THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th October, 1947.

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

Present:

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

After prayers, Messrs. CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, and SMITH enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 7th October, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

ILLNESS OF THE CLERK.

Mr SPEAKER: I regret to inform the House that the Clerk of the House is ill and that I have made arrangements for the Deputy Clerk to act as Clerk and Mr. L. E. R. Gill to act as Deputy Clerk. I should like some honourable member to make motions approving of what I have done.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. RAMSAY, the Clerk of the House is granted leave of absence from his duties for the day.

ACTING APPOINTMENTS.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Deputy Clerk is appointed to act as Clerk for the day's sitting.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, Mr. L. E. R. Gill is appointed to act as Deputy Clerk for the day's sitting.

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 ended 30th September, 1947.

PAPERS LAID.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to present the following Papers:—

Message No. 33/1947 from His Excellency the Governor informing the House that he has appointed Mr. G. H. Adams, Mr. H. D. Blackman, Dr. H. G. Cummins and Mr. C. E. Talma to be members of the Executive Committee during the current legislative session.

Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to make recommendations for the re-organization of the Government Industrial Schools.

Statement of Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders to the 31st August, 1947.

PETITION

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to present a petition from the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. Philip praying the House to pass a Bill to grant them permission to raise a loan of £2,202 to enable them to purchase a road roller for the use of the parish. The petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

The petition is taken as read.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. C. E. TALMA: Special resolution under the provisions of section 4 of the Department of Science and Agriculture Act, 1925 (1925-5) as amended by section 2 of the Department of Science and Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 1947 (1947-31).

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution for £200 to supplement resolution No. 41 of the 30th of April, 1947, to provide the necessary staff and stationery for, and to meet incidental expenses in connection with the carrying on of an organization for banking the compulsory savings of Barbadian workers employed in the U.S.A., for the payment to their nominees of the allotments authorised to be paid under the terms of the workers' contracts, for the payment of any Court order in respect of the maintenance of any

person dependent on the workers, for the reimbursement of any monies paid by the Government of Barbados in respect of duties in the U.S.A., and in respect of advances made to the workers by way of cash or in order to effect insurance.

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

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. GARNER: A Bill to authorize the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip to raise a loan of £2,202 to enable them to purchase a road roller to be used in repairing the roads in the said parish.

Dr. WILSON: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly points out to His Excellency the urgent need in the parish of Saint John for a Clinic, wherein children of working class parents may be provided for and looked after during such periods as their mothers are at work.

2. The House asks that the Government shall forthwith take the necessary steps to institute a Clinic as aforementioned.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly are of the opinion that in view of the complex nature of Government business and the desirability of keeping the Public fully informed of the Policy and Decisions of the Administration, and the progress of affairs concerning the welfare of the people of this Island, Your Excellency should take the necessary steps to establish the post of Public Relations Officer.

The House would welcome such an appointment following the lines adopted in many of the other West Indian Colonies and that preference be given to a person with practical experience in the collection of information and its presentation.

Mr. MOTTLEY: A Bill to amend the Parochial Employees Act, 1944.

Mr. CRAWFORD: A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1901, as amended by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1943.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House of Assembly has received with considerable interest the report that Hon. L. B. Carasco, M.L.C., Leader of the St. Lucia delegation which visited Dutch Guiana to enquire into and report upon general conditions of living and work in that country, also visited the Dutch colonies of Aruba and Curacao where he obtained a quota for an appreciable number of St. Lucian Artisans and unskilled workers for employment in these 2 colonies.

2. The House is of opinion that steps be taken immediately to investigate the possibility of securing an outlet for our unemployed in these 2 colonies and urge that action with this end in view be undertaken immediately.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor

The House views with considerable apprehension the gravity of the economic position in which it is anticipated the colony will find itself in consequence of what is popularly referred to as "the dollar crisis."

2. The House is of opinion that the considerable reduction in our imports which is envisaged and the resultant loss in revenue, must cause an increase in the present widespread unemployment and social misery, and respectfully urges that a representative Committee be set up at once to consider and report upon all aspects of the situation.

QUESTIONS.

Dr. WILSON: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of this House:—

1. Is it a fact that in the year nineteen hundred and forty, workers as Engineers, Firemen, and Cleaners of the several Pumping Stations were promised to be provided with suits (overalls) and boots by Government?

2. Is it also a fact that this promise was to be implemented after the cessation of hostilities?

3. If the answer to the above questions 1 and 2 respectively be in the affirmative, will Government state when they propose fulfilling their promise to the said workers?

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

(1) Will the Government consider the advisability of appointing a small Committee including at least 2 shopkeepers to consider the margin of profits made by the Retailers particularly those in the Country districts who have additional overhead expenses due to the distance from the sources of supply?

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

Will the Government state what is the reason for the delay in commencing work on:

(1) The East Coast Road.

(2) The Tenantry roads in the parish of St. Andrew for which provision was included in the resolution for £75,000 passed by the House of Assembly on July 22nd last for the purpose of helping to relieve unemployment?

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

What steps is Government proposing to take in connection with scale beams at sugar factories throughout this Island for the protection of the interests of peasants, who sell their canes to such factories, in view of the proven error in the weighing of a load of canes this year at Spring Hall Factory, St. Lucy,—an error which was in favour of the purchaser of the canes?

Mr. MOTTLEY: To enquire of the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present in the House at its next meeting:—

1. Is it a fact that the Government has recently refused to grant Licences for the importation of Canadian White Potatoes whereas during the same

period Licences have been granted for the importation of Chewing Gums?

Mr. CRAWFORD: To enquire of the Senior Member of the Executive Committe present in the House at its next meeting:—

1. Will the Government cause to be published for the information of the honourable House, a statement showing the recommendations contained in the Calver Report on the Barbados Police Force which have been implemented to date?

2. Will the Government also cause to be published a statement explaining why un-implemented recommendations remain not implemented?

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

How many Barbadian ex-servicemen from World War II, approximately, are now again resident in this Island?

2. Of the above, how many are presently unemployed?

3. In connection with the above unemployed, will Government explain what steps are being taken to provide adequate eployment for those Barbadians who offered their lives for King and Country?

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

1. Whether Government will consider installing radio sets at every rural Police Station in this Island, for the benefit of policemen stationed at such places?

2. If the answer to question (1) above, is "yes", will Government also have these sets equipped with loud speakers, so that residents in such districts may listen in to programmes?

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

1. Has the attention of Government been drawn to a circular issued in August 1947, by His Excellency the Governor of Trinidad to all Heads of Government Departments in that Colony directing that "whenever a vacancy for first appointment or promotion occurs they should hesitate long and search their consciences hard before they recommend that it is essential to import a United Kingdom Officer"?

2. Will Government strongly urge on the Colonial Office that preference be given to West Indian, and particularly Barbadian, applicants for such appointments in the local Civil Service as are now, or may become, vacant?

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

1. Whether an Overseer in the Department of Highways and Transport has been promoted over the heads of other Overseers, senior to himself in that Department, to act as Chief Overseer?

2. If the answer to the above question is "yes", is it a fact that this Overseer had previously resigned on very short notice from this Department, and was reinstated only a few years ago?

3. If the answer to question 2, above is, "yes", will Government state whether the service of the Overseer in question is reckoned from the date when he was reappointed on the staff?

4. Whether dissatisfaction exists amongst other employees in this Department in connection with the acting appointment of this Overseer with its implications?

5. Whether it is a fact that certain Overseers of this Department are taking 'Home-Study' courses for the improvement of their knowledge in connection with their work, as Road Overseers?

6. If the answer to question 5 above is "yes", how many such Overseers are there, and is one of such Overseers the gentleman referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 (above)?

7. Whether Government has recommended to this Department increased wages for labourers in the said Department?

SELECT COMMITTEE'S DRAFT REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to draft a Reply to the speech which His Excellency the Governor delivered at the opening of this legislative session and I beg to move that the draft Reply be now read.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The question that the draft Reply be now read is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The draft Reply is read as follows:—

The House Of Assembly
To
His Excellency The Governor

1. The House of Assembly thank Your Excellency for the Speech you were pleased to deliver at the opening of the Legislative Session 1947-48 and for your comprehensive review of the events of the past session.

2. The House note with satisfaction the sound financial position of the island.

3. The House fully appreciate the many matters of importance referred to in Your Excellency's Speech, and assure Your Excellency that any measures for the good of the Island will, when laid before the House, receive their careful and sympathetic consideration.

4. In conclusion Your Excellency may be assured that the House will do all in its power to further the best interests of all sections of the community.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the House agrees to the draft Reply being printed and circulated among honourable members.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On the motion of Mr. GARNER, seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD, a Bill to authorize the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip to raise a loan of £2,202 to enable them to purchase a road roller to be used in repairing the roads in the said parish is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. GARNER, a Bill to amend the Parochial Employees Act, 1944, is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, seconded by Mr. GARNER, a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1901, is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, 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 is read a first time.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITEES

Mr. ADAMS: Before the Orders of the Day are entered upon I wish to draw to the attention of honourable members the fact that last week when the House met for the first time this session it forgot that it should have dealt with the appointment of the several Standing Committees. I am suggesting to the House that it agree to-day to re-appoint the Standing Committees that existed during the last session, with the exception of substituting for the name of the senior member for St. George the name of the junior member for St. Lucy on the Printing Committee, the Debates Committee, and the Hospital Board and the name of the senior member for Christ Church for the name of the senior member for St. George on the Board of the Peasants' Loan Bank. I make the latter suggestion because the senior member for Christ Church is now the member of the Executive Committee dealing with Agriculture.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the House approve of your suggestion you can move the appointment of the Committees seriatim, otherwise the House will have to do what has been done in the past, that is, appoint the senior member for each constituency a Select Committee to consider and recommend to the House the members of the several Committees. The question is that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph be allowed to move the appointment of the several Standing Committees instead of what has been done in the past. If there is no objection, the honourable member will be granted leave to proceed. There being no objection, the honourable member may proceed.

On the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the following Committees are appointed:—

The Printing Committee. Messrs. BRANCKER, WILKINSON, ADAMS, and CRAWFORD.

The Debates Committee. His Honour the SPEAKER, Messrs. BRANCKER, WILKINSON, ADAMS, and CRAWFORD.

General Hospital Board. Messrs BRANCKER, TALMA, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, LEWIS, BLACKMAN and Dr. CUMMINS.

Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. Messrs. HAYNES, CRAWFORD, BRANCKER, and MOTTLEY.

Board of Agriculture. Messrs HAYNES, S. A. WALCOTT, WARD, and DOWDING.

Board of Management of the Agricultural Credit Society. Mr. FOSTER.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN, the following Committee is appointed:—

Board of the Peasants' Loan Bank. Messrs. TALMA and CRAWFORD.

On the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the following Committees are appointed:—

Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board. Messrs. HAYNES, S. A. WALCOTT, NIGEL REECE and D. H. ROACH.

Bridgetown Housing Board. Messrs. ADAMS, and RAMSAY.

Sugar Production and Export Control Board. His Honour the SPEAKER, Messrs. WARD, GARNER, and H. O. EMTAGE.

The following are appointed Members of the *Victoria Emigration Society* by Mr. SPEAKER:—Messrs. CRAWFORD, MAPP, and Dr. WILSON.

GOVERNOR ASKED TO ISSUE WRIT FOR BYE-ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order is to consider a letter from the senior member for St. George resigning his seat as a member of the House of Assembly. According to Rule 54 I shall direct the letter to be recorded on the minutes and, that having been done, declare the seat vacant, unless a motion is made that such letter of resignation be not entered on the minutes and is carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present. No motion having been made to that effect, I direct that the letter be entered on the minutes and I declare the seat vacant. A member of the House should now move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor asking him to issue a writ for the election of someone to fill the vacant seat and a motion of that nature is usually moved by the other member representing the constituency in question.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker,—I shall move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor-in-Executive Committee asking him to issue a writ for the election of someone to represent the parish of St. George in this House but before doing so I should like to say a few words on behalf of my late colleague. He has been for a long time a member of this House and a representative of St. George's parish and I do not think there is anyone present who will not agree with me when I say that his regisnation will be a great loss to this House and to the island as a whole (Cheers). He has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of this House and he has been a very straightforward representative of St. George. But in particular, Sir, I would like to draw members' attention to his great powers of debate. His tenacity of purpose in sticking to the point at issue was admirable and I think that the members of this House would do well to emulate the honourable gentleman's powers of debate and his tenacity of purpose in sticking to the point at issue. I beg to move that the following Address do now pass:—

> To His Excellency Sir Hilary Rudolph Robert Blood, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados.

May it please Your Excellency,

A vacancy having occurred in the General Assembly owing to Hugh Worrell Springer, Esquire, a Member for the parish of St. George, having vacated his seat,

We, the representatives of the people in the General Assembly, pray that Your Excellency-in-Executive Committee will be pleased to issue a new Writ for the election of a member to serve in the General Assembly for the parish of St. George in the place of the said Hugh Worrell Springer.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address. There is very little that I can add to what has been said about the late member for St. George. His sterling qualities are well known not only to the members of this House but also the people of this island and I go so far as to say that his going out of politics is a loss to the West Indies. As I said, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Address and in conclusion I will say that the standard set by the senior member for St. George is one which any member of this House would do well to emulate (Hear, hear, and Cheers).

Mr. CRAWFORD: I sincerely hope that the senior member for the City is not entirely serious in his remarks when he said that he hoped we would all follow the standard—

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not say that. I said that the standard set by the senior member for St.

George in debate is worthy of emulation by any man coming into politics in this colony.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable member for St. George to present the Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. DOWDING: As Your Honour pleases.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

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

REHABILITATION AND EXTENSION OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—The first Resolution is for the sum of £3,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the rehabilitation and extension of the fishing industry of the island. The addendum sets out the matter very clearly and speaks for itself. I hardly believe that this can be considered a controversial matter and that being so, I appeal to honourable members to agree to the passing of this Resolution and let us get through the business of the House. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

GRATUITY OF JOSEPH N. STRAUGHAN.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for the sum of £391. 13. 3. to be granted to Mr. Joseph Nathaniel Straughan as a gratuity in respect of his twenty nine years' combined service with the Commissioners of Highways, St. Michael, the Central Road Board, and the Department of Highways and Transport. The addendum sets out the particulars and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: I would like a little more information about this matter. I would like to know whether Mr. Straughan elected to take a gratuity in lieu of a pension, whether this was done with or without his consent.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—While that information is being awaited I would just like to take this opportunity of saying,—as I happened to be on the Central Road Board for several years while Mr. Straughan, the gentleman in question, was an employee of that Board—how fine an example he set in the performance of such duties as were assigned to him and how much we all admired his ability and appreciated the painstaking service which he rendered to that Board. I think that an occasion like this should not be allowed to pass without public reference being made to the very conscientious and very able service which he unstintedly rendered, certainly from the time he was an employee of the Central Road Board and, I have no doubt, when he continued to be an employee of the Highways and Transport Department.

Mr. LEWIS: I congratulate the Government on giving this deserving servant this gratuity and I certainly do not wish to hold up the passing of this Resolution. But in my opinion the junior member for St. John should have obtained the leave of the House to take charge of this Resolution which stands in the name of the senior member for St. Philip.

Mr. BLACKMAN: In reply to the senior member for St. Andrew I will state that in a letter dated 30th July, Joseph Nathaniel Straughan made application for the gratuity which the Government has granted.

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

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £11,613 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the service of the colony. The amounts asked for appear under six Heads of the Estimates and the notes explaining the reasons for these amounts are as full as they can be. I do not think there is anything more I can tell honourable members. I have taken the trouble this morning to go through the notes and as far as I can see there is nothing more in the files than what appears in the notes. Taking the Heads seriatim I beg to move that Head VIII, Post Office, item 14, Overseas District Mails (Air—1946-47) £1,365, item 18, Postage Stamps — 1947-48, £1,300 stand part of the schedule of this Resolution.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Before the question is put I should like to tell the honourable member in charge of this particular Department — and I am saying it in this way so that the public can have the satisfacton of knowing that their grievances are brought to the attention of the Government — that the Post Office must make an attempt to be a Post Office and to give satisfaction to the public. It is not fulfilling that function now. There is no Department of the Government that is giving the public the annoyance that the present Post Office administration — whether it is due to lack of staff, congestion or whatever it is — is giving. The public feel that improvements can be made immediately whether the Post Office is removed or not and they are not satisfied with the present state of affairs. There is nothing that is done at the Post Office that gives satisfaction. I am very sorry to say it but I think that it is time that somebody speaks out and persists in getting something done.

Mr. BLACKMAN: The criticism of the junior member for the City will be gone into and action taken which will satisfy the public.

The queston that Head VIII, Post Office, £2,665 stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PRISONS.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, Head XVI, Prisons, item 17, Supernumerary Officers and Matrons—1947-48, £50 stands part of the schedule.

EDUCATION.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XX, Education (ii) Second Grade Education, item 20, Grant-in-aid (1) Combermere School — 1947-48, £456 stand part of the schedule. This amount is made up of £343 for paying two additional Masters of Combermere School with effect from the beginning of the next school year and £113 to pay a Secretary-Treasurer for the school from the 1st July, 1947, to the 31st March next year.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. HAYNES: I would like some information about this item. I see from the notes that it is proposed to appoint a Secretary-Treasurer — a whole time officer I take it — at a salary of £200 a

year. I want to know what authority the Governing Body of Combermere School has for paying this amount of money. Not that I consider it is too much or too little but I would like to know what authority it has for this purpose because in the near future a similar situation will arise in connection with another School.

Mr. ADAMS: I suppose that the honourable member is asking that question in order that other persons who have no knowledge of the subject may get the information. There have been, as far as I know, from time immemorial Secretaries and Treasurers of these Schools, except that the Secretary or Treasurer may have been in the Department of Education. When I was a boy at school at Harrison College Mr. M. T. G. Mahon used to be the Secretary of these Schools. At one time Mr. Frank Layne was the Secretary; so that there is nothing novel about this item. The only thing novel about it is that the person who used to be the Sceretary-Treasurer of Comberemere School has resigned from the Government Service — as far as I know, Mr. Tucker used to do the work — and it is proposed to appoint someone outside as Secretary-Treasurer. Harrison College, Queen's College, St. Michael's Girls' School have Secretaries. There is no reason why the Parry School or the Foundation Schools, if they find that they need Secretaries, should not have them. I cannot tell the honourable member what authority there is but there is authority because this has been going on for years. I dare say that there is some regulation giving the Education Board the right to appoint such officers as they may deem necessary. If the honourable member fears that other schools may apply, then I say that it is the duty of other schools to apply, if they find that they need Secretaries and I have no doubt that the House will be willing to grant the amounts that are necessary to pay the salaries.

The question that Head XX, Education, £456 stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PENSIONS.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, Head XXVI, Pensions, stands part of the schedule and consists of the following:— item 3, Police and Fire Brigade Pensions and Gratuities — 1946—47 £3,566, item 4, Teachers' Pensions and Gratuities — 1946—47 £428, item 6, Public Pensions and Gratuities — 1946—47 £3,678, and item 21, War Bonus on Pensions — 1946—47 £34.

SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

Mr. ADAMS. I beg to move that Head XXVIII, Subsidies and Grants, item 4, Commissioners of Health, St. Michael—1946-47 £70 and 1947-48 £70 stand part of the schedule. As honourable members will see from the notes the Commissioners of Health of St. Michael are given a grant of £200 a year to enable them to carry out the provisions of section 4 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1945, that is, to pay a building inspector. Inasmuch as the Vestry of St. Michael has granted a cost of living allowance to its employees on the same basis as was granted to public officers, the Commissioners of Health have asked that the grant of £200 a year be increased by £70 for each of the two years to enable them to pay a cost of living allowance on the same basis to their building inspector.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second the motion.

The question that Head XXVIII, Subsidies and Grants £140, stand part of the schedule is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—The last Head in the Schedule is XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, item 5, Government Binding an Printing — 1947-48 £500 item 13, Telephone rental, transfers and installations —1947-48 £13, item 45, acting allowances, payment of substitutes — 1946-47 £23 and item 42, Uniform and Messengers—1947-48 £60. The first amount, as honourable members will see from the notes, is to cover the cost of printing the report of the Architect and Planning Officer. It is proposed that the report shall be printed in the United Kingdom and shall incude the various colour plans of proposed improvements etc. It is not set out here and I am speaking from memory, but my recollection is that it is felt that a considerable number of copies of this report will be bought locally and in other West Indian colonies. That money, as customary, will have to be given to public places in Great Britain and, I believe, other parts of the Empire, so that I am not in a position to say that the whole £500 will be recovered from the sale of copies of the report. But it is a thing on which we cannot economise. Even the most up-to-date local printery cannot reproduce all these colour plans. I have seen—and other honourable members may have seen too—some of these colour plans as regards town planning schemes in Birmingham and other places in Great Britain. Even a layman who sees for the first time these colour plans showing the density of population, the amount of traffic and so on, is amazed at the clearness in which these things are set out in these books; he can follow easily and have a clear conception of the difficulties of town planning. I feel sure that no honourable member will object to this vote and that they will be very anxious to see the report in print. I think this may be the appropriate stage to say that all of us must have felt that if there was one—shall I use the expression "imported official"?—if there was one imported official who has done a good job of work, it is Mr. De Syllas, as members of the Legislature who saw his plans of the City of Bridgetown and its suburbs will agree. The notes in respect of other items state very clearly the reasons for the respective amounts and I beg to move that this Head stand part of the schedule.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—This sum of £500 for printing this lay-out of the City of Bridgetown and its suburbs, to my mind, seems a waste of money. We all saw these plans the other day; they were on view at Goddard's Restaurant and anybody who wanted to see them could have done so. I see no reason why this enormous expenditure should be met for this purpose. After all, Sir, if it is necessary to duplicate these plans, the present holder of the office has a staff who can do the work. Presently, we shall be in need of money for useful purposes; this sum of money can be more usefully spent otherwise and I beg to move that the amount under this Head be reduced by £500.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to draw attention to item 13 under this Head. This item deals with the Highways and Transport Department and I would like the member in charge of this Department to give me some information. Here we find that they are effecting some improvements for the Superintendent Mechanic of the Department of Highways and Transport. Sometime ago we passed a Resolution increasing the salary to be paid to a Foreman Mechanic and now we are dealing with this item under this Head I want to know what has become of that post which was advertised and appli-

cations called for. It has been drawn to my attention that the Director of Highways and Transport no longer thinks that post is necessary and I would like a statement made in this House as to why it is that we should have been asked to pass that Resolution so hurriedly and now to be told that the Director no longer sees the necessity for such a post. I think that if we allow things to go on like this, it will become a serious state of affairs in this island because in one breath, the Director will ask this House to do something for him and after the House has done it, then in the same breath he will say that he no longer considers it necessary. I do not know for what reason this post no longer finds favour with him—whether it is that he does not like the appearance of the persons who applied for it or for personal reasons. It would seem, Mr. Chairman, that there is some individual whom they want to appoint and they want to change the name of the post so that it will be easier for this particular individual in the community to fill it. But I say quite strongly that if I cannot get a clear statement about that, I should prefer to reduce this vote now in order that we may have a statement on that point because it is not fair to honourable members. We are asked to improve a Department such as the Highways and Transport Department by creating posts for it and after these posts have been created, no mention is made at all about them, but we can hear from private sources that the Director of Highways and Transport feels that this post should not be worried with. I am sorry that I have to make these remarks but if we have a Department that is acting in this manner, then it is a serious state of affairs. As we all know, a foreman mechanic is an important person to be employed in that Department and that post has not been filled since the last holder of it died. I believe he died about a year ago and the post has not been filled despite the fact that there are many mechanics in this island. To my mind, it is an insult to the men of mechanical skill in Barbados to say that you cannot find a man to replace the one who is dead. What is happening to all the garages? We see motor cars and motor trucks being driven all over the island day after day and I cannot believe that it is an impossible task to find someone in Barbados to fill this post. It may be that individuals who applied do not find favour with the Head of the Department and it is atrocious to have such acts being committed and no one says anything about it. I say, Mr. Chairman, that in order to make examples of Heads of Departments we should reduce their votes so as to get clear statements about their actions and I beg to move that this amount of £596 be further reduced by £13.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—I beg to second the motion of the senior member for St. Andrew that the vote under this Head be reduced by the sum of £500. As the honourable member said, it is very much a luxury at this time for us to send to England all the plans we have seen and the public have seen—they were nicely displayed in the building known as Goddard's Restaurant—to be printed. If these colour plans were printed and offered for sale I venture to say that not many people will buy them. Let us all remember that we have warned that we are in for a financial crisis and we, as trustees of the people's purse, should keep this amount of money and use it in feeding the people. We should not send it Home at the present time to have these pretty booklets printed. Further, Mr. Chairman, you and I know that all these plans cannot be carried out; there will be generations and generations before Barbados is planned on the ideas of the Architect and Planning Officer. I repeat that we have been warned—and I think every member knows it—that we are in for a hard time and I do not think that at this time we should spend this money in printing what I call pretty booklets that will be of little use, at any rate to the members of this Chamber.

Mr. WARD: I substantially agree with what has been said by the honourable member who has just sat down. We must bear in mind that the Architect and Planning Officer himself admitted, when we went to see these plans, that he could not say when they will be carried out because this work will take generations of people to do it. Therefore, I think it is absolutely unwise for us at this present moment to spend £500 in printing these plans.

Mr. COX: I would just like to make a few remarks in connection with item 13 which relates to the installation of a telephone in the private home of the Superintendent Mechanic of the Department of Highways and Transport. Now, Sir, until I am convinced as to the necessity of having this telephone installed in this gentleman's home I am afraid that I cannot support this vote. In the first place, we have not been given any idea as to the necessity for this telephone. The people who are employed by this Department knock off between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon; the lorries are in by 5 o'clock, everybody is clocked by 5 o'clock and the only body who is outside after 5 o'clock is the watchman. It is far different from the Waterworks Department in connection with which there are burst pipes at night and the Manager and Superintendent have to be called out to supervise the repairs. The Superintendent Mechanic looks after the units of the Department of Highways and Transport and those units are housed by 5 o'clock every afternoon. He is not the Director of Highways and Transport; he is not the Executive Engineer; he is the Superintendent Mechanic in charge of these units and, as I said, these units are in their stations by 5 o'clock every afternoon. Now, we are being asked to give him a telephone. I am not going to sit here and put a telephone in this gentleman's house for his private use. We are creating a precedent of which every individual who occupies a similar position in a Department will take advantage. They will come to this House and say "You gave that gentleman a telephone and he has no night work to do; we have night work to do and we want telephones." As the senior member for St. Peter has said, not so long ago this House passed a Resolution to increase the salary to be paid to a Foreman Mechanic. Every honourable member knows the history of that post. I think that it was in 1946 that that post was created; the person who held it has since died and no one has yet been appointed to fill it. We appointed a Select Committee to go into the matter. The Director appeared before that Committee, and at his request the Committee reported that the salary was small and was not likely to attract a qualified man and recommended that it be increased. The Select Committee also made other recommendations in connection with that Department which are not yet implemented but the Governor-in-Executive Committee sent a Resolution to this House for the increase in salary for which the Director of Highways and Transport asked in respect of the Foreman Mechanic and this House unhesitatingly voted the amount. Mr. Chairman, you will be surprised to know that two of our best qualified mechanics, mechanics who can practically construct a motor car, mechanics who can take a motor car's engine to pieces and reconstruct it in the dead of

the night, applied for the post and the Director of Highways and Transport cannot yet find a man to fill it. He is claiming now that the post is no longer necessary; he has put us to all this trouble of voting and re-voting money and now we hear that it is no longer necessary to have a Foreman Mechanic. I cannot help saying that the Head of that Department is a very inefficient man. He does not know what he wants; he wants this and he wants that and when you give it to him he says that there is no necessity for it. I am suggesting that we must know something about this telephone before we vote this amount and I am going to vote against it unless the member in charge of the Department can convince me that this telephone is absolutely necessary.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—Perhaps I am the most unfortunate person in the House to make the appeal I am now going to make. As far as I understand, the Superintendent Mechanic is also in charge of the Government Water Boats, the Harbour craft. This item appears under Miscellaneous Services,—telephone rental, transfers and installations; it is only the notes which direct you as to who the person is and they unfortunately do not mention the entire services which the particular officer has to perform. I am appealing to the members who have criticized this vote, to remember that there are such occasions as the hurricane seasons; that the water boats are very expensive things and that in the event of a hurricane taking place the provision of a telephone to call this Superintendent Mechanic may result in the saving of a considerable sum of money. I also understand that this officer assists with the Fire Engine because the Government has no repair shops in many of its Departments. Honourable members know that when the Police Vans are to be repaired, they cost a considerable sum of money. I do not wish to give the impression that this officer repairs them but I understand that he helps in an admirable way in keeping the fire engine in repair. I would not delete this amount for this telephone but I agree that we should ask the member in charge of the Department of Highways and Transport to see that some satisfaction is given in that Department because undoubtedly there is dissatisfaction as is mentioned by the senior member for St. Peter. I feel that it is unfortunate we have to rectify it in the manner suggested.

Mr. GARNER: I am not going to support this £500 for the printing of these colour plans. On numerous occasions I have come to this House and asked this Gvernment to subsidize the people's food, such as rice and other items, and its members have told me that they cannot increase the cost of the subsidization scheme. As His Excellency the Governor rightly said in his speech at the opening of this session, our revenue will be less and we have to make reductions in certain ways; therefore, I cannot fritter away £500 in printing something that will be of no use. The spending of £500 in other ways will do a lot more good than spending it on paper which the people will not buy and as some honourable member has said, these plans will not be carried into effect during this generation. Any sensible man who saw the Architect's plans will know that 100 years will pass before they are carried into effect. On that ground I am not going to vote for this £500 and I counsel other honourable members not to vote for it, bearing in mind that we have to look for money to maintain a lot of unemployed people in this island. The people are starving and naked and nobody thinks of that but £500 is to be sent to England to pay for paper which we will have nothing to do with.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A).

On re-assembling.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In view of the fact that there is one matter on the Order Paper which I am told is a matter of urgency—Order No. 7 dealing with Fancy Molasses I am asking the House to agree to the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to finish the consideration of the Resolution with which we were dealing before the adjournment for lunch and also to deal with the other Resolution and then proceed with Order No. 7. If honourable members want to revert to Private Members' Business after that I am entirely in their hands. I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a).

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

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

Mr. COX seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES FOR THE SERVICE OF THE COLONY.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was in Committee of Supply before the adjournment we were considering a 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. Item 6 of the Schedule was under discussion.

Mr. ADAMS: Before anybody flogs what seems to be a dying horse, I should like to point out that when the members of the Government agreed that this vote of £500 should be sent down—when we agreed to that before the prorogation of the Legislature—we were all persuaded by the argument that it was a useful thing to do. I myself was more than persuaded because I had seen similar reports of English town planning and being a layman I gained considerable knowledge from the colour plans attached to these reports showing density of population, the dangers of overcrowding. and so on. I certainly did improve my knowledge of the possibilities of proper, up-to-date planning. But circumstances have changed; that was before the dollar crisis. I agree with honourable members that now we have the dollar crisis that is a reasonable argument against the expenditure of this money. What surprises me, however, is the warmth of the seeming indignation of those honourable members who are opposed to the expenditure of the money. This is not a matter of great policy, it is not a matter of the Government falling; we were all persuaded by Mr. de Syllas that this was a good thing to do, and in

spite of what honourable members have said, the books are being sold. Even non-experts are buying these books and other publications concerning town planning. I have seen one in connection with town planning in Roseau, Dominica; I have seen other schemes of town planning as well. It is not just a waste of money; it is not a question that the reports will be published and will not be sold. I repeat that this is not a matter of great policy and now that there is this question of the dollar crisis I am perfectly willing to withdraw this item from the consideration of the Committee. I ask leave to do so. As regards the item in connection with the installation of the telephone at the residence of the Superintendent Mechanic of the Department of Highways and Transport, I am going to do some plain speaking even although some of my friends may get hurt. I do not mean this to be offensive in any way, but the so-called Minister in charge of Highways and Transport for the past ten months would know more of this than I would know. It is true that the Director of Highways and Transport may be *persona non grata* with honourable members; he may be the most inefficient man in Christendom, he may be a most unlikeable man; but if something is needed in his Department should we refuse to provide it? Suppose Colonel Duke was a most unlikeable man and he recommended that it is impossible to run the Fire Brigade without new hose; because he may have demoted a sergeant and fired a non-commissioned officer are we going to say that we are not voting the money for the purchase of the hose? I am surprised that any grown individual should use an argument like that. I am not sheltering behind anything; but I heard to-day for the first time in my life that Mr. Skinner is supposed to have changed his mind as regards some post. What in the name of Heaven has that got to do with whether the Superintendent Mechanic should have a telephone installed at his residence or not? If it is suggested that it is quite fitting for the head of the water boats to have a telephone what is the difference between that argument and the argument put forward by the Government that there may be a case of emergency at the Department of Highways and Transport and therefore we put a telephone in the house of the Superintendent Mechanic and pay for it? Many business places, political bodies, trade unions and the like do the same thing because it is obviously necessary to do it. A person normally may not be able to pay for a telephone for his private business but nevertheless in order to get hold of him it is far better to pay for telephone than for something to go wrong and then to lose hundreds of pounds for the sake of saving a mere £13. There is an old minute here which says that the provision for a telephone at the residence of the Superintendent Mechanic is necessary and has been recommended by the Advisory Board as shown in an extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the Board. The extract states: "The Chairman stated that it had been brought to his notice while investigating an outbreak of fire on a road roller that the Superintendent Mechanic was not provided with an official telephone and that he considered it essential that the Government should install and maintain a telephone at the residence of the Superintendent Mechanic as his line of work was liable to more calls than any other officer of the Department. He strongly recommended that a telephone be provided for the Superintendent Mechanic and after consideration this was agreed to." We did not agree to put this matter for consideration in the Estimates but it became necessary to put it in this Resolution. I appeal to honourable members to pass this Resolution with the deletion of the £500 for the printing in the United Kingdom of the report on the general layout of the City of Bridgetown and suburbs. If that is not absolutely essential and we can save this £500 then we will save it. The amount asked for under this item will therefore be £96.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is asking leave to withdraw the amount of £500 under this item from the consideration of the Committee. If there is no objection, leave will be granted the honourable member. There being no objection, the honourable member is granted leave to withdraw the amount.

The question that Item 6 as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of £11,113 do now pass.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The Resolution was passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION *Re* CUSTOMS

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for £552 to supplement the provision in the Estimates 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.

The reason for this Resolution is that the rum trade has considerably increased and the storage is not equal to the trade which we have got. The charges made for the storage of rum in the warehouses would be equivalent to the expenditure. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I see it stated in the addendum to this Resolution that it is being left to the Government to rent suitably located warehouses. I think that this is a matter which the Committee should know something about and I am asking the honourable member in charge of the Resolution if he can tell us the warehouse which they have in mind. I would like the honourable member to say, if he knows it personally or has any information on the point, whether the storage of rum at the warehouse is likely to create a fire hazard in a residential area, as has already been done.

Mr. BLACKMAN: This warehouse is situated at Bush Hall. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade has stated that it is situated in open ground more or less and will be suitable for use as a spirit bond.

Mr. COX: As regards the watchmen I would like to again draw to the notice of the Government the fact that the system of paying watchmen by the period is a bad one. On the last occasion when the Estimates were before this House I drew to the notice of the Government that watchmen employed at the Department of Highways and Transport as well as those employed at these warehouses had to work for a period of 105 hours a week and they earned $7 a week or $1 a period. If a man worked from four o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock next morning he was paid $1 for that. Quite recently I saw a man watching some tools belonging to the Department between two fields of canes; that poor man had no where to shelter out of the rain and he was in the middle of the road walking up and down for a dollar for his period. I say that the system is a

wrong one. Even although that man might have had to remain there for the night, I feel that some provision should have been made so that he could rest himself. After all, he is not a mongoose; he is a man. Apart from that, it is necessary for the Government to make some adjustment as regards the wages paid to these watchmen. Whether employees are supposed to work for 44 or 48 hours a week, I feel that the same thing should apply to the watchmen and if they are called upon to work for extra hours they should be appreciably remunerated for those extra hours' work. I again draw to the attention of the Government that the hours of work so that these watchmen can earn $1 are too long; I hope that on the next occasion when the wages of these watchmen come before this House we will see that the conditions of their work are improved.

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

The Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing in Committee of four Resolutions, one with an amendment, and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

The House resumed and Mr. SPEAKER reported accordingly.

On motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has intimated his intention to proceed with Order No. 7 and I should like to draw the honourable member's attention to Rule 60. I think that he will have to move the suspension of that Rule. Of course it can be done in another way and that is to have the Orders called and not proceed with them.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know that it makes any difference because in fixing the Order Paper the Orders can always be brought back up. If it will save time——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you should ask leave to move for the suspension of the Rule.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 60 in order that Order No. 7 may be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

M. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION *RE* FANCY MOLASSES STABILISATION FUND.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Order No. 7 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip:—

To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the 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.

I would suggest you ask leave that all the Orders standing in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Philip be placed in the name of the Government member taking charge of them.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that this Order be taken charge of by the honourable senior member for Christ Church.

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

Mr. TALMA: This is one of the usual Resolutions to approve the following allocation of the balance of the stabilisation fund fixed on the 2nd of October, 1947, by the Governor-in-Executive Committee 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:—

The balance of the stabilisation fund shall be allocated among producers of fancy molasses and among producers of sugar other than muscovado sugar as follows:

(a) among producers of fancy molasses at the rate of .5768 cent a gallon on every wine gallon produced; and

(b) among producers of sugar other than muscovado sugar at the rate of 124.172 cents per ton of sugar made.

The addendum sets out all the points involved. This is a regular routine matter which I hardly think calls for any further explanation. It really explains itself and the Resolution is based on Resolutions of a similar nature which have come before the House in the past. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second that.

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

The Resolution was passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENTS IN THE SECRETARIAT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph:— To move the passing of the following Resolution: Special Resolution under the provisions of section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's Office Act, 1903 (1903-5) as amended by section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's Office (Amendment) Act, 1947.

Mr. ADAMS: This Resolution, as honourable members will see, is a Resolution to approve the appointment of officers in the Secretariat. I think that all honourable members have been told what has happened. In my anxiety to get through the Bill for the appointment of a Financial Secretary and the subsequent Resolution I completely forgot, and the House forgot with me, that this Resolution could not be passed until the Bill had been passed making provision whereby these appointments could be made. The Bill was passed by the House but not by the Other Place and so it was not assented to by the Governor. Therefore when we passed this Resolution on the last Tuesday but one before the prorogation we were premature and it is necessary to bring it back before the House now that the Bill has been passed by the Other Place and assented to by the Governor. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I am going to make some comments which I hope will be taken by the Leader of the House in the spirit in which they are meant. The new method of leaving the officers and their emoluments out of the Bills may be very well and good for the expeditious handling of matters of this kind especially where amendments are concerned; but, Sir, I feel that when these special Resolutions come before us we should establish it as a principle that we automatically go into Committee on them even if it be merely formal and the Chairman takes the Chair and then leaves it. When the officers and their salaries were included in the Bill the House automatically went into Committee on the Bill. It may happen that an honourable member may make a point as to the salary to be paid to an officer and if we do not go into Committee he will not be able to speak again. This is a question of spending money from the Treasury and an honourable member who has already spoken may have an argument to destroy something which has been said and he will have to remain in his seat. I repeat that we should establish it as a principle to-day to go into Committee on Resolutions of this sort even if the Chairman merely takes the Chair and then vacates it. That should be done just as we go into Committee on Bills because it will serve a useful purpose in the future. Honourable members should not attempt to muzzle themselves in the discussion of matters of this sort. I know that this is not the first Resolution of this sort which we have passed but I think that while we are trying to facilitate the Government in these matters, we have no right to lose our own rights and privileges to deal with these matters as exhaustively as possible. As far as the salary of the Financial Secretary is concerned, I can only say that I congratulate whoever is to be appointed to this office; because in comparison with his chief he is getting an excellent salary and he is given the privilege of coming here and saying what he will do for this salary. In spite of the fact that we have Financial Secretaries appointed in the other colonies we are unable to know what this Officer will do when he comes here. It is not on record from this Government as to what they will ask this Financial Secretary to do; we have left it to him to say what he will do for this money. I think that he is the most privileged person that will ever come here to take up a job. His salary is only £50 a year less than that of his chief and I take it that an effort is going to be made to secure the services of someone who can really fill the bill. I am not criticising the method of putting him in the Colonial Secretary's office; inasmuch as the Bill has already been passed I can only deal with the Resolution. I say that my opinion is that they will find it very difficult to find work for this Officer to do for this salary. This is an extremely top-heavy office; as soon as the Financial Secretary comes here and remodels the method of presenting the Estimates any clerk in the office will be able to do that afterwards. I sincerely hope that the Financial Secretary will come here and assist Professor Beasley in getting on with the job of making a fiscal survey of this colony. That is a most essential thing and I make this statement now that we will never get that report from Professor Beasley. The advice which the Financial Secretary is going to give this House has got to be based on some fiscal survey——

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member will have a perfect right to say whether he will vote the money or not——

Mr. LEWIS: I say that this is a big salary which we are going to pay out and it is hard to pay it out for nothing. That is very regrettable but, however, I am agreeing to this Resolution in the hope that we will get the right person for this post. I ask the Leader of the House to give an expression of opinion as to whether or not he agrees with me that we should establish the principle of automatically going into Committee on these special Resolutions and give honourable members the opportunity of the fullest possible debate on them.

Mr. WILKINSON: This matter has already been discussed but on the last occasion one of the many things of which we wanted to be assured was that this Financial Secretary would be a Financial Secretary and would not be seconded for duties as Colonial Secretary, Labour Commissioner or any other Officer. I saw His Excellency the Governor in connection with the mattter shortly after it had been discussed and he authorised me to inform honourable members that it is not the intention of the Government to use the Financial Secretary for the performance of duties other than those of his office except in the case of great emergency. I think it is only right that I should inform honourable members with regard to this question which I raised on the last occasion.

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

The Resolution was passed.

MIDWIVES AND NURSES REGISTRATION RULES

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave that the next Order of the Day be taken charge of by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas who is now in charge of matters relating to medical, health and social services.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day therefore stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: 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).

Dr. CUMMINS: From time to time since 1944 these Rules for the proper training of midwives and nurses in this colony have come before this House and amendments have been made to them both in this House and in the Other Place. In the 1944 session the House died before we had time to consider the amendments. Again this session during the early part this year these Rules were reintroduced, dealt with and passed by this House but, unfortunately, the amendments were not accepted by the General Nursing Council. We made the technical error of passing the Rules on that occasion before the amendments were agreed to by the General Nursing Council. That error was drawn to to our attention, hence these Rules are before us again today in order that that error may be corrected. These Rules are quite familiar to this House and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to move that the House go into Committee on these Rules. There are 46 Rules to be considered and I hope that my motion will meet with the approval of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Resolution to approve these Rules has already been passed by the House but there were amendments to the Rules which the General Nursing Council never agreed to. This is

just a question of formality that these Rules have to come before the House again.

Mr. ADAMS: I am hoping that the honourable member will not press this motion; we have already gone into Committee on these Rules and discussed every one of which honourable members had any doubt. If we have discussed them already shall we discuss them again this afternoon? It is just a few minutes before half past three and I hope that the honourable member will withdraw his motion. (Mr. LEWIS: It has not been seconded).

Rules 1 to 3 were read.

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.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B)

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) in order to finish the consideration of these Rules.

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

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

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

MIDWIVES AND NURSES REGISTRATION RULES

Mr. SPEAKER: When the time for the consideration of Private Members' Business arrived the House was considering a Resolution to approve of Rules made by the General Nursing Council under section nine of the Midwives and Nurses Registration Act, 1932 (1932-1).

The remaining Rules and the Schedule were read.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: Rule 8 is as follows:—

8. A pupil must, except during such holidays as may be permitted by the Council, devote the whole of both periods of her training to preparation for examinations and must not be engaged on any other work of whatsoever nature.

I do not think that if this Rule were deleted it would interfere with this Resolution in any way. The persons who are sitting these examinations are not persons who are well off. I think that they should certainly be allowed in their spare time to do needlework or crochet or anything like that so that they can obtain a little income to assist them in getting through with their examinations. I beg to move that Rule 8 be deleted.

Dr. CUMMINS: I hope the honourable member will consider this matter carefully. The whole object of this Resolution is to place midwifery on as high a scale as possible, to attain the same standard as that which obtains in Great Britain. The idea of this training is that it should be the same as that given at the General Hospital where the classes have to live in, take their lectures and do their clerical work. If we delete this Rule we will be defeating the whole object of the Resolution. When pupils were allowed to do part-time work at the Almshouse it was considered that the training was not good enough and it was agreed that this training should be placed on a standard such as this.

The question that these Rules be now approved was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. ADAMS: I propose to fix the Order Paper at this stage; it seems that we will be able to get through all the Government Business at our next meeting.

The Order Paper having been fixed.

RESOLUTION AGREED TO

Mr. SPEAKER: In connection with the Resolution to approve the Rules made by the General Nursing Council I put the question that these Rules be now approved. I think the question which should be put is that this Resolution be now agreed to. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "*Aye*", those against will please say "*No*". I think the "*Ayes*" have it.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 21st of October, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. SMITH seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 21st of October, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.