

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 28th October, 1947.

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

Present:

His Honour MR. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour MR. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Deputy Speaker*), MR. J. T. C. RAMSAY (*Chairman of Committees*), DR. J. A. LE V. WILSON, DR. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs L. E. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, D. A. FOSTER, A. E. S. LEWIS, C. E. TALMA, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., H. D. BLACKMAN, H. A. DOWDING, and V. C. GALE.

Prayers are read.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 21st October, 1947, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received Statements of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways for the parishes of St Peter and St. Thomas for the half year ended 30th September, 1947.

Mr. MAPP enters the House and takes his seat.

PAPERS LAID

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

Message No. 35/1947 from His Excellency the Governor enquiring, with reference to his Message No. 19/1947, on the subject of the cotton spinning plant, whether the Honourable House of Assembly concurs that funds provided under resolution No. 45 of 1947 shall be used to meet operational expenses as well as the purchase of cotton lint.

Message No. 36/1947 from His Excellency the Governor inviting the views of the Honourable House of Assembly on the proposals referred to in his Message No. 24/1947 of the 21st of July.

Report on the administration of the Barbados Fire Brigade for the year ended on the 31st December, 1946.

Report of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor to investigate the prospect of recruiting Barbadian labour for employment in agricultural work in Surinam.

Report on Glendairy Prison for the year 1946.

Post Office advances for the payment of Money Orders to the 30th of September, 1947.

Report on the Government Industrial Schools for the year 1945.

Report and statement of accounts of the Barbados Publicity Committee to the 31st March, 1947.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Resolution to grant the sum of £400 to the Hospital Board to pay a cost of living allowance to persons in receipt of pensions from the Hospital Board with effect from the 1st April, 1946 and until the 31st March, 1948.

Mr. TALMA: Resolution to place the sum of £360 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay the legal expenses, amounting to £259, in respect of the purchase of the New Steamers' Warehouse and to meet the rent of the Commercial Hall building at the rate of £100 per annum for one year from the 1st of August, 1947.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £280 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of re-imbursing fourteen members of the Barbados Engineering Trade Unit for the loss of clothing as a result of enemy action while proceeding to the United Kingdom to join His Majesty's Forces.

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

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. MOTTLEY: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency the Governor

1. The House of Assembly are of the opinion that, in view of the continued increase in the cost of living in this Colony and the resulting hardship being experienced by wage earners to meet this increase and more particularly in view of the expense necessary for the maintenance of a family and the maintenance and education of children, the

Special Exemptions granted under Section 20 (1) of the Income Tax Act 1921 (1921-6) should be so amended as to allow a married man to deduct from his assessable income the first Three hundred Pounds and every other individual, the first Two hundred pounds as well as to increase the allowance to be deducted in respect of children from Forty Pounds to not less than Fifty Pounds for each child.

2. The House therefore respectfully request Your Excellency the Governor-in-Executive Committee to send down to the House the necessary legislation to give effect to this.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

1. The House are of the opinion that, in view of the great hardship experienced by the people of this Island and the pupils of the First and Second Grade Schools of the Colony in obtaining the necessary text and other books used at the said schools, provision should be made for

(a) uniformity of books used at all the First and Second Grade Schools.

(b) the establishment by government of a Book and Stationery Store for the purpose of importing the text and other books used in the schools and for trading in second hand books or

(c) the various School Boards to maintain depots for the importation and sale of the books and to purchase and re-sell second hand books.

2. In order that effect may be given to this the House respectfully request that Your Excellency the Governor-in-Executive Committee will be pleased to send down to the House the necessary legislation for the purpose.

QUESTIONS

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

1. Will the Government issue a Statement as to whether the agreement between The Rice Marketing Board of British Guiana and this Government is being properly carried out?

2. Owing to the grave dissatisfaction expressed by the public with respect to the distribution of rice, will the Government take steps to reintroduce the rationing of this article?

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

What steps has Government taken to amend the Parish Constables Act in furtherance of its assurance, given in this House on 4th February, 1947, to provide for increased remuneration for Island Constables, in accordance with the terms of an address dealing with this matter which some years ago was passed by this House?

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

Whether Government, having been made aware by questions in this House on 15.7.47, that certain lands, part of Harrison's Plantation, St. Lucy, are being sold off, has taken steps to acquire a portion thereof to provide adequate play grounds for pupils of Selah School?

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

Whether the Department of Education has considered the question of equal pay for female and male teachers?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, at what decision has the Department arrived?

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

Whether Government accepts the principle of a forty hour week for its employees?

(2) If the answer is in the negative, will Government explain fully its reasons?

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

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

Whether the Department of Education has in contemplation a scheme or schemes for the teaching of Negro and West Indian History in Government aided Secondary and the Public Elementary Schools of this Island?

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

Whether Government is aware of the absence of modern sanitary conveniences available to persons summoned to attend the various Courts of this island?

(2) Whether Government is aware of the absence of any suitable place for such persons to wait during rain or sunshine?

(3) Whether Government will take prompt action to ameliorate the abovementioned state of affairs?

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

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

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

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

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

EXCUSE FOR MR. S. A. WALCOTT'S ABSENCE

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker,—If the senior member for St. Joseph intends to carry on with the Resolution dealing with subsidization I should like

to make a few remarks on it and inasmuch as I will be in the Chair I should like to know whether I should make my remarks now.

Mr. ADAMS: May I ask the honourable member how long he intends to speak?

Mr. RAMSAY: I am going to speak about twenty five minutes.

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest to the honourable member not to speak now if he is going to speak for twenty-five minutes. When we come to the Resolution dealing with subsidization we can appoint a Chairman of Committees temporarily and then the honourable member can make his remarks.

The question that Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

COMPLETING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ERDISTON TRAINING COLLEGE

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I propose to deal with Resolution No. 4 first for reasons which I shall give. I will tell the Committee straightway that over 130 workmen at Erdiston have had to be knocked off because there is not enough money to carry on. This Resolution is for the sum of £6,600 to meet the cost of completing the construction of the Training College at Erdiston and to furnish it. The position is, as with most building operations in the island, this. The cost of materials has gone up and as a result of the Government agreeing to give increased rates of pay to persons employed on Colonial Development and Welfare schemes, we have found it necessary to ask for this further sum of £6,600. Honourable members will bear in mind, in spite of a letter which appeared in the daily newspaper criticizing the Government for again making an under estimate, that when this estimate was originally made nobody could foresee the great increase in the cost of materials and labour. If honourable members will refer to the "Ten Year Development Plan for Barbados," they will see at page 26, paragraph 86, that under Head "Education" the sum of £36,600 was placed under "Teachers' Training College" by Mr. Hayden, the then Director of Education, as a revised estimate of the cost of constructing the college. This House voted £25,000 at first and then a further £5,000 to cover increased wages, so that the £6,600 we are asking for now will bring the amount up to the figure which Mr. Hayden gave as an estimate. Far from its being an underestimate, we have been exactly right on this occasion. I do not think I can tell the House more that would be useful. It is expected that the college will be opened at the beginning of January. There is great delay, at the present moment, in finishing through the lack of glass but some has arrived recently and is available and it is confidently expected that the completion will take place by the end of the year and that the college will be opened by the first of January next year. I have seen the stage at which it has reached and doubtless some other members have visited Erdiston recently too. The Principal's house is finished; the class rooms are near completion and the dormitories are awaiting glass. It is estimated by the Architect and Planning Officer that that portion of the work which needed most planning, if I may use that phrase, will be ended in about four weeks' time but he is quite confident that when the glass is obtained, the buildings will be ready by the end of the year. The Acting Prin-

cipal is actually moving into his house to-morrow, so that that much is completed. At one time there were more than 200 workmen on the job but a few weeks ago 130 had to be knocked off because there was not enough money to pay them and owing to the prorogation of the Legislature, it was impossible to come to the House before for this money. I believe that one honourable member of the House knows that we had to effect a little financial arrangement to help the workmen but we had to hold back payment to merchants for materials. It would be more than regrettable if we had to keep these workmen out, both from their point of view and from the point of view of finishing the building. If there is any specific question on which honourable members need information I would be glad to give it; as regards what is done, practically every room is completed but we have to clean up here and put a cupboard there and the grounds have to be cleaned up. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—While I would not like to hold up this Resolution yet I would like to point out that a considerable sum of money has been spent on the Training College. £30,000 has been voted already and now we are being asked for a further sum of £6,600. The Leader of the House has told us that since the estimate was made, the cost of materials and labour have gone up but I am sorry that the honourable member has not supplied us with some figures as to this increased cost. I think that the addendum to this Resolution should have contained fuller details showing the reason why the building was not constructed for the estimated amount because there is no doubt about it that £6,600 is a fair amount of money still needed to complete it. I think it would have been proper if the honourable member had told us what was the cost of labour and materials when this work was begun, as well as the nature of the increases and then we would be able to see for ourselves why the estimate did not hold out. I know that this is a very important project and that it has been hanging fire for many years, so I would not like to move the postponement of this Resolution but I am asking the honourable introducer of it to give us some further facts about the increased cost of labour and materials.

Mr. DOWDING: I too would like some more information on this matter. This island faces an economic crisis. We pride ourselves as being the guardians of the purse strings and I do not think we have been fully notified as to how this money has been and is being spent. We have already voted £25,000, then a further £5,000 and now they come back for an additional £6,600. Now, Sir, that seems to me a very large sum of money for the purpose for which it is intended and I sincerely hope that we are not going to allow these matters to come here and pass us without going into them very carefully. I do not like the idea of coming back and coming back to this House in respect of these estimates. This is the third time on which the Government has come to this House in connection with the estimate for this building. Mr. Hayden may have made a suggestion as to what the building would cost but I do not think that he knew what it should cost because he does not have the necessary technical experience. What I am warning members of this House is that we are facing an economic crisis in this island and it is up to us as the guardians of the purse strings to see that the money in the Treasury is well spent for the benefit of all the people in this island and not for the benefit of a few. I would really like some further information on the

matter so that we shall not find ourselves in a similar position to that in which we found ourselves in connection with the construction of the New Pay Ward "A" at the Hospital.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: Do the honourable members seriously want me to tell them that artisans who used to get 4/- a day are now getting \$2.00 a day and that spruce which used to cost \$40 a thousand feet is now costing \$240 a thousand feet? Every infant knows that the cost of labour and materials has gone up. I repeat that when this scheme was originally put forward in December 1945, it was estimated that it would cost £25,000. I will give the House the figures and let me say that this is not information which the Government has but which honourable members do not have. A Resolution for the sum of £25,000 was passed by this House and the particulars were given at the time as follows:—Renovation and alteration of Erdiston House £5,000, grounds etc. £2,000, demonstration school and hall £3,000, tutors' and students' quarters £4,500, Principal's house £2,000, scout and guide camp £1,500, furniture, etc. £3,500, swimming bath (remodelling) £300, roads, irrigation, etc. £3,200. All these figures have been given to the House already and honourable members should know them. The only estimate that was not included was that for the caretakers' cottage and that has since been fixed at £563. This project will come before honourable members four or five times if the Government decides to pay increased wages to artisans and labourers. If the Government decides to double the wages of carpenters and masons next week it will have to come back to this House for more money. The fact that the project has been before the House three times is a first-class explanation of this expenditure. We agreed to increase the salaries and wages of all persons employed in Government departments as well as those employed on Colonial Development and Welfare schemes; consequently, the Government had to come back for a further £5,000 to cover the increased wages to artisans and labourers and that brought the amount to £30,000. I repeat that in connection with the ten-year development plan, Mr. Hayden gave a revised estimate of £36,600 for the completion of the college and it has now turned out that the amount which, we feel, will cover the completion of the work is £6,600. Mr. Hayden made that revised estimate because of the rise in the cost of labour and materials. I can give honourable members no more explanation than that the increased cost is due to the increase in the cost of labour and materials. If there is any other question to which honourable members need me to reply I shall be only too pleased to do so but if the question is going to be: "what nails cost in 1945 and what they cost to-day?" or "what cement cost in 1945 and what it costs to-day?", honourable members can hardly expect the Government to say anything more than what everybody knows, that is, that the cost of materials has gone up considerably since 1945.

Mr. HAYNES enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. DOWDING: I agree with the honourable member that everybody knows that the cost of labour and materials has increased but what I am getting at is this. A certain amount of money has been spent and that money should have been accounted for. It would have been a very simple matter to have acquired those figures and let honourable members know what that money has been spent on and what this amount that is asked for to-day is to be spent on.

Mr. LEWIS: I am one of the members of the House who have taken the trouble to go to Erdiston to see what is being done there and although, as you would know, Mr. Chairman, I have no technical

knowledge to guide me I used my commonsense. A Training College has been a crying need in this island for a long time and we are now fulfilling that need. Moreover, the Government purchased Erdiston and left the buildings to rot and in the meantime Colonial Development and Welfare, for whom I have no love, came along and spent or misspent some of their funds. We hear to-day that the cost of materials has gone up; that is a well-known fact and it is only because one is not on the particular Board that one says that over-expenditure has no right to happen. I am satisfied to hear the Government admit that when a Department sets out to do something for a certain amount there is every likelihood that it will cost more. But, Sir, there are one or two fundamental criticisms I would like to make as a layman. I may be unable to appreciate the ultra-modern architecture at Erdiston but everybody who has seen it must have been at a loss to understand why modern architecture should require that the toilet arrangements should be on the front step, so to speak. I can assure you, Sir, that they are right there. I do not know if they will be accommodating animals as well at Erdiston but the fact remains that those arrangements are on the front step, so to speak, and in my opinion that is an error. The next comment is that the dormitory for the trainees is built on the side of a cliff and from an early hour in the afternoon the rooms will be uninhabitable. Moreover, they have gone to the trouble of building this dormitory there and now have to provide sunshades whereas there are plenty of shady places at Erdiston where this dormitory could have been built but they have built it at the side of a cliff where, as I say, from an early hour in the afternoon, the occupants have to seek shelter elsewhere from the sun. That, from a commonsense point of view, is a defect which I should like to bring to the attention of the members of this House.

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

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AT THE MENTAL HOSPITAL

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £32,000 to provide additional accommodation at the Mental Hospital. For some time the accommodation at the Mental Hospital has been inadequate and it is time that conditions at that institution be improved. The Government proposes to build a male dormitory which is estimated to cost £10,000, a Female Dormitory which is estimated to cost £9,500, and a Dining Hall which is estimated to cost £4,500. I may say that kitchen accommodation will be attached to this dining hall for the staff. I am particularly happy to be able to introduce this Resolution because there was a time when I made it a habit annually to criticize the accommodation at the Mental Hospital, especially the accommodation for the staff. It is considered somewhat primitive for the staff to be eating their meals in corners of the wards and, as one attendant told me, eating with one hand while they keep off the flies with the other. The Government also proposes to construct Isolation Wards at an estimated cost of £1,900,—very necessary accommodation, because lunatics sometimes have infectious diseases and should be isolated—a Boundary Wall at an estimated cost of £3,100 and Quarters for a second Assistant Medical Officer at an estimated cost of £3,200. Honourable Members will remember that sometime ago the Legislature made provision for a second Assistant Medical Officer at the Mental Hospital but owing to the fact that quarters could not be easily provided, that second Assistant Medical Officer has not been appointed. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—I think that we all know that additional accommodation is needed at the Mental Hospital but, as the senior member for St. Thomas has stated, we have been considering this matter for several years and I would like him to tell me whether these figures which are mentioned in the addendum are based on to-day's cost of materials and labour or whether they are based on figures which obtained six months ago. I think we should have that information before we discuss this matter further.

DR. CUMMINS: I have a note from the Colonial Engineer, dated 31st March, 1947, which states that the original estimates were made in 1942 but since then the cost of labour has increased by 100 per cent. The cost of materials has also increased so it would seem from that note that these figures have been recently revised.

Mr. WILKINSON: That is pretty interesting and I hope that the Government will not come back for more money for these purposes. I should like to correct the statement of the senior member for St. Joseph who said that the cost of spruce had gone up from \$40 per 1,000 ft. to \$240 per 1,000 ft. Well, Sir, I have been in the lumber business for 40 years and I do not remember that the cost of spruce was ever \$40 per 1,000 ft. We are told that these estimates are based on to-day's cost of materials; therefore, I hope that the Government will not come back with a supplementary Resolution for these purposes. The total amount of £32,000 does seem high and I am wondering, Sir, whether the Colonial Engineer has not been a little too liberal on this occasion in respect of some of these buildings. Anyhow I realize—and I think other honourable members realize too—that this is an absolute necessity. It is usual, when we have to expend such a large sum of money as this, to appoint a Committee to go into the details and also visit the site but I understand that members of the Committee which was appointed to prepare the Ten-year Plan visited the site and that could not have been so long ago. As regards the ten-year plan I think we must all realize that that is practically abandoned on account of the economic crisis but there are certain things—and this is one of them—that have to be done and I wish to support this Resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I have just heard a very serious statement from a responsible member of this House, namely, that in an economic crisis you are going to abandon the ten-year plan. If that is the advice the Government is going to take I think it will be a rather serious state of affairs. I should think that in an economic crisis you have to plan and find work for people; you have to plan boldly and not allow the economic misery that the people have been enduring all these centuries to become worse. So I sincerely hope that the ten-year plan is based on essentials and that no economic crisis, except one in which you cannot get the materials to be used, is going to cause the Government in any way to consider abandoning the plan or any part of it. That is the opinion of a member of this House who has enjoyed the privilege of being a member of the inner Councils of past Governments for many years and I would like to know that another viewpoint has been expressed as well. I cannot sit here and allow a statement like that to go unchallenged.

Mr. WILKINSON: The ten-year plan has never been adopted by this House and when we are warned by the Head of the Administration that imports from all sources are going to be restricted, how is it going to be possible to carry through that plan?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I must say that this Resolution has inspired me with two distinct feelings. One is a feeling of satisfaction that we are going to provide some long needed amenities for the staff of the Mental Hospital and incidentally provide some much needed employment for the unemployed in this country. The other is a feeling of very profound melancholy. I do not think that anyone with the interest of this community at heart can read a statement in the addendum to this Resolution without a feeling of very great anxiety. In the addendum we read that the urgent need for additional accommodation at the Mental Hospital is emphasized in the Ten-year sketch plan of Development at page 27. I took the trouble to look up page 27 of the Ten-year Sketch Plan and paragraph 92 to which the addendum also refers states that the incidence of mental diseases in Barbados is high and the present accommodation at the Mental Hospital is inadequate; that the institution contains at least one third more patients than there is adequate accommodation for. The paragraph goes on to state that Dr. Birch, the Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospital, recently visited the Windward and Leeward Islands and found that mental disease in Barbados was approximately three times greater than in those islands. Now, Sir, it is all well and good for us to come and sit here, pass this Resolution and put our hands in the Treasury but in my humble opinion that is not good enough. What we should ask ourselves is: why is it that the incidence of lunacy in Barbados is so abnormally high? and having asked ourselves that question, discover whether it is not possible to take some preventative step to prevent the number of people of abnormal mentality in the island from increasing year after year. Here we are to-day, Sir, about to spend £19,500, over \$100,000, and of course you can expect that later on we shall be asked to increase the amount of this Resolution—that is the tradition—to provide extra dormitories at the Mental Hospital for male and female patients. Personally, I ask myself this question: would it not be better to spend this money on removing the cause of this high incidence of lunacy in the island? I am not a medical man but I am inclined to the view that a great percentage of the lunacy in this colony is due to malnutrition and unsatisfactory economic conditions. I am inclined to the view that this money could be better spent. In the same paragraph to which reference has been made, the Chief Medical Officer, after commenting on the unsatisfactory state of affairs with regard to the high incidence of lunacy in this island, suggests that mental hygiene clinics and more efficient treatment of syphilis would tend to reduce the high number of lunatics in the country or at least the number of people who would have to be sent to the Mental Hospital. Well now, it would be better, Mr. Chairman, to spend a large sum of money like this on a more positive approach to the problem rather than regard it as almost inevitable that the country must have this high number of lunatics in it and that the only thing to do is to spend the taxpayers' money to provide accommodation for them. Frankly, Sir, I am inclined to the view that the dining hall, the boundary wall and one or two other things should be begun but that we should take steps at the moment to prevent this high lunacy rate rather than to sit supinely down and regard it as completely beyond our ability to do anything to put an end to what is undeniably a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. An honourable member in the position of the senior member for St. Thomas who introduces this Resolution should be able to advise the Government on a

more positive approach to this problem and although it is not strictly his official duty, yet he is in a position to advise the Government whether the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer with regard to the establishment of mental hygiene clinics and more efficient treatment for syphilis is not a more vital first step than expending this large sum of money with the fatalistic approach to the question that the lunatics we must always have with us; that Barbados must always have more lunatics—three times as many or more—than the other colonies and that, therefore, the only thing we can do about it is to extend, every two or three years, our accommodation for mentally deficient people. I am sure that within the last five years we have twice extended the accommodation at the Mental Hospital. At the rate at which we are going, in 1950 they will come back asking for £15,000 to provide more accommodation at that institution. It does not reflect any credit, either on the part of the Government or on the part of members of this House, to sit down and acquiesce in the passing of this Resolution. We are being criticized by people who know better both inside and outside the country and frankly, the Government in my opinion has been very badly advised. As a matter of fact by this approach to this problem, the Government is exhibiting for itself no real practical approach, no satisfactory approach to the most serious problem facing this country, and unless some assurance is given me that simultaneously with the action envisaged in this Resolution, action will be also taken to prevent the continuance of this state of affairs I shall have to take some positive means of expressing my dissatisfaction with the policy which this Resolution more or less endorses. I repeat that I am particularly satisfied to think that some of the more essential requirements at that institution will be provided and that also many of your employed will find work to do. I also feel that the people of this country are entitled to expect more from the present Government than what we are actually giving them to-day.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I find it very difficult to follow the honourable member who has just spoken. The present Government was formed since the first meeting of this present session which was held only this month—7th October—therefore, I cannot understand how the present government can be blamed for anything at all that has been done in the past. As a matter of fact the honourable member himself was a member of the last Government and if he felt so very strongly on the issue which he has raised I do not understand why he did not take action when he was a member of the Government (Cheers). What happens now is that the Government is making provision for the attendants—male and female—who at the moment sleep in the same buildings as the lunatics and as soon as that is done, the places where the attendants sleep will be used for extending the wards; consequently we will have the additional room for the inmates which the honourable member is saying he would like to see. He says that there is at least one third more people in the buildings than should be in them; therefore, he should be glad to see that room is being provided for that one third more in the general wards. As regards the dormitories for the staff I suppose that he will admit that the attendants must have proper places to sleep and he should also be glad to see that the present Government is trying to provide a decent dining hall for the attendants to take their meals instead of having to eat everywhere about the place.

Mr. TALMA: While I hate to delay the passing of this Resolution I must say that certain points raised by the senior member for St. Philip would

appeal to the average man, whereas in truth and in fact his argument is contradictory. In one breath he says that the amenities at the Mental Hospital should not be improved and in another breath he talks about providing employment for the unemployed. He gives as his reason for the former statement that the number of insane people in this island happens to be due to malnutrition. Well, malnutrition cannot be attributed to this Government. Malnutrition belongs to the Conservative Government. We find a bad state of affairs existing; malnutrition is the cause and we are trying to remedy it. There is a great deal of unemployment and if unemployment increases we will have to increase the accommodation at the Mental Hospital. This is a means of trying to solve the problem and to prevent more persons from becoming lunatics this year or even next year because there are thousands of hungry people in this island.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman,—It would be impossible for some honourable members to understand what other honourable members are saying if they keep winking while the other members are talking. If honourable members go to sleep, they cannot hear what is being said. I hardly need to say that this Resolution is now coming before the House for the first time; therefore, I cannot see how an honourable member of this House could have been in a position, at sometime in the distant past or now, to express an opinion on it *pro* or *con*. I shall not bother to reply to the inanities about malnutrition and that sort of thing because it is so easy for anybody to understand what I said that those who cannot understand I leave to stew in the juice of their own stupidity. All I am saying is this and if the junior member for St. John had been in the position in which he could listen to what I was saying, if all his mental faculties were alert when I was talking, he would have heard me distinctly say that I am glad we are in a position to provide some of the amenities which are needed by the staff of the Mental Hospital to-day. I repeated that twice, with special reference to the dining hall, because I know better than he does and long before he did, how essential it is for a dining hall to be erected down there for the staff. And I again refer honourable members to the paragraph in connection with the ten-year development plan, to which the attention of honourable members is drawn in the addendum to the Resolution under discussion, and suggest that if we adopt preventative measures now rather than adopt the fatalistic approach that we must always have more lunatics in this country than in any other West Indian island, it will mean that every other year we shall not have to put our hands in the Treasury to provide accommodation for lunatics at the Mental Hospital. That is elementary; it is so practical an approach to the problem that people who cannot appreciate it have my sympathy. If even this money was being spent stupidly, so long as it provides employment now for the people who are not working I would be willing to grant it because I know the extent of unemployment in the country. Sometimes when countries are faced with employment crises it is necessary to spend money on even unproductive projects merely to provide work for people and have money in circulation but at the same time it is an insult to the intelligence and practical ability of the people of this country for us to admit by inference that all we can do to prevent this country from having three times as many lunatics as Grenada or St. Vincent or St. Lucia or St. Kitts is to erect another wing every other year to the Mental Hospital. The Resolution itself re-

minds us that the Chief Medical Officer suggests that if you were to increase your mental hygiene clinics, if you were to have a more efficient treatment of syphilis you could decrease the number of lunatics in this country. The Chief Medical Officer's proposals are based on a preventative rather than a curative approach to the problem, on the grounds that if certain diseases can be prevented—and it has been proved that this can be done—then more suffering can be eliminated and, I say this with emphasis, large sums of money saved by establishing the services necessary to prevent disease rather than by allowing people to become ill and then provide aid and treatment for them. Well now, if everybody responsible for the sending down of this Resolution are such dunderheads that they cannot realise the practicability of the sense of this approach, all I say is God help this country! Over \$100,000 out of this £32,000 will be spent on the provision of male and female dormitories for the patients and I repeat, Sir, that while it is all well and good to spend this money—and I shall be satisfied to vote it, provided that I am also satisfied that simultaneously we are taking steps to negate the possibility of having to spend a similar sum in the next two or three years—I personally feel that this \$100,00 could be better spent now in providing some of these clinics which the Chief Medical Officer recommends. I know that at the Mental Hospital to-day an appreciable number of people who are there are not mentally deficient; they are physically deficient; they are there because they are the victims of some social malady and if clinics are established for improving their physical condition, automatically in a short space of time you must reduce the number of people there. It shows a lack of interest in the people in the colony and it is even worse to make it appear that all we can do, in spite of this plain recommendation by the Chief Medical Officer, is to spend money in providing more accommodation for people at the Mental Hospital.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,—In a calm atmosphere I would like to deal with the melodramatic and, if I may say so, sensational antics of the senior member for St. Philip, though we in this Chamber have grown accustomed to the behaviour of the senior member for St. Philip when the opportunity arises to give him a springboard from which he can jump. This Resolution, Mr. Chairman, seeks to make certain provisions at the Mental Hospital and the honourable member for St. Philip began by saying that he agrees with the statements contained therein and that we should do something now but he goes further and states—

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not going to have myself misquoted. I did not open by saying that I agree to the statements contained in the Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: All right. You opened by expressing melancholy and gratification.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have no desire to misquote the honourable member. I want to quote him precisely. He spoke about unemployment and the necessity for doing some of these things and in reply to the junior member for St. John he said that even he, the senior member for St. Philip, knew before the junior member for St. John the necessity for some of these things at the Mental Hospital but he goes on further to make his rhapsodical criticisms. What does he say? He says that the Chief Medical Officer has recommended that there should be mental hygiene clinics and so forth as a means for effecting cures in respect of people who are mentally defective but the senior member for St. Philip was a member of the last Executive Committee and he may be grieving

now that he is not a member of the present Government. The honourable member knows that this House passed two Bills which the Chief Medical Officer recommended—the Medical Services Bill and the Hospital Bill—and we shall soon be considering the Public Health Bill which he has also recommended and which will provide for the establishment of various clinics in the island. Now, we have passed those two measures, Mr. Chairman, and the honourable member with his seat and with the anxiety to get a springboard to jump from has chosen the wrong jumping-off place. Here it is we have passed two of the Bills that were recommended by the Chief Medical Officer and how then can the honourable member accuse the House of not taking the Chief Medical Officer's criticism and advice into consideration? The Committee which reported on the ten-year development plan states that the incidence of mental diseases in Barbados is high and that the present accommodation at the Mental Hospital is inadequate; that this unsatisfactory state of affairs would be remedied if, as suggested by the Chief Medical Officer, efficient treatment for syphilis and mental hygiene clinics were provided at the proposed Health Centres. The Chief Medical Officer is saying now that the accommodation at the Mental Hospital is inadequate and that more room is needed. Are we to allow conditions to remain as they are down there and not make room for not only those persons who are now there but for others that are likely to be admitted to the institution? We have an immediate problem to deal with. How are we going to deal with this immediate problem? By setting up clinics first, as is suggested by the senior member for St. Philip, and then going back to the question of providing additional accommodation at the Mental Hospital? Now, I say, if this House did not pass those two Bills and have the passing of a third under consideration, the honourable member would be on good ground but in his usual desire to be sensational and, as I say, melodramatic, he has chosen the wrong occasion to make his tirade and I hope that sooner or later those of us who are accustomed to his habits will deal with him as he should be dealt with.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put I should like to say that I shall not waste the time of the House in replying to the nonsensical allegations made by people who have not even the vision to be melodramatic or anything else. What I said is that nothing has been done by this House so far by way of establishing means for preventing the disease, as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer and I want to remind honourable members that I said that in my opinion, at least \$100,000 of this money may be better spent now in the establishment of these clinics. The mere fact of passing a Bill which simply endorses the policy of the Chief Medical Officer is one thing but even a nit-wit can understand that the actual establishment of these centres for curing and preventing the diseases—which will take money but which has not yet been done—is an entirely different matter. I repeat, Sir, that I am convinced that the first step towards the satisfactory solution of this problem is to provide what the Chief Medical Officer calls preventative rather than curative treatment for the diseases which cause people to frequent the Mental Hospital in such large numbers and finally, Sir, I am highly amused at the conceit of some members of this House who believe that they have any influence in this country or that anybody in this country will listen to them to the extent of influencing the minds of the electors in the country against what is a practical and sensible approach to this problem.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman,—I rise to support the senior member for St. Philip (Cheers). In doing so I hope that I will view the matter from the point of view of the people of Barbados and not of any particular person or any particular Party. Now, Sir, those of us who come into contact with the people day in and day out, know that there are several cases of malnutrition and disease among them which are causing lunacy. Up to yesterday I had an instance of it in St. George. Now, Sir, what is the use, I ask you, of spending £32,000 at the Mental Hospital in the interest of the ones that are there already when you can spend £10,000 or £15,000 in order that those that are there now can live as comfortably as possible? In my opinion this matter should be approached from the other end. We should try to prevent these people becoming lunatics and instead of waiting on this ten-year plan—I do not know why you want any 10-year plan at all. I think we all here are capable of making plans in Barbados—this Government should start now and see that all the parishes have medical centres in order that we might prevent lunacy and that we may, some day, turn the Mental Hospital into a Home for old people or something like that. I support the senior member for St. Philip and I hope that I have done so without resorting to any personalities as is the custom in this House.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—For obvious reasons I did not want to prolong this debate but after the observations made by the member for St. George I must rise to my feet. The honourable member says that we who come into contact with the people day after day should see to it that malnutrition and other diseases which cause mental disorders should be prevented. I am sorry that the honourable member did not take the opportunity to say so in places other than in the House of Assembly. The member for St. George happens to be one of the landed people in this country who for 300 years kept the people who are in the majority at the Mental Hospital in a state of starvation and ignorance. They paid them little or nothing and because of their economic condition their minds could not be improved. I shall never forget that when I came back here to practise my profession in 1920, canes were being sold at \$40.00 per ton and what were the labourers getting then? The forefathers of the member for St. George did not then think of adopting ways and means of giving the people a living wage to keep them from starvation and enable them to improve their minds so that they would not develop diseases which sooner or later would make them become patients of the Mental Hospital. Since he has made his tirade here and if those are his convictions I hope that he will pass them on to his class and show them how easily they can make the effort to prevent these unfortunate people wending their way to the Mental Hospital through starvation, malnutrition and social diseases.

Mr. DOWDING: I should like to inform the senior member for St. Thomas that the present generation in St. George put me in this House and not the past generation and I intend to come to this House not bearing in mind what has happened before but to try and get something done to-day. (Cheers from the gallery).

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.—I must draw it to your attention that we owe it to the dignity of this House not to tolerate this behaviour by spectators.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know what is to be done about it. If any further behaviour of this sort is carried on in the gallery, this House will not countenance it. Furthermore, if honourable mem-

bers of the Chamber would set the example, probably the gallery might follow it. The remarks in this House have been such that we cannot carry them on any further and I want honourable members to help me. The question before us is the passing or not of this Resolution, and the Chair is not going to allow these remarks to be carried on any further.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to say that when people's feelings are aroused it is impossible for them not to give some expression to their feelings and if, Sir, in consequence of that, the gallery is cleared, I will leave too.

The CHAIRMAN: If the honourable member leaves, the work of Barbados will still go on.

Mr. CRAWFORD: And others might leave also.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is issuing a threat as far as the orderliness of this Chamber is concerned and it does not behove a member with the honourable member's responsibility making such remarks.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to say this. The senior member for St. Thomas, for reasons best known to himself, rather than discussing the merits of the Resolution before us attempted to refer to what has been happening 300 years ago.

The CHAIRMAN: I want to draw to the honourable member's attention that the Chair will have no more of that. With all due respect, please keep to the point. I want that to be finished. We have had enough of it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to say that the man whose name I bear and revere was also for years . . .

The CHAIRMAN: What is that to do with the Resolution before us?

Mr. CRAWFORD: If you would listen—

The CHAIRMAN: I am not going to listen.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to point out that it is quite easy for people to claim that 50 or 100 years ago somebody kept the people in this colony in this condition—

The CHAIRMAN: We do not want any more of that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: It would have been well if you had that view when the senior member for St. Thomas was speaking.

The CHAIRMAN: The mistake I made was to allow you to begin the discussion along those lines.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I hope that in future you will buckle down when the first honourable member makes an offensive statement.

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

GRANT TO HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHN

Mr. BLACKMAN: The next Resolution is for the sum of £500 to make a grant to the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. John to oil and grit the Newcastle Hill Road. £500 has recently been granted to these Commissioners for the repair of that road and now that the repair has been completed they have asked for a further £500 to oil and grit the road in order to prevent erosion. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

Dr. WILSON: Mr. Chairman,—I am particularly glad that this Resolution has been sent down at this time, since it will help the Commissioners of Highways to expedite the work on this road before the coming crop season. On the last occasion when the Resolution was before the House I drew Government's

attention to the fact that there was a guard wall at the curve of this road which was in a serious state of disrepair and up to now nothing has been done with respect to it, even though the road has been repaired. I sincerely hope that Government will see its way now to do something in this regard.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—I assume that the Commissioners of Highways of St. John have only asked for this £500 to oil and grit the Newcastle Hill road. I want to say that I am a bit disappointed that these Commissioners have not asked for more money for road work in that parish. For the last year it has been made perfectly plain to the Highways Commissioners in the various parishes that money will be available for the roads in the parishes under their care, for construction and maintenance if, so to speak, cases can be put forward. Well now, the last amount obtained by the Commissioners of Highways of St. John for road work has been almost entirely expended. As a matter of fact, for the last 4 weeks the men employed on the roads and in the quarries have only had work for 2 days per week and unlike other parishes the Highway Commissioners have not seen fit to ask for a supplementary vote in order to carry on this road work in the parish of St. John. The result is that from the end of this month all the people in the parish who look forward to road repair work for a livelihood are faced with unemployment and starvation from now until when the crop starts next year. It means that for the whole of November, December, January, and part of February these poor men will have no source of income and from the number that has come to me within the past three or four days explaining their plight I do feel that the Highway Commissioners of St. John should apply to the Government for a further grant in order to provide work for these deserving people. There is absolutely no other source of employment in the parish for the people and if this road work is closed down, as has been threatened, at the end of this month, well then it is very easy to imagine the state of affairs which will exist in that parish until such time as the crop starts and as we all know, even then we are faced with a very poor crop although in St. John—I was up there last week—all the canes are in a healthy condition. Perhaps St. John and St. George will have the best crop in the entire island but in the meantime work must be found for the large number of able-bodied and unemployed persons.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to bring to the attention of the honourable member that many Highway Commissioners have not seen fit to spend the first £500 which have been granted to them and although we know and appreciate the remarks of the honourable member yet, Sir, it is very imperative that the Highways Commissioners apply for the money and not blame the members of this Chamber who will in the long run be blamed for the deplorable condition of the tenantry roads.

The CHAIRMAN: Those remarks may well be made at the Vestry elections and not in this Chamber.

Mr. CRAWFORD: My information is that a large number of Highway Commissioners have not only spent the original votes that were given to them—because I make it my business to look into these things—but in recent weeks they have applied for increased grants and I believe that this House would grant those additional amounts. But the Commissioners of Highways of St. John, instead of asking for more money to provide road repair work,

are asking for this amount to oil and grit Newcastle Hill road.

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

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of three Resolutions and the postponement of one in Committee of Supply and asks leave to sit again.

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

THE APPRENTICESHIP BURSARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928 (1928-9).

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—This Bill has for its object the increasing of the allowance to apprentices. Formerly, apprentices were given 6/3 per month during the first year up to 12/6 per month in the fifth year but in view of the increased cost of living it is now proposed that they should all be given 12/6 per month during the entire period of their apprenticeship. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill. There are, however, a few observations which I would like to make. While one must commend the Government for increasing this allowance to 12/6 per month all through the years of apprenticeship, yet 12/6, to me, seems very inadequate. No one will deny that very little can be done with 12/6 and we should give these apprentices every encouragement to become proper tradesmen. They are drawn from the rank and file and are from homes which can ill afford to give them any subsistence allowance during the period of their apprenticeship.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the honourable member agrees with the principle of the Bill, the point which he is raising may be dealt with in Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The only thing, Sir, is that in Committee I cannot make any amendment because it will be creating a charge on the Treasury.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case you cannot make it in the House either.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,—While I agree to the principle of the Bill I should like to draw to the attention of the Government—it may have slipped its members—that 12/6 per month is inadequate and I suggest that the amount should be not less than £1 5s. per month. I am wondering also whether the Government would not realize that the time has come when these bursaries should not only be limited to the learning of trades locally but should be so extended that bursary scholars could be given opportunities to go abroad in big countries, see more of the practical side and learn something further about the trades of their choice, just as we have provision in our laws for scholarship winners academically to go abroad and further their education. I think every member of this House would agree with that suggestion and I throw it out so that in the very near future this Act can be further amended to make such a provision.

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

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

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker:—I ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to resume Government Business.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

APPRENTICESHIP BURSARIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment for lunch the House was debating the motion for the second reading of a Bill to amend the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928 (1928-9) and the honourable junior member for St. Lucy was speaking.

Mr. BRANCKER: I approve of the principle of this amendment but I throw out for the consideration of the Government a further and equally important amendment to Section 3 of the Act an amendment which I do not think that it is improper to mention here. In respect of this Section whereby the Board may award only twenty-four bursaries, I recommend to the Government a further amendment whereby the number of bursaries awarded will be increased in view of our population.

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

The second reading was passed.

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

Clause 1 was read and passed.

Clause 2 was read as follows:—

2. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) of section three of the Principal Act are hereby repealed and the following new subsections substituted therefor:—

“(1) The Board may during the operation of this Act award annually to suitable candidates on condition of their becoming apprenticed to approve master workmen in such trades respectively as the Board may select twenty four bursaries which shall be subject to the conditions herein after set forth and to such further conditions as may be prescribed by regulations.

(2) Each bursary shall be tenable for a period of five years beginning on the first day of January in any year,

(3) The Governor-in-Executive Committee shall make regulations prescribing the value of each bursary awarded under this section, and such regulations shall, when approved by the Legislature and published in the Official Gazette, have effect as if the same were herein set forth and enacted.

(4) The monthly value of each bursary shall be payable month by month so long as the conduct and progress of the apprentice continue satisfactory; and shall be paid by the Secretary of the Board at his office to the respective apprentices; but such payments shall not be deemed to be a substitute either wholly or in part for the wage which it is customary for the master workmen to pay their apprentices.”

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 2 part of the Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate the fact that no amendment to increase the allowance to these boys can be made from the floor of this House. I have made a suggestion and while the responsibility is that of the Leader of the House and he has pledged himself to be somewhat in favour of an increase from 12/6 per month for these boys, he has pointed out that this is actually done on the recommendation of master workmen. I feel that 12/6 per month is rather inadequate and while we cannot amend it, the position is that I would much appreciate if in the very near future, an amendment was made to provide a substantial increase in this amount. If the intention of the Act is that this is remuneration given to the boys taken from the homes of families who can ill afford to give them lunch, despite the fact that they are being paid—and some of us know how boys are paid when they first go out to their trades—over a period of a month these boys can hardly get anything out of 12/6. The honourable Leader of the House is in agreement with my suggestion and while no amendment can be made here, he will take into consideration any statement which is made. I hope that the Government will consider this matter very seriously and that it will not be long before such an amendment comes before this House to increase this amount to £1. 5/- at least.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 2 was passed.

Clause 3 was read and passed.

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

The House resumed and Mr. SPEAKER reported accordingly.

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave of the House to revert to Order No. 1 as the next Order of the day in order to deal with the Resolution relative to the subsidisation of certain commodities.

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

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker,—Before the question is put, I want to make a few brief remarks in connection with the subsidisation of animal feed. I am not saying it with any deep or particular opposition to the Government, but I feel that the Government have not done sufficient with regard to locally-grown produce and even produce within the West Indian realm before going outside to subsidise animal feed from Canada and America. It may not be generally known that there is a rice product of equal value to Indian corn or maize and I feel that before the Government go outside to spend money to subsidise animal feed especially in this crisis, they should do everything where locally-grown produce is concerned. I think of locally-grown corn or maize, cane and corn fodder, cassava and sweet potatoes; the Government should think of subsidising this produce first; they should grow it on their farms and sell it at cost price. There is a certain quality of rice which is not generally used for human consumption and it can be ground with the mills which we have here. We have entered into a Con-

tract with British Guiana for the supply of rice of a certain quality and we should be able to get some of their rice, rice polish rice bran, etc. here, have it ground and that produce could be substituted for pollard. I take it that the Government is out to help the milk industry and I say that they should subsidise it in another way. They should pay veterinary surgeons for attending to the various cattle when they suffer from Bangs Disease, which is contagious abortion, mastitis and tuberculosis. Whenever the opportunity offers itself, the Government should pay 50% of the fees to the veterinary surgeons and it could be even more than that. There is a Regulation which calls upon the dairy owners to have their attendants examined and the attendants are to pay the fees; but in truth and in fact the attendants do not pay the fees, it is the poor dairy-keeper who pays them. Dairy-keepers will tell you that after an attendant has been with you for eight or ten weeks it is difficult to retain him. The Government should go into the matter and subsidise the milk industry directly. The deliveries of imported milk and milk products should be controlled so that there should not be any glut on the market at any time. If ten cases of milk are allocated to certain individuals do not give the milk to them so that they can get rid of it during any one month; that quantity of milk should be spread over a certain period. As regards our cassava, if it is scientifically looked after and prepared, there can be no harm with it; all the scientists say there can be no harm with the dried process applied. Another product that is wasted in Barbados is alcohol or yeast at the various Rum Refineries. It is a fact that this product contains a high percentage of protein and we can get it for little or nothing. If the Government scientifically looked around them, it would save them from spending money outside. There are citrus by-products like orange, grapefruit and lemon pulp which can be used in feeding cattle. In Trinidad there is machinery for making grape fruit juice and we could obtain this pulp and mix it with the cattle feed. I do not think that the Agricultural Department is preventing us from getting this pulp. I only say in passing that I do not think that the proper thing to do is to subsidise animal feed because if the feed is subsidised they should lower the price of milk. If the Government are going to subsidise animal feed they should tighten the law and lock up people who put water in the milk. (Cheers). It is not fair for the Government to subsidise the feed and then let people put 60% water in the milk (A MEMBER: Not 60%). Quite a lot of us do not know that more than 80% of milk is water and then we have people putting in another percentage of water! As I have already said, I do not want to oppose the Government but I do not think it is fair to subsidise animal feed from Canada and America until we have explored every avenue locally and in the West Indies in connection with this subsidisation.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

His Honour left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

SUBSIDISATION OF COMMODITIES

Mr. ADAMS: This Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £132,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement Resolution No. 91 of the 5th September, 1947.

and to provide for the subsidisation of flour, salt fish, salt pork and balanced animal feed to the 31st of March, 1948, in order that the prices of these commodities may be stabilised at such prices as may be fixed by the Competent Authority. In short, this is another Resolution for the subsidisation of commodities. I apologise to honourable members for forgetting to distribute these statements this morning I did not have them in the file in front of me. Honourable members will remember that the last Resolution was for the month of October and it was brought in near the end of the last session to cover the period of the prorogation. The only addition to the number of items subsidised is balanced animal feed for which the sum of £7,500 is earmarked. The Government has carefully to consider the position of the community as regards food, as regards the importation of it. The drought has not only affected us here but also British Guiana and it has caused them to fail to send us the stipulated amount of rice at the proper time. It is unnecessary to waste the time of the House by saying what is abundantly clear to all of us that the position from whatever angle you look at it is a serious one. To go on spending at the rate of £150,000 a half year is a severe drain even on the Treasury of Barbados. On the other hand with our numbers what they are and with the intermittent nature of employment and the lack of employment in some cases, the Government has got to see ahead and do what they can reasonably do with the money available actually or potentially to keep the cost of living down to a reasonable figure. As honourable members will see, page "A" of the statements in their possession represents the amount that was last voted for a period of four months and there was a saving in the actual expenditure of £7,792 10. 7. That saving is accounted for by a saving of 2/- per bag on the amount of subsidy paid on flour as regards our estimate. I have reminded honourable members that the price of flour has been jumping about mainly on the up-grade and it has always been difficult to estimate accurately at least for the past twelve months or so. In fact, Dr. Saint used to say that everything else put together did not give him the trouble which flour gave him during the War. The saving is also due to a considerable reduction in connection with rice, salt pork and salt fish. Honourable members who have read Dr. Saint's address need not have me repeat that the food situation is not due to any neglect of the Food Control Board or of the Government. The drought in British Guiana has caused the shortages of rice and strikes abroad the shortage of pickled meat. Under Resolution No. 91 of the 5th September, 1947, the sum of £18,500 was voted for subsidisation and honourable members can see on page "C" how that money was spent. They will see that the amount voted was too little and the deficit was due to an increase in the cost of flour purchased. We estimate that "E" Grade flour which accounts for almost 67% of the total expenditure will again be increased in price. At the first meeting which I attended this Session we had a cable only that day stating that the price of this flour had been increased by \$2 a bag and the Board made a recommendation to the Government to try, if we could get the money released immediately, to get some American flour which, at that time, was cheaper than the Canadian price. Whether it will remain so is of course a very unlikely matter. We are also making overtures to the Australian exporters to try and get flour from Australia. If I am repeating myself

I hope the House will pardon me; I may have said this in the House before. We propose to add, as honourable members will see from page "C" of the statement, biscuit flour to the stabilisation list; we have not done that so far. The price of biscuits has been kept down through our delivering biscuit flour to the factories at a fixed price and paying the difference in the fluctuating price out of the Equalisation Fund. Inasmuch as the cost of all sorts of articles is constantly rising, the Equalisation Fund has a great strain placed upon it and the Food Control Committee feels that we should now put biscuit flour on the stabilisation list instead of using the Equalisation Fund to keep it at the low price at which it has been kept. If we did not do that it would be necessary to reduce the number of biscuits which you can get for a cent or a penny as the case may be. It is of course completely unthinkable not to put biscuit flour along with "E" Grade flour because it is obvious that the local potatoes and yams will not be available in the quantities in which they were available before. On the question of animal feed I have carefully noted your suggestions, Mr. Chairman, and I say that the decision to subsidise balanced animal feed has been arrived at by the Control Board after consideration of the views of most of the dairy keepers and after consultation with many of them. They have had representations from the Barbados Dairy and Stock Breeders' Association to be allowed to increase the price of milk. If balanced animal feed were not subsidised, naturally these representations will become stronger and more frequent and louder; but Dr. Saint's point of view, and he persuaded the other members of the Committee to agree with him, is that inasmuch as complaints have been made that the protein content of balanced animal feed is too low thereby causing a drop in the production of milk, if the protein content is increased without any cost to the dairy keeper then his milk results will be improved. It is necessary to hear dairy keepers and it is equally if not more necessary to see that fresh milk is kept as cheaply as possible because the amount of milk consumed in this island is woefully low and we should not put on a half cent to the price of milk as it is at the present moment. Dr. Saint feels that the ingredients of this balanced animal feed will enable the protein content to be stepped up from 18% to 24% and that should increase the production of milk and reduce the overhead expenses of the dairies. The quantities of balanced animal feed estimated to arrive are 3,750 bags per week or 82,500 bags up to the 31st March, 1948, and it is estimated that a subsidy of 44 cents per unit will enable the present retail price of 7 cents per pound to be maintained; otherwise the price will go from 7 cents to 7½ cents per pound because the purchase of these ingredients costs us more than before. Sir, we feel that we will be helping the dairy keepers to step up the quantity of milk which their cows produce. For the reason that it is essential to keep down the price of milk it has been suggested that we should agree that balanced animal feed be inserted in the list of the items that we, by our recent decision, have felt should be maintained on the list, that is to say, flour, salt fish and salt pork. I am told sometimes that if you subsidise balanced animal feed you are helping the people who have horses, cows pigs and so on. It is inevitable that in a scheme of subsidisation you will help people who do not need any help; the richest man will get help but that is unavoidable. Unless we have a tremendous organisation to deal with the

big income groups it would be impossible not to benefit people who can pay the increased price for their milk or flour. I say that in order to anticipate any objection that may be made on that score. I have noted your comments, Mr. Chairman, and I assure you that the Government is already giving consideration to the points which you have raised. At almost the very first meeting of the Executive Committee for this session we considered the question as to whether we should not cut down the canes on Government lands and grow vegetables. We did not proceed to do that because to my surprise and to the surprise of all of us, Dr. Saint informed us that the amount of foodstuffs planted in this island is as great as at any time during the War. What is lacking is rain. We should even plant more foodstuffs; we do not know that we have enough planted now. Cassava is the only crop which has not been planted as before. The Government is considering—speaking for myself the Government might well consider that it is their duty to use their land for food production rather than for cane growing and we will consider that matter. I do not think that there is very much more that I can say. Honourable members have the figures that I can give them and perhaps the only thing which honourable members have not yet heard is that we base our estimates from day to day on such advices as we receive. Sometimes we have commodities arriving at the time when we need them but sometimes, unfortunately, the reverse is the case. I think that the Government may reasonably claim to have the situation as well in hand as it is humanly possible to have it, and I feel sure that honourable members will believe me when I say that the present Government is anxious to see that there is no justifiable cause for complaint as to the production of food, that we anticipate the possibility of the drought continuing or of importations ceasing more quickly than was thought and by providing against those two grave eventualities we shall prevent the distress that would otherwise take place in this island. I have much pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

MEMBERS: Question!

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman,—Before you put the question there are two things which I would like to mention. You will notice that in the Schedule to the Defence Regulations the retail prices of certain items are given but not the wholesale prices. Let us take dried cocoanuts, for instance. The retail price of these cocoanuts is six cents each but the wholesale price is not given. People have to buy these cocoanuts at six cents each and they cannot sell them at the same price. They will have to break the law and the Government should not encourage that. I hope that the proper authority will see that the wholesale price of these items is also given. Another thing is this; the wholesale price or the cost of the items to the merchant is not given. If you are fixing prices so that the public can see them what about the wholesale prices to the merchants? If they do not want the public to know that, at least the members of this House, the representatives of the people should be circularised and informed of it. We can readily see the profits on goods for the retailer and we should also see the profits which the merchants are getting. I sincerely hope that the Competent Authority or those who are responsible for sending down this Resolution will see that such a state of affairs does not exist any longer.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I cannot say that the speech of the honourable mover of the passing of this Resolution is illuminating but it is rather instructive. I observe that it is really and truly pregnant with anxiety. I really do not blame the honourable member because the stabilisation of these articles is an absolute necessity and it would appear that in the immediate future we may be called upon in the interest of the inhabitants of this colony to stabilise other articles. I notice that the Government has gone one step further and has included balanced animal feed in this subsidisation scheme. That is very admirable indeed. Now Sir, with all that has been said by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, it must be borne in mind that the situation as it exists in this colony today in respect of a sufficiency of food for human consumption is very, very serious. I do not want it to appear that I am unduly causing alarm but that must be said and the sooner it is said the better it will be. I am not attributing any blame to this Government or to any other Government. I believe that there are circumstances some of which neither the Government nor anybody else has any control over them; but in respect of those things over which they have control it is my duty, in fairness to the people of this colony, to draw their attention. Information will leak out; all is not well with the Control Board. (Mr. ADAMS): Which Control Board? The Food Control Board. That is a hint; I say that it is the duty of those of us outside the Government to throw out a hint to the wise. This colony is in a serious position where the food of the people is concerned. (A MEMBER: The world is in that position). The honourable senior member for St. Thomas says that the world is in the same position, but I would like to say that there are few parts of the world where they can dump food which they have in the place. In my opinion and in the opinion of thinking people, in a matter of this sort, it is absolutely unnecessary to play politics; we must not play politics with the people's food. Any observation which I make from the floor of this House I make in all good faith. It must be borne in mind that some of the people responsible to the Government for allowing permits for getting foodstuffs are not farsighted enough. Again I throw out that hint because I want that matter looked into. As far as animal feed is concerned, I quite appreciate the fact that this item has to be subsidised so as to keep the price as it is today and, as the Leader of the House has assured us, to avoid any increase in the cost of fresh milk; but, Sir, although what I am going to say now is quite contrary to your view, I feel that even with the subsidisation of balanced animal feed and the control of the price of fresh milk there will still be an insufficiency of milk if steps are not taken to import a sufficient quantity of condensed milk. I know that that is contrary to your view, Mr. Chairman, but I feel definitely strong on this point. As a matter of fact what I have observed is that the supply of local fresh milk would be very inadequate if steps are not taken in the immediate future to obtain a sufficient supply of condensed milk for the labouring population of this colony. I must be well known that a very small percentage of the labouring people are really able to buy fresh cows' milk and the convenience of keeping fresh cows' milk to last them for any time after the actual delivery to them is practically nil. I feel that steps should be taken to secure sufficient supplies of condensed milk and, despite what dairy keepers or any body else might think, in my opinion the Government should continue to subsidise condensed milk. I have given this matter a great deal of thought; I am one of those

who would like to see everything done to encourage the rearing of cattle for the production of local meat and fresh milk; but with our population and with the absence of pasture land and general facilities for rearing cattle, it does seem to me that unless those who are responsible for the importation of foodstuffs see clearly that condensed milk is a necessity and it will have to be subsidised, we will be in a difficult position. I was glad to hear a few moments ago that now we are going to spend something like £7,500 in our first venture to subsidise animal feed, that steps should be taken to protect the consumer. Steps should be taken to send to prison some of the people who wilfully or otherwise put such quantities of water in milk as to the cause people on their sick beds to be going when they think they are coming. I heartily agree with your expression of opinion, Mr. Chairman, because I have quite a lot to do with the question of seeing that samples of milk are taken at least in this parish, and you get samples returned with as high as 60% added water. (A MEMBER: That cannot happen). I have seen samples of milk returned with 60% added water; people make friends with the mammon of unrighteousness and they are able to get away with it. (Hear, hear). We know what happened recently at the Hospital Board. Like you, Mr. Chairman, I view the question of milk supply as a very important one in this colony. When I said a while ago that I did not want to cause any unnecessary alarm as to the food situation some honourable members started to bulge but the position is as I have mentioned. Those of us who heard Dr. Saint's address over Radio Distribution recently and who took the interest to read it in the Press will appreciate that he has his finger tips on the food situation; but however good Dr. Saint may be, however much he might want to help in this matter, he cannot control the rainfall and indeed none of us can do that. It has been suggested that the Government should plant their land in vegetables; that might sound well because we hear that imports from all sources will be cut; but can you cultivate anything without rain and in the absence of irrigation? Those of us who keep in touch with the people will have realised the seriousness of the situation in the City last Saturday. There was a little cornmeal but no okras, no rice, and would you believe there was no flour? I witnessed people being turned out of the shops without any flour. As Dr. Saint said, there are some sweet potatoes, but how many of us can use them morning, noon and night? A short time ago when we tried to get the feeling of the House about imports being cut to such an extent, some people both inside and outside the House seemed to think that we were disloyal. I say that the greatest expression of loyalty to the Government is to let the people know the true position and let the Government know that the people are becoming restless. There are those who sit as members of Boards and refuse permits for the importation of certain commodities which are absolutely necessary depending upon early supplies of home-grown vegetables when other West Indian colonies have already made purchases. I know that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will investigate the position. This is an important Resolution and if you take these figures as an index of the cost of living, you must see clearly that now that the War is over, the economic war is starting because these figures are 100% of what they were during the War or even more than that. I am not digging at the figures because if the amount of the Resolution was £200,000 as long as you can keep the people alive by getting down foodstuffs for them I would be prepared to support it. I am prepared to support

this Resolution to-day I do not think that any sane Government would turn a deaf ear to the remarks which I have made from the floor of this House today. Before I sit down, let me repeat that the food situation is very, very tense. I do not attribute any blame—I would not associate myself with anybody who would attribute any blame for the food situation to the present Government; but I urge upon the Government to pay attention to these Boards which are responsible for getting in certain commodities for the use of the people so that they will be able to keep themselves alive.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have no desire to delay the passing of this Resolution, but I feel that it is incumbent upon me from what I have observed here, from my personal observation to say that the Government should pay some strict attention to the relationship between the small shopkeepers and the wholesalers. If we are going to subsidise food, we must see to its distribution; we must see that the food is well distributed to the various parts of the island and that the people who have the means of distributing it are given a reasonable amount of profit so that they can live on it. I say that for this reason; Barbados is a small place with a small minority of business people who live in Bridgetown and who monopolise all the imports to the colony. If a quantity of any commodity is imported it must be distributed amongst the various shopkeepers and not given to two, three or five firms in Bridgetown; because at the end of the year you will find that these firms can make profits of \$100,000, \$50,000 and figures with which I do not care to worry this Committee. I am convinced, Mr. Chairman, that there is the necessity for some modification of the profits as between the wholesaler and the retailer. I say that because if a small number of people have a large amount of stock at their disposal, you can give them a smaller margin of profit and they can still make a reasonable profit as compared with other people who live in the country where the community is small. But these latter people are not given any margin of profit; the other people have a big turnover, they can control all the stock which comes into the colony and that is something which should be stopped in the interest of the community as a whole because we have to be thankful to these hundreds of shopkeepers who have to bear the burden of feeding the people in the various districts. This is a matter of private business not a Government institution and on account of the economic set-up it is the duty of the Government to see that some measure of relief is given to the small people. I know that the means of price control exists but I am saying that I believe that the same means of price control will need some sort of modification. I hear that some merchants criticise the "mark-up;" they feel that the Government is not giving them sufficient latitude. If they quarrel about the "mark-ups" and the business which they are doing is favourable in comparison with some of those people whose backs are turned against the wall it is our duty to go into the matter. As regards the rice shortage, I have not read what Dr. Saint spoke about but from what I have read in the Trinidad Press there is a serious situation in British Guiana on account of the drought. It is not only a question of drought but the people who mill the rice have told the Rice Marketing Board "We are not selling you rice at that price any longer." This Government and the Trinidad Government have made Contracts for the supply of rice to the respective colonies but the millers have not made any contract either with this Government or with the Trinidad Government and they have issued an ultimatum to the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board. The rice

situation must need some investigation; the drought has aggravated the situation which is made more serious by the millers telling the Board that they are not selling them any more rice. The Contract was made by the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board and it was felt that Burma might come back into the market with their rice; but the possibility of Burma sending rice to this part of the world again does seem to be remote and therefore the situation is a very precarious one. As a citizen of this community who is responsible to a certain section of the community I say that the Government will be advised to make every possible investigation into this matter. As a matter of fact we feel that we can compliment the Government in trying to do their best in the circumstances.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to make a few observations along the same lines as those made by you yourself, Mr. Chairman, earlier in this debate. It is commonplace to say that out of evil cometh good. Speaking for myself I have thought that out of the present crisis and the unsatisfactory economic condition facing the country, some good will come for the future economy of Barbados. If, as you suggested, we were to utilise the present opportunity to make the country more self-sufficient, we would in future years be able to look back with a certain amount of satisfaction on the fact that we actually had to pass through this crisis. We are spending a lot of money on this question of subsidisation; the Resolution before us calls for £132,000 nearly three quarters of a million dollars. That is not chickens' feed and almost every cent, the economy of this country, is going outside. What we really want is a plan, a plan to make the country more self-sufficient, a plan in which we will spend this money in making the country more independent of outside imports. We do not want every six months to take up half a million dollars out of the hard earnings of the poor people of this colony and pour them into the pockets of the rich capitalists in Canada and America. With regard to this money, even if we have to make a sacrifice, we could invest it in some sort of capital expenditure which in a few months' time will give us returns and make the country less dependent on outside imports. I think you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, that if corn were grown on a larger scale, that would mean a lot to the food supply for man and beast. We have Dr. Senn's Report on the available water supply in Barbados, and this £7,500 which we are going to spend in subsidising balanced animal feed would be far better spent in importing windmills or pumps for irrigation; we could put another thousand acres under irrigation and we could grow corn—a three months' crop—to provide more cornmeal for the people and we would also have more cornmeal to mix with balanced animal feed. Incidentally, that is why I think this House last week failed miserably to discharge its obligations to the people of this colony; when we in our Reply to the Speech from the Throne—I just mention this in passing—refused to make it indisputably clear what we thought of the grave situation we were letting down the people of this colony. I have nothing more to say about that because I do not want to break the Rules of the House. Even windmills of which I have just made mention, which would assist in increasing our production we shall not be allowed to import. They come from a dollar country and under the import restrictions you cannot import machinery or material for production like that unless you can show that the additional production will be of a dollar-saving nature to the extent that it will more than repay the cost of the imports within two years. That is

that we were told by the Colonial Secretary. No windmill can replace its capital cost in two years and we have sat down like blind bats following wrong leadership and refused to express to the Head of the Administration what should be done in the interest of the people of this country. I repeat that, in my opinion, we should be utilising this expenditure in increasing the production of the commodities which we are now forced to import and until such time as we develop a plan whether it costs us £126,000 or more, we are throwing away the money of the taxpayers of this colony and we are not using it in the way in which people who really know what they are doing and who have the interest of the community at heart would use it. There are several countries outside the West Indies like Central and South America which are hard hit by the situation but they are regulating their capital expenditure, developing industries and bringing in labour from outside and they are among the countries which are almost completely independent of outside sources of supply. That is what men with vision, men who have interest in the community which they profess to represent will do. I also want to say, incidentally, that whenever there is an increase in the cost of foodstuffs or goods which we import, whenever there is a question of trying to keep down prices to the consumer, it is the poor shopkeeper, the poor retailer who carries most of the weight. Only yesterday a retailer called me into his shop and showed me that the cost price of an item on which the profit allowed used to be 40 cents per barrel, went up and his profit was cut down to 30 cents. That 30 cents will now pay the cost of freight and nothing more will be left to him. Meanwhile, the profit of the wholesaler is well protected. While I should be the last person to suggest that anything be done to raise the price of goods to the consumer, I feel that the same anxiety which is exhibited in guaranteeing profits for the wholesaler should also be exhibited in ensuring that the retailer is allowed a reasonable margin of profit at least. Finally, I want to endorse what the honourable member on my left has said with regard to the dumping last week of pickled meat and condensed milk. In a country where there is such a dire shortage of food, it is almost criminal that people should be allowed to dump food at sea by lighters. My opinion is that the food was being kept awaiting future shipments because it was felt that the price of goods when the new shipment arrived would be increased and the increased price would be obtained in respect of the goods held in stock. That is the sort of thing which the poor masses in this colony have to suffer. I say in all seriousness that in the future we should endeavour to find some means of spending the money, which we are now spending to keep down the price of foodstuffs, more advantageously as far as this colony is concerned.

Mr. COX: I should like to say a few words in connection with this question of subsidisation. Like the honourable senior member for St. Peter, I feel that a Committee should be set up to go into the various prices obtained between the wholesaler and the retailer. I, too, have had the experience of seeing some of the returns made by merchants in this colony and they are very healthy returns. I think that the shopkeepers who bear the burden and who distribute the items to the last half cent, suffer materially as a result of the small margin of profit fixed by the Competent Authority. Another point is this; while the wholesale price of a barrel of meat is fixed and it is assumed that the shopkeeper will be able to buy that meat and distribute it and make a profit, that is not so. In many cases the merchants

open the barrels themselves and sell the meat in 20 and 25-pound lots and get the whole hog, so to speak. With the situation as it is today, we all realise how critical the food situation is, I feel that it is time that the Government should take every possible step in seeing that proper distribution is made and the shopkeepers get a little greater profit than they are getting today. The honourable senior member for the City has told us of the demonstration which he saw in the City last Saturday when people could not get rice, but we all heard of a merchant who had more rice than he and his friends could consume. That is because of uneven distribution. I would like the shopkeepers to assist the Government; it is no earthly good for them to keep in the dark and say that the Government does not help them. The shopkeepers must have some courage; there may be victimisation, but they must throw it off in the end. When they ask the merchants for an item and are told that none is there, if they have the slightest doubt that the merchants really have the item, they must draw the matter to the attention of the Authorities; they must assist the Government in these cases. So far as the amount of money for the subsidisation of balanced animal feed is concerned, I do not think that it will really serve the purpose which it is intended. I think the Government's policy in subsidising these items is to provide the various items as cheaply as possible for the poor people of this colony, and I cannot see how this half cent is going to be passed on to these people. I feel that the time has come when the Government should establish depôts where milk can be sent to be pasteurised and distributed to the people and it should also be subsidised. I feel that if the milk is subsidised in the way which is proposed here, it will find its way in Belleville and Strathelyde for the wealthy people. I feel that the subsidisation of condensed milk should be continued since so many poor people use it so as to stretch their economy. The poor people cannot buy fresh milk but they can buy condensed milk which will last them for three or four days. I am of the opinion that the Government is doing its best to provide food in the present crisis. This is a world crisis and we have got to suffer as a result of our inhumanity to each other for all these years. It is unfortunate that this crisis has come about at this time but we have to face it. We cannot get out of it by offering criticism, because I am convinced that the Government is doing its best in the circumstances.

Mr. FOSTER: I appeal to honourable members not to oppose the passing of this Resolution, but to allow it to be passed smoothly. I feel that there is something in what the honourable senior member for the City has said. Last Saturday there was practically nothing for the masses. Before we attempt to subsidise these commodities we should try and force the hands of the Government to get food for the masses, as suggested by the honourable senior member for the City, otherwise a riot will result. (A MEMBER: You can keep it in St. Andrew). It may also come to Bridgetown. There is no greater evil in the world than hunger. It is much cheaper for the Government to allow foodstuffs to come in than to send for gunboats to stop a riot.

Mr. LEWIS: I have a small contribution to make to this debate and it is for this reason. I notice that we are now subsidising biscuit flour. It is necessary to add biscuit flour to the list of items to be subsidised and I say now that it is high time that honourable members try to find out something about the Equalisation Fund. Some statement as regards

this Fund should be laid on the Table of this House or published in the Press. Every now and then you see an item removed from this list to that list and I was told at first that this Fund had nothing to do with subsidisation. I claimed that it was a form subsidisation and I was told that that was not so. It is gradually becoming clear that it is so and I say that a statement as to this Fund should be published. We are allowing people to manipulate the prices of goods and accumulate money and eventually they will get themselves in trouble. When you start to manipulate the prices of goods, that runs into several thousand pounds. Another point is this; we seem to be wedded to this subsidisation and we can only say that we wish the Government well; the price of items is increasing and nothing can be done about it. We are going to find ourselves in a difficult position one of these days; we will be asked for a statement about something and then we will be in trouble. I think that we should do everything possible in concerted action with other West Indian islands to see that we get food at a cheaper price. It is a recognised fact that the people who control trade and commerce in this world create crises, this is a manufactured situation, we are today suffering from something which has been imposed upon us from outside and we cannot see clearly where we are. When we take some concerted action as West Indians and talk to these people who have food to send to us, the situation will be altered. The voice of Barbados may not be much but the voice of the West Indies and the business to be done will cause them to say that they are not charging the prices which they are now charging. We have set out on this task and I sincerely hope that the object for which we are spending these large sums of money will be achieved. I have one other suggestion to make and I ask the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to take it to the people who will have to work it out in detail and see that it is done. In my opinion, with every ship that comes into the harbour with subsidised food, the quantity of food, the price of it and the subsidy paid on it should be published in the Press. Matters like that should be made public as soon as possible; all that information should be given so that the people on the other side will see some of these things published, and they might be able to enlighten honourable members of this House or other people in the community if they do not know what is happening. In the same way you say that a schooner arrived with so many bags of whatever it might be, you can say that a ship arrived with so many bags of flour, the price of it is so much and the subsidy on it is so much. That should be published for the information of the public.

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 of the Resolution in Committee.

The House resumed and Mr. Speaker reported accordingly.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the honourable member will have to move the suspension of Rule 60.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order to proceed with Order No. 6 as the next Order of the day.

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

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

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. TALMA: I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. This matter was decided upon since the 3rd July this year and this Resolution merely seeks to carry out the provisions of a Bill which was passed by this House afterwards. The Bill was passed on the 12th August. There is nothing controversial about this Resolution; it is the proper procedure to be adopted in matters of this sort; The Bill governing the whole position has already been passed and the salaries as stipulated here should be regarded as being reasonable and in keeping with present-day living conditions.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: No matter the exigencies of the time I maintain that the House should go into Committee on Resolutions such as this. I will remark that on every occasion whether anybody agrees with it or not.

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

The Resolution was passed.

PRISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

• Mr. ADAMS: There are two small matters—Orders Nos. 4 and 5 on the Order Paper — which I have been asked to get through today. They are both important and I should like to deal with them.

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER asked to be excused from the House and His Honour Mr. BRANCKER, Deputy Speaker, took the Chair amidst cheers.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 4 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Prisons Act, 1890 (1890-13).

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—The object of this Bill is to increase the staff of Glendairy Prison so as to shorten the hours of work done at the Prison at present. It has been found that under present conditions some warders work as long as 106 hours a week. That is undesirable in these days when we are trying to avoid sweating labour. The Government has quite rightly taken steps to end that sort of condition. In order to meet this situation at the Prison the Government is asking for an increase in the staff as follows:—

- (a) the number of first class warders from three to five;

- (b) the number of second class warders from six to nine;
- (c) the number of third class warders from nineteen to twenty-eight; and
- (d) the number of matrons from seven to ten.

If that is done, if we accede to the request of the Government, that will reduce the number of working hours for the staff; and in the case mentioned where a warder works 106 hours a week that period will be reduced to 62½ hours a week—a reduction of 43½ hours. As we go down the scale some warders who work 103 hours a week will have that period reduced to 60 hours a week. Honourable members will see that this Bill is a necessary one and the Government is also asking us to do what has been done on previous occasions, that is, to pass the Bill without the staff being named specifically in it. As will be seen from paragraph 3 of the "Objects and Reasons" the offices and salaries thereto attached of the prison staff at present are set out specifically in the Prisons Act, 1890. It is now proposed that, in accordance with recent procedure, the increase referred to above should be effected by removing from that Act specific mention of any of the offices except that of Governor of Glendairy and District "A" prisons, and replacing the same by a provision authorising the Governor to appoint such other officers and servants and at such salaries as shall be approved from time to time by special resolution of the Legislature.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. COX: Before the question is put, I want to compliment the Government very much on having taken steps to relieve the situation as it exists at Glendairy Prison. I have had the privilege of knowing that it is difficult for the warders up there to get their periods of off duty, and that is due to the fact that the Institution is short-staffed. I was hoping, however, that since the staff is not such a large one the Government would have seen fit to put these warders on the long grade, system something to post-men. The number of warders that will have at present to remain in the particular office until somebody retires or dies before they reach the maximum salary; but if you put them in the long grade they will reach the salary even though they may not reach the office. I do not know what recommendations are being made but I feel that something should be done where the salaries of the warders are concerned. I hope that this matter will soon be brought before the House.

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

The second reading was passed.

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. COX, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

The four Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. COX, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumed and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER reported accordingly.

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

CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION SCHOOLS BILL.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior

member for St. Joseph:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the law relating to the Christ Church Foundation Schools.

Mr. ADAMS: Honourable members will remember that some time ago schemes were made for secondary schools and with that uniqueness for which Christ Church is famous, the authorities in that enlightened parish decided to remain outside. However, it is now considered expedient that schemes should be formed for these schools in the same manner as they have been formed for other schools. Honourable members will see from the "Objects and Reasons" that this can only be done by

- (a) amending the law relating to the said schools, in as much as by the Christ Church Foundation School Act, 1906, the property of the schools is vested in trustees who are by the said Act constituted the Governing Body with powers to control and conduct the affairs thereof, and to make rules and regulations for the management of the affairs of the schools and the officers and pupils thereof; and
- (b) enacting provisions for the said schools to be recognized as second grade schools established under the terms and provisions of the Education Act, 1890.

The Bill seeks to effect the necessary amendments to the law and it contains a suspending clause in order to give the Director of Education time to draw up the necessary schemes before they become law. I have much pleasure in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. TALMA: In seconding the motion for the second reading of this Bill I should like to make some reference to the allegation which has been made relative to Christ Church no matter how flattering it may have sounded. I should like to state that the reason why this Bill was never brought before this Chamber was merely in view of the imposition of the £5 bond which we find that a Conservative member has tried to remove. On account of that imposition we did not see fit to fall in with the remuneration of the late Director of Education.

Mr. RAMSAY: Before the question is put, I should like to throw out a hint to the Government. It would be a disgrace to allow the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School to remain on the site which it occupies at present. I say that for several reasons; one of those reasons is—and the honourable senior member for Christ Church will bear me out—that the school is in a very insanitary location. During the dry periods there emanate from the Cemetery, which is in a north-easterly direction from the school, peculiar odours which are detrimental to the health of the students. I say nothing more about that; I will say that there is adequate land near the same school and the Government owe it to posterity to buy about five acres of land and erect a proper school. Taking into consideration that there is some suggestion about the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church, I say that now is the opportunity to remove the school and put it on its own land to the benefit of posterity.

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

The second reading was passed.

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

On a similar motion the preamble was postponed.

The ten Clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

The preamble was read as follows:—

WHEREAS the Christ Church Foundation School, Act, 1906 vested all the property of the Christ Church Foundation School in certain persons, therein referred to as the trustees, and provided, among other things, that the trustees should be the Governing Body of the said school and should have the control and conduct of the affairs thereof, and should make rules and regulations for the management of the affairs of the said school and officers and pupils thereof:

AND WHEREAS the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School and the Christ Church Girls' Foundation School were established in accordance with the terms of the trust:

AND WHEREAS it has been agreed that the said schools should be recognized as Second Grade Schools under the provisions of the Education Act 1890 and that the property of the said schools and the management of the affairs thereof with all rights and responsibilities connected therewith, should be transferred to and vest in Governing Bodies for the time being of the said schools;

BE IT THEREFORE enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this be the preamble of the Bill.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I am wondering whether the word "secondary" should not be used in the preamble. I am told that that is unnecessary in describing Second Grade Schools. I understand that there are secondary schools and we have some as First Grade and some as Second Grade Schools; but the point is that these schools are secondary schools and that should be put in the description of these schools. However, I am not in a position to argue too strenuously for it; I am merely throwing that out as a suggestion.

Mr. TALMA: I will attempt to answer the honourable member and to draw to his attention that there are Primary, First and Second Grade Schools. It would be redundant to use the term "secondary Second Grade" Schools, because that would be saying the same thing over again. The honourable member is trying to be as accurate as possible but in this particular case I do not think that he is on very sound and solid ground.

Mr. ADAMS: My recollection is that the Act speaks of Second Grade Schools and Mr. Hayden thought that that should be the description of these schools. "Secondary First Grade" seems to me to be a contradiction in terms. These schools are now being called secondary schools but in the Act they are referred to as second grade schools and the preamble is worded in conformity with the Act. In order to bring the Christ Church Foundation Schools within section 31 of the Act we have to use the expression "second grade schools."

The Preamble was passed.

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

The House resumed and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER reported accordingly.

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

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,—There are certain Messages from His Excellency the Governor

in respect of which Select Committees have been appointed to reply. In some cases the Messages were sent down in the previous session and either the Select Committees did not deal with them or they did not report. I am therefore suggesting that we should appoint Select Committees to reply to these Messages and that the same Select Committees which were appointed last session be appointed again this session. By that means we might get these Committees reporting back to the House very quickly. I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message No. 35/1947 relating to an error in Resolution No. 45 of 1947 in connection with the Cotting Spinning Plant.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The honourable junior member for St. John (Mr. Blackman), the honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. Gale), the honourable senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox) and the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. Lewis).

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message No. 36/1947 relating to the emoluments attaching to the office of Governor of Barbados.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The honourable junior member for St. James (Mr. Wilkinson), the honourable senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Adams), the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. Lewis), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. Crawford), the honourable junior member for St. Philip (Mr. Garner), the honourable senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox) and the honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. Gale).

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message No. 30/1947 relating to an error in Resolution No. 30/1947 for £5,063 re New Pay Ward "A" at the General Hospital.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Before the question is put, I would like to say that I am referred to as the junior member for Bridgetown and I notice that the Messages from His Excellency the Governor are addressed "Government House, Bridgetown" and then dated. I would like to point out that Government House does not happen to be in my constituency and it is a mistake to address these Messages in that way. I would like that mistake corrected.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message No. 30/1947 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the honourable member saying that he does not represent the occupant of Government House? Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. Gale), the honourable senior member for St. John (Dr. Wilson), the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. Mapp) and the honourable junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Smith).

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency's

Message No. 31/1947 relating to a Unified Currency in the Eastern Group of the B.W.I.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: I beg to move that the Committee appointed to reply to this Message be a Committee of the entire House. That has been brought forcibly to my mind on account of what occurred only a few meetings ago and I am therefore asking that this Committee be comprised of the entire House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member's motion has not been seconded.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to reply to His Excellency's Message No. 31/1947 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on that Committee:—The honourable junior member for St. James (Mr. Wilkinson), the honourable senior member for St. George (Mr. Dowding), the honourable junior member for the City of Bridgetown (Mr. Lewis), the honourable senior member for St. Philip (Mr. Crawford), the honourable senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Adams), the honourable junior member for St. John (Mr. Blackman) and the honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. Gale).

THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. ADAMS: I propose to fix the Order Paper for the next meeting at this stage. The first Order will be Committee of Supply, then the Quarantine Bill, the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the Provost Marshal's (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. LEWIS: I beg to move that Order No. 24 under Private Members' Business, dealing with a Bill to amend the Vestries Act, 1911 (1911-5), be made Order No. 2.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. RAMSAY: I cannot agree to that; it is irregular and unconstitutional.

Mr. LEWIS: This is not unconstitutional, as the honourable member thinks, or anything of the kind.

Mr. ADAMS: The question of taxation is being seriously considered by the Government and we are getting expert advice. Professor Beasley is still working on this question; we have held one meeting and I assure honourable members that the whole question will be gone into with the benefit of Professor Beasley's advice. I would never vote against any honourable member who wants to bring up any measure provided that honourable members do not persuade me to the contrary. I suggest to the honourable members who moved and seconded this proposal not to bring up this Bill for early discussion because the matter is being worked upon by the Government in another way.

Mr. LEWIS: I ask leave to withdraw my motion in view of what the honourable member has said.

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

Mr. COX: I ask leave that Order No. 23 be made Order No. 2.

Mr. RAMSAY: Again I cannot agree to that. It is not fair at a time like this when the House is scant to try to push up these Orders. That should be done when there is a full House and honourable members can vote on these matters.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 4th day of November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 4th day of November, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.