greatly encouraged those who see in federation the hope of dominion status for the West Indies. It now remains to carry out in the spirit of inter-colonial collaboration which marked the proceedings of the Conference the recommendations which the Conference has approved. We are particularly happy that Barbados has been chosen as the place in which the Standing Closer Association Committee will work. We shall be very willing to assist that Committee in every way possible.

Secondly, as regards what is popularly known as the 'dollar crisis'. The seriousness of the foreign exchange position is well known to you. It has been the subject of a lengthy personal message from the Secretary of State to all Colonial peoples and it has made necessary a drastic revision of import control policy. Discussions on this subject took place between the financial advisers of the various West Indian colonies attending the Closer Association Conference at Montego Bay. There has unfortunately been some delay in making an announcement owing to the necessity for obtaining the Secretary of State's instructions; but these have now been received and a full statement is being issued. In the circumstances I do not propose to speak on this subject at greater length here. I should warn you, however, that there will certainly be a heavy reduction in imports from all sources. Such a reduction will inevitably be reflected in the Colony's revenue figures.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

The Surplus Balance at the beginning of the current financial year after deducting the amount of unpaid vouchers in the Treasury on the 31st of March, 1947, was	£1,102,556
The Revised Estimate of Revenue for the year 1947-48 is ..	£1,833,298
Making a total of	£2,935,854
The Revised Estimate of Expenditure for the year 1947-48 is	£1,935,486
Which should leave a balance at the end of the current financial year of	£1,000,368

This is £145,213 more than was anticipated when the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the current year were placed before you in March. Fuller details of the financial position are set out in the Appendix to the printed copies of this Address.

While the financial position remains sound it is well that I should remind you that in the near future demands for increased expenditure are likely greatly to exceed any hopes of increased revenue.

As regards the accumulated surplus, you will remember that the views of the Executive Committee on the Barbados Ten Year Plan, which were tabled with my despatch No. 33 of the 29th of April forwarding the plan for consideration in London, indicate the desire that a considerably larger capital sum than that originally suggested should be made available for local development. As regards recurrent expenditure, all development involves increased annual votes: in this connexion I believe that the time has come when a number of activities, generally accepted or of proven value to Barbados, hitherto financed under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, should for various cogent reasons be taken on our estimates. I have in mind such projects as the Erdiston Training College, the Fisheries Development Scheme and the Maternity Training Hospital. There is also the normal expansion in expenditure of departments to be provided for, to say nothing of the innumerable directions in which Government assistance is sought to create better conditions of life and work in Barbados.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

You have a heavy session ahead. The draft legislation sent to you as government business is not what I, or a few persons chosen by me, think desirable, but what the Executive Committee, on which you are fully represented, advises

me is necessary for the country. If such legislation is not passed it is not the Governor who suffers from frustration and disappointment, but the people of Barbados whom you, directly or indirectly, represent. How much time you propose to devote to Government business in the months to come is for you to decide; but I suggest very early consideration of methods whereby the time which you do so spend may be put to the best advantage. It was the mere labour of reading every word of the Quarantine Bill which prevented it being passed last session—there are longer bills than the Quarantine Bill to come before you in the very near future.

The following bills will be re-introduced:—the Quarantine Bill; the Bill to amend the Prisons Act; the Bill to amend the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act; the long-delayed Land Acquisition and Town and Country Planning Bills; and various other measures and resolutions which died with the Prorogation. Among important new measures to be introduced are:—a Public Health Bill which will complete the legislation necessary to modernise our medical arrangements and a Bill to nationalise oil mining rights.

Legislation to provide for the payment of members of the Executive Committee and of members of the House of Assembly will be reintroduced. I hope that goodwill on the part of both branches of the Legislature, and a readiness to find a satisfactory compromise, will produce a solution of the present impasse in this matter.

In the course of the Session, Professor Beasley's Fiscal Report and the final Report by Mr. Roddam on the Barbados water supply will be available for you to study and consider. The Committee appointed to consider the reorganisation of the Volunteer Force has reported and its recommendations will receive careful attention. The Shephard Report on the price of canes, and the Social Welfare Officer's Report on the local old age pensions system have both been referred to Committees whose reports I await. We shall also be exceedingly interested in the report of the delegation which we sent to Surinam to investigate conditions there, and in the report of the Evans Commission. I am making enquiries as to the possibility of obtaining a suitable commissioner to make the enquiry into local government in Barbados which the Legislature has already agreed is desirable, and I hope before long to place before you proposals for the reorganisation of the administrative side of Government social welfare work.

I now declare the Legislative Session open and pray for the guidance of Almighty God in your deliberations.

HILARY BLOOD,
Governor.

APPENDIX TO THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

The Revenue balance at the beginning of the present financial year 1947-48 was ..		£1,124,225	
but from this must be deducted the amount of unpaid vouchers in the Treasury on the 31st of March, 1947		21,669	
leaving a balance of			£1,102,556
The estimated Revenue for 1947—1948 (as detailed in the Estimates of Revenue) was ..		£1,574,793	
To this should be added the following estimated increases over the Estimated Revenue—			
Customs	£130,040		
Excise	1,000		
Income Tax	120,000		
Post Office	6,182		
Waterworks ..	1,283		
		258,505	
bringing the revised Estimate of Revenue to			1,833,298
and making a total of			£2,935,854
The Revised Estimate of Ordinary Expenditure, which comprises the following:—			
(a) the estimated expenditure for 1947-48 (as detailed in the Estimates of Expenditure) was	£1,396,593		
(b) supplementary expenditure authorised to the 5th of September, 1947 ..	14,315		
(c) estimated additional supplementary expenditure to the 31st of March, 1948 ..	20,000		
amounted to		£1,430,908	
To this must be added the following:—			
(a) estimated expenditure from resolutions passed prior to 1st of April, 1947 ..	£ 88,539		
(b) estimated expenditure from resolutions (otherwise than in supplementation of the Estimates of Expenditure) passed in 1947-48 ..	286,039		
(c) estimated additional amounts required to meet expenditure to the 31st of March, 1948, (otherwise than in supplementation of the Estimates of Expenditure) ..	130,000		
which amount to		504,578	
making a total estimated expenditure for the current financial year of			£1,935,486
and leaving an estimated Treasury surplus at the 31st of March, 1948, of			£1,000,368

At the close of his Address, His Excellency gives a copy of it to Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER and the other honourable members, preceded by the Acting Marshal bearing the Mace, then return to the Assembly Chamber and proceed to business.

Prayers are read.

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House waited on His Excellency in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to deliver an Address. The Address is very long and I should be glad if some honourable member would move that it be taken as read.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to move that His Excellency's Address be taken as read.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to second that.

The question that His Excellency's Address be taken as read is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SELECT COMMITTEE TO DRAFT REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: It is usual to appoint a Select Committee of five honourable members of this House now to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Speech. That Committee generally consists of the mover and the seconder of the motion and three other honourable members.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,— I beg to move that a Select Comittee of five members of this House be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that a Select Committee of five members of the House be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's speech is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following members a Select Committee for the purpose:— The junior member for St. Lucy (MR. BRANCKER), the senior member for St. Thomas (DR. CUMMINS), the junior member for the City (MR. LEWIS), the junior member for St. George (MR. DOWDING), and the senior member St. Peter (MR. F. L. WALCOTT).

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,— I should like to be excused from serving on that Committee. I think it must be an oversight that the junior member for St. James has not been appointed on the Committee and I beg to withdraw in his favour.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for the City asks to be excused from serving on this Committee and I appoint the honourable junior member for St. James a member of the Committee.

EXCUSES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Dr. CUMMINS offers an excuse for the absence of the senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. CRAWFORD offers an excuse for the absence of the senior member for St. John who is indisposed.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

On the motion of MR. LEWIS, seconded by MR. HAYNES, the honourable junior member for St. Peter (MR. RAMSAY) is appointed Chairman of Committees for the Session.

RESIGNATION OF MR. H. W. SPRINGER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the honourable senior member for St. George, (MR. SPRINGER), as follows:—

Enfield.
Collymore Rock,
St. Michael,
October 7th, 1947.

His Honour the Speaker,
House of Assembly,
Public Buildings.

Sir,

I have accepted the post of Registrar of the University College of the West Indies and, in consequence, I shall be unable to continue to be a member of the House of Assembly.

I, therefore, respectfully request the Honourable House to accept my resignation.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Yours faithfully,
HUGH W. SPRINGER.

DOCUMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Colonial Treasurer his Financial Report for the month of August, 1947.

PAPERS LAID

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

Message No. 29/1947 from H. E. the Governor informing the House that he has assented in the name and on behalf of His Majesty to certain Acts.

Message No. 30/1947 from H. E. the Governor informing the House, with reference to Resolution No. 30/1947, which authorised the expenditure of £5,063 on the erection of a new Pay Ward A at the Barbados General Hospital, that owing to an oversight it was not stated in the Resolution that the funds provided would be used partly to meet the cost of building and partly for the purchase of the necessary furniture and equipment, and enquiring whether the House agrees that part of the funds provided under the Resolution shall be used for the purchase of furniture and equipment for the new Pay Ward A.

Message No. 31/1947 from H. E. the Governor transmitting for the information of the House the report of a Conference held in Barbados in May, 1946, to consider proposals for a modified currency in the Eastern Group of the British West Indies, and enquiring whether the House is in agreement with the Conference's recommendations.

Report of the Caribbean Commission for the year 1946.

Statement of the amount incurred by the Highways Commissioners of St. George in connection with the cleaning and repairng of suck wells.

Seventh Annual Report of the Executive Council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux, 1945-46.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as folllows:—

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. Adams): Special Resolution under the provisions of section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's office (Amendment) Act, 1947.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. Blackman): Resolution to approve the following Rules made by the General Nursing Council under section 9 of the Midwives and Nurses Registration Act, 1932 (1932-1).

Mr. CRAWFORD (On behalf of Mr. Blackman): Resolution to approve the following Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under section 5 of the Fishing Industry Control Act, 1947 (1947-4).

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. Blackman): Resolution to place the sum of £3,000 at the dispsal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the rehabilitation and extension of the fishing industry of the Island.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. Blackman): Resolution to approve the following allocation of the balance of the Stabilisation Fund fixed by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 2nd of October, 1947, on the advice of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board under the provisions of section 10 of the Barbados Fancy Molasses Production and Export Act, 1937.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Resolution for £391. 13. 3 as a gratuity to Mr. Joseph Nathaniel Straughan in respect of his 29 years' combined service with the Commissioners of Highways, St. Michael, the Central Road Board and the Department of Highways and Transport.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Resolution to place the sum of £11,613 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the service of the Colony as set out in the Schedule to the resolution.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Resolution for £552 to supplement the provision in the Etsimates of Expenditure for the year 1947-48 under Head VI, Customs. Item 7, Three Watchmen by £152; and item 23, Rent of Warehouses, by £400

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Bill to amend the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928 (1928—9).

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Bill relating to quarantine and similar matters.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Bill to grant additional sums of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the years ended the 31st of March, 1941, the 31st of March, 1942, the 31st of March, 1943, the 31st of March, 1944, the 31st of March, 1945, and the 31st of March, 1946.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Bill to amend the Prisons Act, 1890 (1890—13).

Mr. CRAWFORD: Bill to amend the law relating to the Christ Church Foundation Schools.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Bill to amend the law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (On behalf of Mr. ADAMS): Bill to amend the Married Women's Act, 1896.

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

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly begs to point out to His Excellency the Governor the fact that Fire Insurance Policies are not issued in respect of peasants' growing canes.

2. The House respectfully requests that His Excellency shall initiate the necessary steps whereby it shall become possible for peasant proprietors (like plantation owners) to insure their sugar cane crops against loss or damage by fire.

Mr. GARNER: Of the followinng Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House is of opinion that in order permanently to put an end to the inequitable distribution of land, in this island, where fully 2/3 of the cultivable acreage is owned and controlled by a handful of sugar plantations, in order to assist in the creation of new land owners, to ensure that a wider number of people share in the profits derived from agriculture, to facilitate the utilization of land for the best public benefit under efficient and economic production plans to assist in enabling agricultural workers to acquire parcels of land on which to erect their homes, and to take all action leading to the most scientific, economic and efficient enjoyment of land by the people of Barbados that legislation should be enacted for the purpose of:—

1. Limiting or prohibiting the holding, possession, dominion, management or acquisition of land in excess of 500 acres by individuals or companies of any sort whatsoever.

2. Creating a land authority which shall have power,

(a) to carry out the agricultural policy of the island as determined in said legislation.

(b) to acquire land holdings in excess of 500 acres at private sales at which sales the Authority shall have, within a time to be specified, preferential right to acquire said land holdings for their just value, with priority over the rights of other persons or entities. At the expiration of the specified time, the Land Authority to have power to attend the public sale held for the disposition of such land and to have priority or preference to purchase said land at the auction sale in those cases where it offers a price equal to that offered by the highest bidder.

(c) to hold, control, possess, use and develop agricultural lands with an area in excess of 500 acres and to create or authorise organisations, entities or agents to do so, and for the carrying out of other purposes mentioned in said legislation.

(d) to borrow money for any of its purposes and to secure repayment of same by the encumbering, mortgaging or pledging of all or any of its land, property, contracts, revenues and income; to make, issue and sell bonds for any of said purposes and to secure their payment.

(e) to sell, alienate, lease, cede or transfer the land acquired with or without the final purpose of sale, to individuals, agricultural cooperatives or persons participating in proportional-profit farms.

3. Defining and establishing proportional profit farms on the following basis

(a) The Authority shall be empowered to lease lands, in parcels not exceeding 500 acres to farmers, agronomists or other persons with experience in agricultural management, in farms to be known as proportional-profit farms.

(b) The lessee shall cede in usufruct, under Rules to be made by the Authority, and without any pecuniary consideration, parcels of an area of from one quarter to one acre of land, to each one of the families of the workers residing on the farm at the time of its acquisition by the Land Authority, and who are still residents thereof at the time of the signing of the lease to the lessee or of the workers regularly engaged thereat in a proportion of not less than one family to every 20 acres. The fruits of these parcels to be wholly for the families having the usufruct thereof; provided that the authority may not require this in the contract of lease for certain specified farms where the efficiency of utilization of the land may so demand.

(c) The workers working on that part of the farm not ceded with these parcels shall receive for each day's work or part thereof, as an advance, the regular wage stipulated by agreement or by law, and each worker shall be entitled to receive, on a specified date or dates each year, a proportional part of the profits of the farm in proportion to the days he has worked and to the wages or salary he has received as an advance on his labour on said farm. This provision of the contract to include not only the labourers having parcels on the farm, but all such labourers as well who at any time may work on the farm by order of the lessee. Provided that the basis on which the net profits of such farms are computed is specified by law.

4. Providing for the protection of all real property of the Authority from levy and sale by virtue of an execution, such provision not to apply to or limit the rights of bondholders or mortgage holders to foreclose or otherwise enforce any mortgage of the Authority.

5. Appropriating from general revenue the sum of £300,000 for the Land Authority.

The House respectfully request that legislation to give effect to the proposals set out above be sent down to the Legislature at the earliest possible date.

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully begs to point out to His Excellency the urgent need of a Government owned Printery in this Island.

2. The House asks that His Excellency shall take immediate steps with a view to the establishment of the above.

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully requests His Excellency the Governor forthwith to introduce legislation for the purpose of abolishing the Grand Jury.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House is of opinion that, in order to assist in the reduction of living costs, strong representations should be made to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to obtaining a greater release of hard currency in order that more of our essential supplies may be purchased outside of the sterling area.

The House is further of opinion that, in the allocation of quotas for supplies from the hard currency areas, not less than one third should be ear marked for new traders, that is, traders who established business since the commencement of the war.

Mr. BRANCKER: A Bill to amend the Offences against the Person Act, 1868 (1868-5).

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly begs to point out to His Excellency the Governor that the necessity exists in this island for the immediate establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal.

2. The House asks that the Governor-in-Executive Committee take early steps for the purpose of establishing such a tribunal.

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly respectfully draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor the fact that the present system, whereby only two Judges sit in the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Assistant Court of Appeal, has proven entirely unsatisfactory and not in the best interest of the administration of justice.

2. The House request that Your Excellency shall transmit to the Legislature a Bill with the object of restoring the third Judge to the abovementioned court.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly has the honour to draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor the fact that there are in this Island, a considerable number of persons of African descent.

2. Amongst the abovementioned persons are a considerable number who are at present unemployed and for whom there is no hope of employment in the near future in Barbados.

3. The forefathers of many of these people were brought against their will, to the West Indies, and to this Island, from their homeland, the continent of Africa. Their ancestors possessed a great tradition and a culture of their own. Away from their homeland, the impact of European civilisation has tended to affect and influence the minds and culture of the descendants of these original slaves.

4. The House of Assembly desires in the interest of restoring to their homeland such residents in this colony as would seek to return to their African motherland, and to relieve the problem of the surplus population of this Island, that every effort be made by local Government, to return to the African Continent as many persons of Negro origin of this country as desire to go back to that Continent, and request that Your Excellency will transmit the desire of the House to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House is of the considered opinion that all business, commercial and industrial concerns which operate in this island, including commission houses, insurance companies and insurance agencies, hotels, banks, electric supply corporations, gas and telephone companies, warehouses, factories, cinemas, pharmacies and, agencies for steamships and airways companies, etc., should be compelled to employ a reasonable percentage of Negro assistants on their clerical and other staffs and respectfully request that legislation be sent down to the legislature with this object in view.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House is of the opinion that Scholarships should again be provided for girls from the primary schools of the Island to Queen's College.

2. The House requests that His Excellency would send down legislation to give effect to this proposal.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly is of the considered opinion that, as, for obvious reasons, private capital cannot be expected to embark upon new major industrial enterprises, the Government should take the lead in a programme of industrialization for Barbados.

2. For this purpose, the House is of opinion that the sum of £100,000 should be appropriated from general revenue for the establishment of the Barbados Development Co., which shall be authorised to conduct research and experimentation, make plans and designs, acquire, operate and improve industrial and commercial enterprises; to make loans and to discover and develop to the fullest possible extent the human and economic resources of the island, form and hold interests in subsidiary corporations and enterprises; to accept grants, borrow money and issue bonds on such terms and conditions as it may decide.

3. The House respectfully request that legislation for this, and for similar purposes, be sent down to the legislature.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully requests that Your Excellency will send down legislation to prohibit the expansion of chain stores and the entry of wholesale merchants into the retail trade.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House is of opinion that in order to promote the general welfare of the community and to ensure the organisation and development of a healthy and unified public opinion, steps should be taken at an early date with a view to the removal of colour barriers or any sort of racial discrimination which exists in this colony.

2. The House is in complete agreement with the suggestion made in a recent issue of the "London Times" that Colonial Officials should in future be forbidden to belong to clubs which impose a colour bar.

3. The House respectfully requests that legislation be introduced designed to prohibit Colonial Office Officials from obtaining membership in, or from participation to any extent whatsover in the activities of hotels, clubs, associations, or social or recreational centres of any sort which maintain racial discrimination in any form.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House is of the opinion that recreational centres or playing fields are absolutely essential throughout the island in order that centres for relaxation and exercise may be provided for both children and adults.

2. The House is of the further opinion that funds collected from this year's output of sugar for the Labour Welfare Fund should be allocated for the establishment of such a centre or playing field in every parish, in which, so far, none exists, and respectfully requests that Your Excellency will take the necessary steps to implement the recommendation contained in this resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House respectfully request Your Excellency to send down legislation having for its object the appointment of Janitors to the Elementary Schools.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly have the honour to request Your Excellency to take the necessary steps to investigate the feasibility of obtaining water from wells situated at Farmers Gully in the parish of St. Thomas, originally used for supplying water to the Waterworks, with a view to relieving the shortage of water in this island, especially in the parishes of St. James, St. Peter, and St. Lucy.

Mr. WILKINSON: A Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

Mr. HAYNES: A Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911.

Mr. WILKINSON: Of the following Address::—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly have the honour to request Your Excellency to appoint a Commission to consider and report as to the advisability of (a) amending the Anglican Church Act, 1911, and in what way (b) of disendowing the Anglican Church and all other Churches receiving contributions from the Government, and (c) disestablishing the Anglican Church.

Mr. COX: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly are satisfied that officers who have resigned from the Government Service after the 31st March, 1946 during which the question of cost of living bonus was under consideration rightfully deserve a cost of living bonus on lines similar to those of officers now in service.

The House of Assembly therefore respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to send down legislation necessary to implement the above mentioned project.

Mr. COX:—Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. In view of the grave dissatisfaction existing amongst the rate-payers of the Parish of St. Michael caused by the substantial increase in the rates for this year as a result of the over-expenditure by last year's Vestry, the House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to take immediate steps to set up a commission of enquiry to probe into the aforesaid over-expenditure and to consider and make recommendations concerning the method of administering the finance of the Vestry, and other Parochial Boards.

Mr. LEWIS: A Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911, (1911-5).

Mr. TALMA: A Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939 (1939-19).

Mr. COX: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly request Your Excellency to send down legislation to provide for a graduated system of Liquor Licences in proportion with the amount of business done and to prohibit the conduct of wholesale and retail liquor business under the same licence.

Mr. GARNER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly respectfully begs to draw to the attention of Your Excellency the inadequate seating accommodation for Visitors to the House of Assembly Chamber and pray that Your Excellency will take the necessary steps to improve the seating capacity.

Mr. HAYNES: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House respectfully ask that His Excellency the Governor take immediate steps to divide the eleven parishes and the City of Bridgetown into 2 wards each for the purpose of electing members for the House of Assembly.

Mr. COX: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House is of the opinion that immediate provision should be made for the extension of facilities for Secondary education.

2. It therefore respectfully requests Your Excellency to send down resolutions to provide for new and/or enlarged schools, with necessary modern equipment including a free supply of books for their pupils.

Mr. TALMA: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly deems it an urgent necessity for Government to organise and institute free first aid medical centres in each District or Village with a population of 500 or over in this Island by providing not only a properly stocked Medical and First Aid Centre but also a properly and duly qualified Nurse and Midwife.

2. The House of Assembly is of opinion that no one who seeks such aid, despite of colour, race or creed, should be denied such privilege and/or assistance.

3. The House would respectfully beg to draw to Your Excellency's attention that no fewer than six Villages or Districts in Christ Church are in dire need of such amenities; and presume that such a state of affairs exists in each parish in this Island.

4. The House therefore sincerely hope that Your Excellency will implement this proposal without delay by sending down the necessary Bill with all convenient speed and by so doing, thereby relieve grave suffering and distress among the poorer classes.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

The House are of the opinion that the Burnt Out Area at Speightstown is a reproach to a modern town, and respectfully request Your Excellency to send down a Resolution to provide funds for the erection of a Band stand in this area.

Mr. TALMA: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly have the honour to draw to the attention of His Excellency the Governor

the fact that a *Fire Brigade Station* with all the necessary equipment is urgently needed for Oistin Town.

2. The House respectfully ask that His Excellency take the necessary steps so as to provide for an adequate Fire Service for Oistin Town and the neighbouring districts.

QUESTIONS.

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

(1) Is Government aware that there is persistent infringement of Clause 22 of the Education Act, 1890—12, prohibiting the employment of children under twelve (12) years as labourers on Sugar Estates?

(2) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to enforce observance of the Act.

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

In view of the desirability of rendering all possible assistance to the fishing industry, will the Government consider the advisability of making a "Special Grant" to the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip for the specific purpose of putting into proper condition the road leading to the Foul Bay beach, which can now be traversed by fishermen, or fish vendors with loads of fish only with the greatest difficulty?

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

Will the Government take steps to ascertain whether there can be a reduction in the selling price of soap manufactured in this Island?

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

Will the Government make enquiry into the status and activities of the Company called The British Guiana and Barbados House Building Scheme Company which has an office at No. 47 Swan Street Bridegtown, with a view to ascertaining whether this Company is in any way connected with a Company of somewhat similar name which was recently banned in Trinidad?

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

Is Government aware of the urgent necessity that exists for the introduction of drastic reforms at the Government Industrial Schools in order to put an end to the malpractices which now exist, and to bring these Institutions more in conformity with similar Institutions in advanced countries, especially with regard to

(a) the existing primitive methods of punishment.
(b) the undesirability of operating the Reformatory and the plantation under the same Management.
(c) the absence on the staff of experts trained in the knowledge of dealing with delinquent children.
(d) the anti-social, dangerous and demoralising association of mental defectives with normal children.

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

1. Is the Government aware that bread is excluded from the dietary of the 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 source is made available to the inmates of these institutions?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the following Bills are read a first time:—

Bill to amend the Apprenticeship Business Act, 1928.

Bill to amend the Prisons Act, 1890.

Bill relating to Quarantine and similar matters.

Bill to amend the law relating to the Christ Church Girls' Foundation School.

On the motion of Mr. WILKINSON, seconded by Mr. S. A. WALCOTT, a Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. HAYNES, seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, a Bill to amend the Vestries Act is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. TALMA, seconded by Mr. BRANCKER, a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. LEWIS, seconded by Mr. BRANCKER, a Bill to amend the Vestries Act is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. BRANCKER, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Offences Against the Person Act is read a first time.

LEAVE TO GIVE A NOTICE

Mr. LEWIS having asked for and having been granted leave to revert to Notices, gives notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the House on a future date to comment on the action of the Lord Bishop in criticizing the conduct of certain members of this House.

ORDER PAPER

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order on the Order Paper of the next meeting shall be the letter from the honourable senior member for St. George, resigning his membership of the House and the second Order shall be the Report of the Select Committee appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's speech. Private Members' Business shall be fixed in the order in which the respective Notices are given.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CRAWFORD: As it is not yet 2 o'clock I beg, with your Honour's permission, to move the adjournment of the House to this day week, Tuesday, 14th October, 1947 at 12 o'clock noon.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Philip is asking my permission to move the adjournment of the House before 2 o'clock. In the circumstances I grant that permission. The question is that this House do now adjourn until this day week, Tuesday, October 14th, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 14th October, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon.