THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th April, 1948.

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*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. L. E. SMITH, F. L. WALCOTT, M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, A. E. S. LEWIS, H. D. BLACKMAN, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING and V. C. GALE.

Prayers are read.

Mr. MOTTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 6th April, 1948, having been circulated are taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to lay on the table of the House on behalf of the senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Adams) the following Papers:—

Statement of Accounts of the British West Indies Schooner Owners Association (Inc.) for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Statement showing the Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 29th February, 1948.

Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders to the 25th February, 1948.

Report of the Harbour and Shipping Department for year 1947.

Messrs. GARNER and CRAWFORD enter the House and take their seats.

NOTICES

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. BLACKMAN (on behalf of Mr. Adams): Resolution to place the sum of £5,450 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to purchase from the War Office five wooden huts and two stone huts at a cost of £4,629, and to meet the cost of converting the two stone huts into Government offices at an estimated cost of £821.

Resolution to place the sum of £1,250 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of a detailed investigation into the departmental organisation of the public service of the Colony.

Resolution to place the sum of £2,000 at the disposal of the Governor in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of an enquiry into the system of local government in Barbados.

Resolution to place the sum of £1,250 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of an investigation into the economic aspects of the proposal to construct and operate a deep water harbour.

Of the intention of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Mr. TALMA enters the House and takes his seat.

SELECT COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER: I discharge the Select Committee which was appointed to prepare a draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 36/1947 relating to the emoluments attaching to the office of Governor of Barbados, that Committee having reported.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

On the motion of Mr. BLACKMAN, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. Mapp) is appointed Chairman of Committees for the day's sitting.

Mr. WILKINSON enters the House and takes his seat.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Dr. CUMMINS asks for, and is granted, leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order that Order No. 4 may be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that Rule 60 be now suspended is put and resloved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee of Supply, Mr. MAPP being in the Chair.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT enters the House and takes his seat.

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Dr. CUMMINS: On behalf of the senior member for St. Joseph I propose to take Resolution No. 2 first. This Resolution is for the sum of £80,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay a cost of living allowance as from the 1st April, 1948, to persons eligible to receive a cost of living allowance in accordance with the provisions of Resolutions Nos. 14 of 1947, 20 of 1947, 44 of 1947, and 117 of 1947, as if these Resolutions had continued in force after the 31st of March, 1948. Honourable members will recollect that in Appendix 13 ("B") of the Estimates for 1948-49, provision was made for this sum of money but owing to the fact that Mr. Adams, C.B.E., the Civil Service Commissioner, has not yet submitted his recommendations in respect of the salaries and emoluments of Government employees, the amount was not voted. The implementation of those recommendations by the Legislature will take a little time and it is felt that this sum of money should be voted now, so that the cost of living allowance can continue to be paid. I am asking leave to include Resolution No. 49 of 1947 which has for its object the inclusion of the officers of this House in the cost of living allowance scheme. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: I take it that this sum of money represents the cost of living allowance for the whole financial year. As far as I can gather from the senior member for St. Thomas we shall soon be in possession of Mr. Adams's Report and it seems to me rather funny that the Government should be asking for the whole year's cost of living allowance. What is the good of giving the Government a cheque for £80,000 when a cheque for £40,000 will do? It seems rather strange.

Dr. CUMMINS: I think the honourable member should know that this money will be spent month by month by the Executive Committee. If and when Commissioner Adams's Report is dealt with and accepted by the Legislature, the payment of this cost of living allowance can be stopped easily. It is no Chinese puzzle.

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

COURSE OF TRAINING FOR SECRETARY OF THE HOUSING BOARD IN THE U.K.

Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution I shall deal with is No. 4 also standing in the name of the senior member for St. Joseph. This Resolution is for the sum of £600 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of a Course of Training in the United Kingdom for the Secretary of the Housing Board. The addendum sets out the proposal very clearly. It is felt that in order that the housing scheme may be developed, we should have an experienced officer at the head of affairs and the Housing Board has recommended that gentleman be sent to the United Kingdom for this Course of Training. As honourable members will see from the addendum, this money is to pay return passage, maintenance allowance, travelling expenses, out-of-pocket expenses, and contingencies. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I think that this is a very good idea because I have been made to understand by the senior member for St. Joseph that this officer has done very excellent work for the Housing Board. Naturally, this sort of work is new to him and to get some idea of how things are run in England in regard to housing schemes should prove very valuable to everybody concerned. Not only the technical side but also the administrative side of these schemes should be considered and I think that probably this gentleman who is about to be sent over will learn more in England of the administrative side of housing schemes. I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: On looking through my copy of the Order Paper I see a Resolution to provide a cost of living allowance to officers in the full time service of the Savings Bank who receive their salaries from the funds of the Bank.

The CHAIRMAN: That has already been dealt with and the honourable member is out of order.

The question that the Chairman do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. WARD enters the House and takes his seat.

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. BLACKMAN *in* each case, the two Resolutions are raed a first time and a second time and are agreed to.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Thomas,—Second reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts of this Island relating to Public Health.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—In moving the second reading of this Bill I want to remind honourable members that in 1945 a memorandum was prepared by the Chief Medical Officer in which he set out the position as regards public health as obtains to-day, pointed out the difficulties—which are many—as he saw them, and made proposals for the reorganization of the Medical Services in this island. That memorandum was circulated among the several Vestries of the Island, the members of the Board of Health, and the members of the Hospital Board for their observations and when those observations were received by the Government, they were analysed by the Chief Medical Officer and a compromise was effected in order that something might be done to ameliorate the conditions which now exist. It was felt by some of us that public health should include the sanitary services and should be looked after by a central organization run by the Government. That idea was met with strong opposition by entrenched vestrymen of the island and the Chief Medical Officer in his wisdom proposed what we have before us to-day. This Bill, Sir, is a very good Bill, seeing

that the Chief Medical Officer from his wealth of experience gained in different colonies and with his knowledge of public health administration in the U.S.A. and Great Britain, seeks to incorporate in it what he thinks best in each of the systems obtaining in those different parts of the world. The Bill has been considered by the several Vestries of the island and those vestrymen have had the opportunity to make themselves acquainted with its provisions; they have consented more or less to the Bill being sent down in its present form. Now, this Bill is divided into several parts. Part I deals with the definitions. Part II deals with the proposed abolition of the General Board of Health which, as we know it to-day, consists of some laymen and some members of the medical profession but whose Head, the Chief Medical Officer, is practically powerless. According to the Act as it stands to-day he can only go around inspecting institutions and making recommendations but he has no authority to enforce any regulation made by the General Board of Health, except, I believe, in the event of an epidemic. It is known that we have had several Chief Medical Officers who have issued certain instructions and made certain recommendations and in one noteworthy case the directions which were issued by a Chief Medical Officer to the Sanitary Authority of a certain parish were ignored. Under the Bill, the Director of Medical Services, as he will be designated, will have power to enforce his directions for the benefit of the health of the island and to coordinate the services of the several parishes as one body. Part III deals with the appointment of a Public Health Advisory Committee. Part IV deals with the dividing of the island into three Wards for public health purposes. These wards will be run by duly qualified medical officers who will be responsible to the Director of Medical Services and their duties will be to supervise the health services in the parishes which form their respective wards. In these wards, provision will be made for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases. I believe that just a couple weeks ago while the Estimates were being considered, certain members attacked — and quite rightly—the position as it stands to-day in respect of the treatment of venereal diseases. Under this Bill, that provision will be made and venereal diseases will be treated in modern ways as is done in big countries. There will also be maternity and child welfare services. We certainly do need ante-natal clinics for our women at which advice can be given in the treatment and taking care of children. Then there is to be Health Education. It is known, Sir, that Health Education in Barbados is sadly neglected There is no attempt made, except probably during Health Week which occurs once in seven years, to give to the people lectures or any instructions at all in health matters. Under this new set-up, that will be part of the duties of the medical officers of these Health Centres. Part VI deals with the abolition of the Commissioners of Health and under Part VII there will be established in their places what will be known as Sanitary Authorities. These Sanitary Authorities will be about the same as exist to-day. Some of their members will be vestrymen and others will be non-vestrymen appointed by the Vestries. Provision is made for the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church to have a greater number of members on their Sanitary Authorities than the other parishes for obvious reasons. I know that there is some objection—I have heard it often—to vestrymen being appointed to these Sanitary Authorities for one year while non-vestrymen will be appointed for two years but I do not think that vestrymen should appoint themselves as members of Sanitary Authorities for two years when they are elected as vestrymen for only one year. Election to the Vestries is an annual affair; therefore, for obvious reasons vestrymen could not be appointed to Sanitary Authorities for two years. One can very well see the reason for appointing non-vestrymen to the Sanitary Authorities for two years because during the interim while the Vestries are dead, so to speak, there will still be bodies of men to carry on and also there will be provvision for a continuity of policy. If non-vestrymen as well as vestrymen are appointed for one year, there may be a certain policy one year and if all of them are changed in the following year there may be a change of that policy; therefore, in order to have a continuity of policy it is thought that the non-vestrymen should be appointed members of Sanitary Authorities for two years. Now, the sore point about this Bill is the question of the employees and who is to appoint them. Clause 21 deals with the employees of these Sanitary Authorities. Under this Clause, it is true that the Sanitary Authorities will be called upon to provide the money to pay these employees—the Clerks, the Chief Sanitary Inspectors, the sanitary inspectors, the nurses, the midwives and so on—but that the appointment of them will be more or less under the direction of the Director of Medical Services, that is to say, that the Director of Medical Services must approve of the appointment or dismissal or promotion or otherwise of the employees. As I said, I know there is some objection to that proposal but it could very well be seen that we want to have a uniform Service in respect of sanitation throughout the island. In the first place trained men and women must be appointed and not as conditions exist to-day. Very often a superannuated schoolmaster or policeman, neither of whom is trained, is appointed to go around and look at pits; that state of affairs should not be allowed to continue any longer; consequently the Director of Medical Services must be in a position to know that the policy laid down by him is being carried out in the several parishes. There is not very much more I can say, except this: Under the provisions of this Bill, the Governor will appoint an Auditor to audit the Accounts of these Sanitary Authorities. That will be done for the reason that it is envisaged that at some time or other the Government may be called upon to assist in financing these schemes if they prove to be too heavy and burdensome to the parishes and if the Government is going to spend money in this direction, naturally it must know that that money is being well spent and spent for the purpose for which it is intended. Those are the main objections to the Bill I have heard and I now beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—As the honourable introducer of this Bill has stated, this is a long Bill containing 232 Clauses and divided into 21 parts. He has dealt very clearly with the several parts of the Bill but I think that the two most important parts are Parts IV and V which seek to divide the island into three wards and to establish Health Centres respectively. In charge of each Ward will be a Health Officer, a trained medical man who knows something about health services and sanitary services; he will supervise the work of the sanitary inspectors. the nurses, the midwives, and people of that description. By the Health Centres there will be introduced in this country institutions that have never existed before. I refer particularly to preventive measures against infectious disease. Hitherto, people have been allowed to become ill and then the doctors went in to endeavour to get them better. At the Health Centres, as far as is humanly possible,

efforts will be made to prevent people from becoming ill. Another thing to be established at these Centres is Nutrition Clinics. Nutrition, I take it, is a very important matter in the life of every community. A very great deal depends upon it. Many bright children fail to reach the top because of the poverty of their parents; they are unable to give them the type of food which makes them capable of absorbing the subjects that are taught in the schools. Also there will be direction and control of midwives within the Wards in which these Health Centres are established and I think that that is very important indeed. That is as much as I need say for the present and with those few remarks I beg to second the motion for the second reading of the Bill. (Cheers).

Mr. GALE: I think that this Bill is long overdue. I am quite sure that if a Bill of this nature is passed by the Legislature, it will be a good thing for the island. In the past we have been trying to do our best in our small way with the Sanitary Commissioners in the several parishes but I think the time has come, Sir, when there should be the Sanitary Authorities, for which this Bill makes provision, to look after the carrying out of proper sanitary and preventive measures in this colony. In the past the Sanitary Boards have done their very best as laymen; in some cases they have done very good work and perhaps in other cases they have not done such good work. It is necessary in these days that we should have proper officers to carry out any instructions that may be issued in the interest of the health of the community. The medical profession should be represented on these Sanitary Authorities. There is no doubt about it, Sir, that in the past we have suffered greatly from the lack of the knowledge of medical men on the Sanitary Boards. For some reason we have not taken very kindly to having medical men on these Boards but this Bill makes provision for all those thinge. There are certain clauses of the Bill that, perhaps, will take some hammering out, for example, the Clause dealing with the appointment of the employees of the Sanitary Authorities, being approved by the Director and being paid by the Sanitary Authorities. That is a little ambiguous and, perhaps, may lead to some trouble; but I think that can be easily got over. I think that it would be wise if the introducer of this Bill would permit it to be sent to a Select Committee because there is no doubt about it that it is very comprehensive and its provisions are very far-reaching. There are many innovations which need to be gone into and I suggest that this Bill be sent to a Select Committee.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,— I agree with the last speaker that this Bill is long overdue. I remember that as long ago as 1936 I was asked to serve on a Committee of the General Board of Health to try and formulate some scheme for the centralizing of Sanitation in Barbados. The Committee did its best although it did not have at its disposal the trained material which exists at present and which has produced so comprehensive a scheme as is outlined in this Bill. There is no doubt about it that the principles of this Bill are definitely correct. One wonders how this country has existed so many years under conditions as they are—different authorities (some people call them Kingdoms), each doing what it likes. It is really amazing how we manage to get along. It is only because of the wonderful climate and the extraordinarily healthy conditions in this island that we have been able to exist in this country under this present disorganized system; therefore, I think it is a credit to this Government that it has been able to bring this Bill before the Legislature in its present form. At the same time, Sir, there are a lot of things which, to my mind, want straightening out. I, like the junior member for St. Michael, believe that the only way in which this can be done—hough I am not particularly enamoured with Select Committees — is by means of a Select Committee which can take evidence—which we cannot do at the bar of the House—from the various authorities. The junior member for St. John stated that Parts IV and V are the two most important parts of the Bill. I quite agree. They break new ground; they are supported by the central government and I think that what they are trying to accomplish is most admirable. It is much better to keep our population healthy than to keep it unhealthy. The people are happier, as a result; they do more work and thus the general health and happiness of the country and the economic conditions of the country are improved. The part of this Bill, Sir, to which I have given a great deal of thought is Part VII which deals with the proposed establishment of the system of Sanitary Authorities. Now, Sir, we have a Police Force which, I think, is a central organization and we have sub-stations and Police Stations in nearly every parish, yet we do not have separate Police Forces; they are all consolidated under one Head. Clause 21 of this Bill says that each Sanitary Authority, as the present Sanitary Commissioners will be called, is to appoint a Chief Sanitary Inspector and such sanitary inspectors as it thinks fit. That, Sir, is going back to the same old trouble again. Instead of having a properly trained body of men you will be having untrained men in different parishes, each with different ideas as far as sanitation is concerned. That is as far as it goes. There is no system of paying these unfortunate inspectors. In some parishes they are well paid; in other parishes they get very little money and in that way one does not know where one really is. There should be a proper sanitary organisation similar to the Police Force. A Police constable in St. Lucy receives the same pay as a police constable in the City and if sanitary inspectors in all parishes were paid on the same basis, there would be a general satisfactory feeling among this hard-working body of men — which, I am afraid to say, is far from being the case to-day owing to these isolated conditions under which they serve. All these sanitary inspectors should be employed by a Central Authority and distributed among the various Sanitary Authorities, as they will be called. Some people would say "Oh, these men will not listen to the Sanitary Authorities because they are not appointed by them." That, to my mind, is an absolute joke. If those men do not do their work, it is stated in this Bill that the Director of Medical Services, as he will be called, has power to discipline them. To my mind, the provisions in Clause 21 of this Bill will result in the loss of a great deal of its effect. My next point is in connection with the same Part VII—the Funds. It is stated in Clause 22 that the Sanitary Authorities shall approach the Vestries for the funds required by them for ordinary sanitary purposes. Well, Sir, we all know what Sanitation is. Sanitation is a thing on which you can spend a penny or you can spend a pound; there is no limit to the expenditure on Sanitation. The difficulty with this, Sir, is that there is no limit to what these Sanitary Authorities can spend in the several parishes and I do not see how there can be any limit. I have been in parochial life for a period of 25 years or more and in one parish particularly—the parish which I have the honour to represent in this House—I have seen the expenditure on Sanitation rise from

$720 a year to the large sum of $54,000 a year and still, to my mind, what should be done has not been done. That, Sir, will illustrate the difficulty that there is in the parishes which look after Sanitation. The land cannot supply the money we would like to spend on Sanitation and that is the whole truth of the matter. Here is a chance for us to run sanitation as we run our roads. The parishes are allowed to levy a tax of 1/- per acre on land and so much on vehicles per annum as highways funds but that is not sufficient and the Central Government assists with grants. That is the only way in which Sanitation could be properly looked after. Place the Sanitary Authorities in the same position as the Highway Authorities, that is, give them authority to levy a tax on the land and raise taxes from occupancy, ownership and trade and let the balance be made up by the Central Government which, some would say, would come, indirectly from the land in the form of income tax; but there would not be that urge to spend $500 when $1,000 ought to be spent; we will say "it is necessary to have this thing done properly; we can get the money and it will be done properly." Without that method of finance, you will never get that success and efficiency that you would get with it. If we had not had the Central Road Board in Barbados —it is now the Department of Highways and Transport—what would we have done with our roads? I remember the time when we could not travel about the country with any degree of comfort owing to the deplorable condition of the roads at that time. We have spent money, it is true, but we have roads today which are second to none in any other part of the world. And how were they done? By the Central Road Board. If we had left them to be done by the parishes, only 12 or 15 miles would have been done and the excuse would have been that they did not have the money and, therefore, could not do any more. Clauses 21 and 22 will leave us with the status quo. They are two very important Clauses and for that reason alone I shall support the suggestion of the junior member for St. Michael that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee, so that evidence can be taken from the various parochial authorities in regard to what I have said. I do not think that the other clauses should be commented upon by a layman like myself. They are all taken from various Authorities and I would feel like a fool rushing in where angels fear to tread. I think we are very fortunate to have this Bill tabulated in this manner but I counsel honourable members to consider carefully Clauses 21 and 22 and put them on a proper basis, otherwise all the labour, energy and time which are spent in passing this Bill will be wasted and it would not be in proper working shape. I welcome the Bill and hope that the amendments which I have hinted will be passed by this House in due course.

Mr. TALMA: I must say that I rather appreciate the remarks of the honourable members who have spoken but when they suggest that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, it simply means holding the matter up. Centralization of Sanitation has been mooted in the past and discussed by various parochial bodies for many years and now we have decided on the policy of centralization. We have had the advice of an expert, probably one of the best experts on public health matters and now it is being suggested that this Bill which has been drafted with the assistance of his expert knowledge, should be referred to a number of laymen. If that is done, it will mean that the passing of the Bill will be held up for another year and probably it may never see the light of day. What is the object of sending this Bill to a Select Committee? It would be a means of postponing it or probably killing it altogether. Although I am not in charge of the Bill, yet on behalf of my colleague I would like to point out that the senior member for St. Andrew who referred to Clause 21 read only part and omitted to read the other part; he read sub-clause 1 and omitted to read sub-clause 2. If you read sub-clause 2 you will see that everything will be under the control of the Director of Medical Services. The Director has the final word as far as the appointment or dismissal of employees of the Sanitary Authorities are concerned. Sub-clause 2 says:—"All appointments (whether original or on promotion) and all dismissals of the Clerk, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary inspectors, nurses, midwives or other officers or servants of a Sanitary Authority shall be subject to the approval of the Director." That shows that he has the last word; the Director is the Central Authority as far as appointments and dismissals are concerned; so that the point raised by the senior member for St. Andrew does not arise. As regards Clause 22 which deals with the funds I would like to say that in any scheme of centralization the Government will have to assist financially. I feel that the time has come when not only medical services but all other services should be centralized and when everybody should not be allowed to dabble in the taxpayers' money.

Mr. COX: Anyone who is interested in seeing the health services of this colony improve cannot fail to appreciate the effort made by this Government in introducing this Bill. But, Sir, I would like to say that I highly appreciate the point raised by the senior member for St. Andrew. I feel that the health services of this colony,—just like the Civil Service, the Police Department and other organizations,—should be centralized. We know from experience that many of the outlying parishes choose inspectors who are entrusted with the duties of keeping Sanitation up to scratch but who do so under great disadvantages, more especially that of small salaries, and the excuse offered by various Sanitary Boards is that they cannot collect sufficient taxes to pay these employees decent salaries. Well, Sir, I feel that like Education, Sanitation and Health Services should not be measured by £.s.d.; any amount spent on improving these Services is well spent. You cannot expect a sanitary inspector or anybody else, more especially an individual who is taking care of the health of the community, to give of his best when all around him there are starvation, misery and things of that sort. That is why I feel that if the Health Services are centralized, all sanitary inspectors will get decent salaries; they will be transferable, just as policemen and civil servants are transferable; they will become intimately acquainted with the various parishes and the work will be done in my opinion, with greater efficiency. One other point, Sir, is the fact that these sanitary inspectors work with the several Sanitary Boards and very often their employers happen to be business people and as a result they are always in fear of losing their jobs in case they do not do, at times, certain things which their bosses on those Sanitary Boards want them to do.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the appointment of sanitary inspectors is part of the principle of the Bill. Sub-clause (2) of Clause 21 provides that all those appointments or dismissals shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Medical Services.

Mr. COX: Yes, Sir, I quite appreciate that part of Clause 21 but I think that many of us know that while these employees do have security of tenure, things can be made very uncomfortable for them at times and they can be easily victimized.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see how you are going to debate that on the principle of the Bill. You may be able to debate that point in Committee when the Clauses are being dealt with seriatim.

Mr. COX: It has been suggested that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee and if that is done I would like the points which I am raising to be taken into consideration by that Committee. I was saying that even though sanitary inspectors have security of tenure, some of them complain that they cannot carry out their duties satisfactorily because of fear of victimization by members of Sanitary Boards.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can bring that to the notice of the Select Committee.

Mr. COX: I may not be a member of the Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you can easily arrange for the point to be raised before the Committee.

Mr. COX: Another point, Sir, is this. All self-respecting sanitary inspectors, with whom I happen to come into contact, would like to get from under the thumbs of the politicians, so to speak. They were more than glad when they heard the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer to that effect and they are hoping that the Government will more or less reconsider the appropriate Clause of this Bill and draft them into the Service as government employees. If you will permit me, Sir, I would just like to show how the salaries of sanitary inspectors vary in the several parishes, even though these gentlemen possess the appropriate certificates and other necessary qualifications.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are dealing, I take it, with the general principle of the Bill.

Mr. COX: I am backing up my statement in favour of centralization. You will remember, Sir, that a Committee appointed by the General Board of Health sometime in 1938 sat on this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: What question?

Mr. COX: The question of the re-organisation of the Health Services of the island. That Committee recommended that the sanitary services of the island be centralized under the authority of the Central Government; that the Chief Medical officer should be placed in charge of matters pertaining to Sanitation; that three sanitary officers be appointed to assist the Chief Medical Officer in the performance of his duties and to work under his direction and control and the Committee also went to the extent of saying how funds should be collected from the several parishes. That Committee recommended that 30% of the taxes raised on land, ownership, occupancy and trade in each parish should be paid to the Central Government for the purpose of carrying out these services. I am not going to detain this House too long trying to show the benefits which can be accrued if we were to have centralization of sanitary services but, as I said, Sir, it is one of the questions that are giving sanitary inspectors much concern. They would like to be under the control of the Central Government, so that they can perform their duties without having to look into other people's faces to see whether they are vexed or pleased. I still feel that at this late hour, the Government, knowing that the several Sanitary Boards throughout the island cannot take care of their health services and sanitation as well as they should be taken care of, should reconsider the question of centralization, despite the fact that the senior member for St. Thomas in his introductory remarks stated that certain people were against the centralization of these services. I still feel that this Government should make an effort to bring about the centralization of sanitary services. I just want to refer briefly to Clause 87 which deals with sanitation in public elementary schools. It provides that it shall be the duty of the Director of Education, whenever necessary, to erect sanitary conveniences for all public elementary schools and to maintain, repair and alter the same and that the cost of such duties shall be provided for out of funds to be provided by the Legislature. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting to those honourable members who will be members of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on this Bill, to make some recommendation for the erection of baths at the several elemnetry schools We all know that owing to the inadequate supply of water in this island, many people who send their children to school can hardly get water at times to give them a bath before they leave their respective homes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those are really details that should be dealt with in Committee.

Mr. COX: I hope you will bear with me, Mr. Speaker, but that is one of the things I want to suggest to the Select Committee for its consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Bill may never go to a Select Committee but if it should be referred to a Select Committee, any honourable member, if he so desires, can be put on the Committee or make arrangements for any suggstions that he might have to be brought to the notice of the Committee.

Mr. COX: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that if the Bill is referred to a Select Committee, the Committee will meet as regularly as it can and submit its Report, so that the Bill can be passed before the session ends. It is something that is absolutely necesary. We want to bring our health services up to the standard of those in other civilized countries.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am going to vote, when the time comes, for the sending of this Bill to a Select Comittee. I regret very much to state that I cannot agree with the sentiments expressed by the senior member for Christ Church.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to point out to the honourable member that the speech he is making should be made on the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider and report on the Bill.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, and I particularly prefaced my remarks by stating that I am going to vote, when the time comes, for the sending of the Bill to a Select Committee. Again, I say that I cannot agree with the sentiment expressed by the senior member for Christ Church, namely, that to send this Bill to a Select Committee would be a means of killing it. I cannot see any member of this House doing anything at all to prevent this Bill from becoming law. I must agree that this Bill has been long overdue; it is absolutely necessary but there are lots of things in this Bill which should be discussed and must be discussed from the economic standpoint. Sanitation, like all other things, is bound up with economics. I agree with the junior member for St. John when he said that Parts IV and V are really the two most important parts of the Bill and I go further and say that Parts VI and VII are also important. As regards the other parts of the Bill anyone who has taken the trouble to read the Public Health Act will appreciate that the provisions of

that Act have actually been incorporated in this Bill with necessary amendments to suit conditions to-day. This Bill, as it stands ,is, in my opinion, very far from centralization of sanitary services. As a matter of fact, if it had purely suggested aims and objects for centralization I would be the first to oppose it because from what I have been told, the idea in big countries to-day is to decentralize in order to give local authorities a certain amount of power and latitude to deal with particular areas or wards and that is exactly what this Bill seeks to do. It suggests that there should be put at the head of affairs, persons trained in public health rather than laymen. We must not be ungrateful, so to speak, because we have had on the several Sanitary Boards in the several parishes laymen who have rendered yoeman service. To quote the words of the Chief Medical Officer, "they have done yoeman service to bring Barbados to a standard of health which, when compared with other West Indian Colonies, is very favourable." The whole idea of the Bill is to improve the sanitary services, to provide for prevention and not merely for cure. That we all appreciate and I suppose those of us who have had the opportunity of going through the Memorandum of the Chief Medical Officer realize that it was a real effort to co-operate and get something done, rather than merely to thrust some Bill upon the people without giving everyone the opportunity to have a voice in the matter. Now, to deal particularly with sanitary services, I would like to inform honourable members that they are very extensive. It is well to say that in the parish of St. Michael alone, about $156,000 was spent in one year—1947-48—on sanitary services. Those of us who would like to see sanitary conditions in the other parishes brought up-to-date will have to bear in mind that unless some financial assistance is given by the Central Government to those local authorities it would be a matter of impossibility. Clause 21 gives the power to the Sanitary Authorities to appoint their various employees at salaries to be determined by them. I do not agree with that for this reason and it is going to be my principal reason for voting that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee because I know that the deermining factor in the outlying parishes will be the question of economics. While this is not centralization, it is reorganization of the health services and while I agree that the Sanitary Authorities should maintain a certain amount of power in supervising, appointing, and recommending for dismissal their employees I cannot agree that the actual fixing of salaries should be left purely in their hands. I think I have some experience in dealing with a matter of that kind. Parishes in the leeward part of the island mostly depend on land taxes; they have very little trade and other means of collecting taxes. After all, parochial politics still rest with the Vestries; the taxes must still be collected from the people in the several parishes through the Vestries and one can very well see that with the existing Vestries Act and the means of collecting taxes, very little effort would be made to tax people, sometimes out of proportion, to be able to pay proper salaries to these very deserving employees—sanitary inspectors. If, therefore, Sir, this Bill was sent to a Select Committee we would be able to take evidence from representatives of the various parishes as to their economic position, the sources from which their taxation may be derived and what grants should be recommended for the several parishes for the purpose of carrying out a number of these proposals. In dealing with the establishment of Health Centres, it must be borne in mind that the Central Government must of necessity come to the assistance of the several parishes by providing the funds not only for establishing the Centres but to pay the staffs. There are several honourable members of this House who have had to deal with parochial affairs and who realize that that is bound to be so. You are bound to be faced with conditions such as I have explained. I, therefore, feel, Sir, that in the existing circumstances we are bound to give very careful consideration to the various aspects of this Bill and to the various clauses which will entail extra expenditure. I am 100 per cent. in favour of the passing of this Bill as soon as possible. I am in agreement with some of the sentiments expressed by the senior member for St. Andrew relative to the fixing of a minimum salary for sanitary inspectors and other such employees. If it is left—this is not going to please everybody—in the hands of at least some of the Sanitary Authorities which will be set up in the outlying parishes, they cannot afford to do it and, therefore, I feel we should send the Bill to a Select Committee and let very careful consideration be given to the various aspects of it. It might be argued that a sanitary inspector as a beginner should not be paid the same salary as inspectors who were already in the employ of a Sanitary Authority, whether that beginner be in St. Michael, Christ Church or St. Andrew. Of course, no one would think of paying the Chief Sanitary Inspector of St. Andrew the same salary as the Chief Sanitary Inspector of St. Michael; one may be responsible for the inspection of 22 houses as against 4,000 houses for whose inspection the other may be responsible. I agree that there should be a minimum salary for sanitary inspectors. I agree that the confirmation of appointments should rest with the Director of Medical Services. I agree that recommendations for dismissals should be confirmed by him although we are a long way from such corrupt practices that existed many years ago when sanitary inspectors were actually dismissed without having been told what they were dismissed for. I think that in several parishes — thank God I can say not in St. Michael — those conditions still exist. I am going to vote for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider and report on this Bill and I hope that other honourable members will see the wisdom of supporting a motion to that effect.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—Such a voluminous Bill like this I am sure honourable members would yield to the temptation to attempt to delay in order that they might have more time to go through some of the Clauses of it. But, Sir, I want here today to compliment the Government on their bold attempt to make a distinct break with the past. I do not care so much about hurting the feelings of any parochial authority. I think primarily about the health of the people of Barbados as a whole and this Bill seeks to improve the general health conditions that at present exist in the colony. Fortunately or unfortunately for us, owing to our geographical position, Barbados has been so favoured with the trade winds that we find our dense population taking up nearly every square inch of land and there is, therefore, very little room left for vermin and disease but to say that we are a blessed country from the point of view of our health services is far from the truth and I feel that we are taking a bold step to make a break with the past; let us do it with our eyes wide open and see what we are doing. Now, Mr. Speaker, in this Bill—and we will all agree—it seems that a compromise has been effected. In all democracies—Barbados happens not to be the only one in the world—you have to give way to popular opinion but our obstacles in this case are still these various parochial

barons. When the senior member for the City speaks about decentralization in big countries, that is an argument which cannot be applied to these proposed Sanitary Authorities because, I should like to point out, they have in big countries one Authority controlling an area with more people than the whole population of Barbados. There is no question about it that in some big countries you will find that the 192,000 people we have in Barbados are under one Authority but for practical purposes, no matter how small a community is, you try to so decentralize your essential services,—that is to say, services like Sanitation which calls for greater details than, say, the Police services. By that, I do not mean to suggest that the Police services and Sanitation can be accurately analysed and compared because when you think of Police services, those services are plain and straightforward. Sanitation, to a large extent, deals with individual, private cases. It is not necessary to tell a policeman which place he should guard; it is his duty to guard in the particular area to which he has been assigned. But it makes a great difference with the people in the area. Those who are placed in authority should know something of the district and the people that fall under their control and if you create a sort of superstructure without giving consideration to the foundation, it becomes unwieldly. For that reason I would agree that a system that provides for giving authority to people in the particular area but it is a different thing when that Authority leaves the door too wide open and it becomes impossible to close it. I have gone through this Bill and I cannot see anything in it, so far as these objectionable clauses which have been referred to are concerned, to cause anyone to say that it should go to a Select Committee; valid reasons should be put before the House for sending the Bill to a Select Committee. If there are any consequential amendments to be made, they should be made in the House. When I receive a long Bill like this I take some time off and read it and do not come to this House and make an excuse for not having read it. But certain honourable members seem to say "It is such a long Bill—232 Clauses. It is too long to get through, therefore, send it to a Select Committee." I have not heard any argument to make me feel that I should postpone the consideration of this Bill. Let us go through it clause by clause and make any changes we want to make. I consider that the Bill is one of which all members should be in favour because it means something to the health of this community. You must agree that this Bill seeks to do something that is a great need in the community. I do not know if honourable members pay any attention to the infant mortality rate in this community. When you are thinking about public health and you see how many children are dying before they reach the age of 12 months or 2 years and no provision is being made in this country to see that those things are bettered, then it is in our interest, when we have the opportunity to put on the Statue Book a law to make provision for those things, to hurry up and do so. This could not be considered a piece of hasty legislation or a piece of legislation of which any person could make political capital. It is something that must affect every soul in this community and I feel that honourable members when they have matters of such importance to deal with should give it the serious attention it deserves before coming to this House and making excuses which will result in delay. I shall refer briefly, Sir, to the argument about the control of the employees of the Sanitary Authorities and who should pay them. I feel this way about that, Mr. Speaker. It does not matter who pays and I would like to say this: no Sanitary Authority, no Vestry in this island, as such, has any money. The money belongs to all the people in this community. There is no particular evergreen tree in any of the 11 parishes which you can go and shake and money falls to the ground. It is the people, whether they be in St. Philip or Christ Church, from whom the money is collected. It is only a matter of the geographical division of the island and if we find that in any part of the island money is lacking, so far as the health of this community is concerned, this House, as representatives of the people and this Government, as the connecting link, would have to pay adequate attention to the subsidizing of items in the Act, so that the employees can get better salaries and the Health Services can be carried out efficiently. Mr. Speaker, I feel that we, to-day, have a golden opportunity to put the health services of this colony on a proper and up-to date basis. I am sure you are aware, Mr. Speaker, of the sad comments that have been made on the health services of this country and I feel that it is only that we are fortunate. If we should have an epidemic in this country, then we would know what we should do, so far as our health services are concerned. At least, let us pass to-day those Clauses which have been taken from the existing Public Health Acts. The new Clause, —the one that is causing a lot of vestrymen some worry, namely, the question of whom are you calling upon to pay this increased cost, which to mind is the guts, if I may use such an expression of their objection—could be considered on a subsequent occasion. I do not see the necessity for sending the Bill to a Select Committee for them to decide the issue as to who should pay the increased cost; that can be decided by this House. I will state frankly that if honourable members agree to the principle of the Bill and if there are a few minor amendments to be made, let us make them as we go through the Bill Clause by Clause. I should like to endorse the remarks of those honourable members who mentioned the amount of work done and enthusiasm displayed by the Chief Medical Officer in connection with this Bill and I should like to say that despite any criticism that might be levelled at the Government I want to compliment it for doing now something that posterity will be proud of.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now after 2 p.m. and this House stands adjourned until 2.45 p.m. in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Mr. BLACKMAN: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 44 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for the City, the reply to question No. 51 standing in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter and the replies to questions No. 40 standing in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to lay the replies to questions No. 47 standing in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A)

Dr. CUMMINS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion.

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

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. BRANCKER, F. L. WALCOTT, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, BLACKMAN, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, and WARD—12.

Noes: Mr. HAYNES—1.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the adjournment for lunch the House were debating the motion for the second reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts of this Island relating to Public Health.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I do not think that anyone could really object to the principle of this Bill. Parts IV to VI of this Bill are long overdue, particularly Part V, but there are several sections with which I do not think I could agree here today. Therefore, I will vote for the second reading of the Bill and I certainly wish it to be referred to a Select Committee. Under Section 21 of this Bill all appointments and dismissals of the Clerk, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, sanitary inspectors, nurses, midwives, and other officers or servants of a Sanitary Authority shall be subject to the approval of the Director and then Section 22 deals with the raising by the Vestries of funds which are required for ordinary purposes and further sums required in cases of sudden exigency. These are Sections the real meaning of which is taxation without representation. (Hear, hear). The parishes will have to foot the Bill but they will have no say in what is to be done and what is not to be done! I do not think that this House would be well advised to pass any Bill with a section such as this where the various parishes are called upon to supply money for the Director to direct what should be done with the money. If this House pass this Bill as it is today there will be given an open cheque on the various Vestries of this island. I think that we should have moved away from the principle of taxation without representation. According to Section 21 of this Bill the Inspectors, etc,. will be appointed by the Sanitary Authority with the approval of the Director. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Sanitary Authority cannot find any fault with these servants because they are the servants of the Director. I think that the Government should be paying these servants; the Director is being given a lot of power and he is being turned into a thorough dictator. With regard to the erection or enlargement of a house in any respect what ever, nothing can be done unless the Sanitary Authority gives the lead; no small man can build his house except the Director allows the Sanitary Authority to consent to that house being built. I think that that is going too far. Many of us have been passing remarks about representing labour, but I do not think that such stumbling blocks should be put in the way of labour. The appropriate Section to which I am referring is Section 63. Sub-section 1 of this Section says:—

"No person shall construct or extend any building unless the Sanitary Authority shall have accepted as satisfactory the provision proposed to be made for the drainage of such building or the extension thereto or shall be satisfied that in the particular case of such building or extension they may properly dispense with any provision for drainage."

This is a serious Bill; it is a big step on what has been going on in this island and I think that this House will be well advised to refer it to a Select Committee where it can be discussed Section by Section instead of discussing it in the House.

Mr. WILKINSON: As the honourable member who introduced the Bill has said, this House practically agreed to the principle of this Bill in 1945 or 1946 when His Excellency the Governor sent down a Message in relation to it. (Dr. CUMMINS: It was in April, 1946). I think that everybody around this Table still agrees with the principle with which the then House agreed. We all recognise that our sanitary arrangements need re-organizing and I am sure that everybody will vote for the second reading of this Bill. It seems to me that this is the most important Bill that has come before this House for very many years. (Hear, hear). As I said before, we all recognize that our sanitary arrangements need re-organizing but we do not all agree with the methods suggested in this Bill. The last speaker referred to taxation without representation in dealing with some sections of the Bill, and I will remind the House of the old saying that he who pays the piper must call the tune. From this Bill that saying seems to be out out of date. Apparently the dictator, as has been suggested by the last speaker, will call upon the various parishes to put up a certain amount of money every year and they will be bound to supply it. I think that the suggestion of the honourable senior member for St. Andrew is worthy of consideration, and there should be some limit to which the parishes can be called upon to supply the funds with which to carry out the sanitation of the island. Sanitation in one parish affects the whole island; if you get an outbreak of disease in one parish it will very quickly spread to the next. It does seem as if the Government will have to bear some of the responsibility or the expense of carrying out some of the sanitary arrangements of this island. This is a Bill which is of considerable length; since I have been a member of this House I do not think that we have had a Bill so important and so complicated as this one is. This Bill will require a lot of understanding and it has over 230 Sections; it must have taken a lot of consideration in the Attorney General's Office to draft this Bill. I entirely agree with the principle of this Bill and I will vote for the second reading of the Bill; but before we go into the Sections of the Bill it must be referred to a Select Committee so that it can be discussed with the Chief Medical Officer and the Health Commissioners and lot of consideration can be given to it. As regards the employment of the sanitary officers, I consider the arrangement quite unsatisfactory. Unless the Sanitary Commissioners have the authority to employ or dismiss these servants it does not seem that they will have any authority whatever. I again repeat that it is my intention to vote for the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. BRANCKER: This Bill comes before us under very auspicious circumstances because it is the product of the unremitting zeal and enthusiasm of the brains of one of the most efficient and conscientious public servants which this colony has ever been privileged to have. It will be remembered that a previous speaker referred to the Memorandum of the Chief Medical Officer in 1945. If I am not mistaken, in that memorandum the Chief Medical Officer advocated the appointment by the Government of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant. That is something for which I looked in vain in this present Bill. I do not know if the Government did not agree with the view expressed by the Chief Medical Officer or not. So long as we

can see how important sanitation is, we must see that the persons who are responsible for the sanitation should not have any grievance as to their remuneration. They should be adequately remunerated. As you know, Mr. Speaker, in the case of most of the parishes outside St. Michael and Christ Church they are poor, but if they were relieved of the burden of paying the Chief Inspector and the first Assistant, these officers would be adequately paid by the Government and that would leave money available for the payment of adequate amounts to the other inspectors. It might not be generally known although we claim to be very interested in sanitation and we lay great emphasis on the possession by sanitary inspectors of certificates like the R.S.I. and so forth, that there are some Chief Inspectors who are paid salaries of $60 and $75 a month and they hold R.S.I. Certificates. If the appointment of these Chief Inspectors was proposed in this Bill to be made by the Government we will be in a better position to create a satisfied and suitable Sub-sanitary staff so as to ensure that the sanitary work throughout the length and breadth of this island is properly done. I do not think that the creation of this Sanitary Authority as proposed in this Bill really goes far enough because it looks to me as if we are going to get practically the same people as members of this Authority as we are getting now. Many of them have no ideas about public health or sanitation, but they are just influential gentlemen on the Sanitary Boards. Section 19 of the Bill refers to the establishment of this Sanitary Authority and it says that in case of each of the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church, the Sanitary Authority shall consist of nine persons of whom five shall be members of the Vestry of the parish and four persons other than members of the Vestry; and in case of any other parish the Sanitary Authority shall consist of six persons of whom three shall be members of such Vestry and three persons other than members of such Vestry. At the present time in the parishes outside St. Michael and Christ Church the Sanitary Board consists of five members of whom three must be Vestrymen and the other two may not be Vestrymen. Of course, in an enlightened parish like the parish of St. Lucy, we have as one of the Health Commissioners a trained man—the Parochial Medical Officer of the parish; he is not there merely in an advisory capacity but he is actually a member of the Board In the more backward parishes they have not seen the value of a qualified medical practitioner as a member of the Sanitary Board and not merely having such a person being present by invitation in an advisory capacity on certain occasions. I am afraid that this part of the Bill does not go quite far enough; I repeat that it seems to me as if we are getting the same thing throughout the island as we are getting now where the regulations as to our sanitary affairs are concerned. I am wondering why this particular Section of the Bill is as timid as it appears to be; I am wondering if the Chief Medical Officer recommended something more far-reaching than this but the Government, who did not want to displease anybody, decided that instead of having as the Sanitary Authority in the parishes outside St. Michael and Christ Church, three members of the Vestry and two from outside, we will have three members of the Vestry and three from outside. We want to ensure that we are getting technical men, competent and interested men on these Boards, not members however efficient they are as businessmen but void of ideas so far as public health and sanitation is concerned. The principal blessing which is proposed to be conferred by this Bill is that the public health services are to be administered by a Central Authority of which the Director of Medical Services is to be the Chief Executive, and he is to be assisted by an Advisory Board. We have been rather unfortunate when it comes to the question of Advisory Boards; in some cases their views are never sought and in other cases the personnel of these Boards tends to be reactionary and consequently undesirable. Therefore I would commend to the attention of the Government that in the appointment of this Advisory Board they should bear in mind the mistakes which have been made relative to the appointment of previous Advisory Boards. I think that the best thing which we will be getting out of this Bill is that there will be a competent and efficient Director of Medical Services and undoubtedly such a highly-specialized subject such as this requires a highly-specialized man to be put in charge. Every medical practitioner is not an authority on public health and that is why we have to send people abroad to attend Institutions where public health is made a special study by the medical faculty. As I have said, a highly-specialized subject requires a highly-specialized man to be in complete control in order to see that these wayward Boards and Bodies keep to the straight and narrow path, and that they can be restrained at any time they are going wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the honourable member is departing from the principle of the Bill.

Mr. BRANCKER: I do not think that comment will be inappropriate where everything is put in charge of our Director of Medical Services. I think that I have indicated my feeling with regard to this Bill; I support the principle of it, of course, and I remind the Government of that recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer in his Memorandum, a recommendation which has been overlooked, that the Government relieve the parishes of the burden of paying certain of the sanitary inspectors. I feel that the Government should give grants to certain impecunious parishes so that we will not only have a good Public Health Bill on the Statute Book, but we will have the means of carrying out its recommendations. I am wondering if we might not add certain sections to the Bill, but of course that might be creating a charge on the revenue.

Mr. SPEAKER: It might or it might not be.

Mr. BRANCKER: It may not come under that head and I consider that when we go into Committee on this Bill we can see whether or not we can draft something relative to making grants to these impecunious parishes without going beyond our powers where creating a charge on the revenue is concerned.

Mr. MAPP: One could not help feeling during the course of this debate that there is some hope for these Bodies which are among the most reactionary bodies in this island, and I want to commend the honourable senior member for St. Andrew for his liberal remarks on this Bill. The principle of the Bill is not in dispute; everyone is in agreement with it, but it seems to me that the chief Sections on which there will be divided opinion in this House will be those Sections dealing with the administrative services and where the sanitary inspectors are concerned. Some of the Vestry representatives went so far as to say that one of these Sections proposed taxation without representation and one honourable member said that it denounced the principle of the one who pays the piper calls the tune. I do not know if the honourable member who spoke in the first place about taxation without representation

means that there should be bigger taxation and more representation or that there should be taxation with more representation than there is in this Bill thereby reverting to the old conditions under which this island laboured in the past, or that there should be no taxation or representation at all. Certainly the principle contained in that Section to which the honourable member referred is that while there is taxation there is also representation, but not as much representation as they formerly posssesed; because in the past the laymen were dictators while the specialists had no control over these Bodies and that is all that this Bill seeks to correct. If that principle of the Bill is opposed then the whole crux of the Bill is being opposed. I think that there should be some control by a specialist over those local Bodies who are composed of laymen on the whole, and I repeat that to destroy that principle would be to destroy the whole crux of the Bill. These parishes cannot maintain a proper and efficient health service on their own slender resources and they have to fall back on the resources of the Government. I think that from the point of view of a modern and efficient public health service, the Government should have more control and much greater direction over the affairs of the parishes so far as public health is concerned. I do not know if the Government in drafting this Bill had in mind the objection of certain of those Vestrymen who feel that the Director is being made a dictator, and that too much power will be taken out of their hands. I cannot understand why we should continue with the old system of eleven different and distinct Bodies employing different staffs thus making it necessary to lay heavier taxation and not affording their servants any opportunity for better promotion and greater efficiency thereby hindering public health work. I cannot understand why it should be left in the hands of twelve different Bodies to appoint twelve different bodies of inspectors. You are either centralising the services or not and I cannot see why the Government does not provide for a free Chief Sanitary Inspector in each of the three zones which it is proposed to set up and have a Body appointed by the Vestries in each zone to be responsible for the administration in each zone. Why should we continue under the old system by which the Commissioners of Health appoint the Chief Sanitary Inspectors with the field force not improved, with the sanitary inspectors not being given any good opportunity for the grading of salaries and the old haphazard methods still appearing here and there throughout the entire service? I say that you are either trying to make the service efficient or not. I am in favour of referring this Bill to a Select Committee because it will take some amending and we might waste a lot of time in the House whereas in the Select Committee the best brains will be got together in the matter. I hope that the Committee will meet as early as possible in the interest of the island. We either want a proper public health service or we do not want it. I cannot see that there should be any objection to the principle of having a properly graded service where the sanitary inspectors will be recruited on a proper basis with chances of promotion according to their efficiency and not according to inefficient and haphazard methods. We should not have the same eleven Bodies saying whom they should appoint; we can very well see that a Vestry or other local authority may say: "We cannot pay what you tell us to pay; we cannot accept what you propose." We want to bring our public health service up to date.

MESSAGES FROM THE OTHER PLACE RETURNING BILLS WITH AMENDMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received two Messages from the Other Place returning (a) the Bill to amend the Vestries (Cost of Living Bonus to Employees) Act, 1947 (1947-6) with amendments, and (b) the Bill to authorise the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of Christ Church to pay a gratuity to Florence Williams the widow of Walter Williams, deceased with an amendment.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: There seems to be general agreement as to the principle of this Bill and the debate is centering around Clauses 21 to 23. I suggest that the House pass the second reading of the Bill and go into Committee on it.

Mr. WARD: I feel that when this Bill is referred to a Select Committee some definite provision should be made in respect of those parishes which are very poor because they do not collect any Trade or Occupancy Tax. I feel that the Government should give grants to those particular parishes so as to enable them to overcome the economic set-up which they will be called upon to face when this Bill comes into operation. It is of no use our putting a Bill on the Statute Book and then find that it is creating a hardship on the same people whose conditions we are trying to ameliorate. Under the present set-up taxes are levied on land, buildings and trade and there are certain houses which are exempted from taxation. This Bill seeks to do good for every individual in this island (Cheers) and I feel that one set of people should not have to foot the Bill when the matter affects the whole island. I feel that the Government should give grants-in-aid to certain parishes whereby they will be able to pay proper salaries to their inspectors as well as to carry out the recommendations contained in the Bill. It must be borne in mind that it is not only a question of paying the inspectors because one of the objects of the Bill is to make provision for the control of disease in any parish before it can spread to other parishes. I feel that unless these parishes are given proper financial assistance in these matters we will be in the same position as that in which we are today. In my opinion, this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee and the Committee should be very cautious in going through it because the majority of honourable members do not know anything about it. This Bill is a very complicated Bill and I have been at pains in trying to understand it. I feel that we can get some expert knowledge about this Bill in Select Committee, knowledge which we will not be able to get in the House from individuals like myself—

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity of discussing the Bill whether you are a member of the Select Committee or not.

Mr. WARD: I would also like when the Bill is referred to a Select Committee that consideration be given to the insertion of a proviso in respect of an appeal. At the present moment the Director is a dictator and if the local authorities and the Director reach a deadlock there is no one to whom an appeal can be made, and this state of affairs may be existing in a parish for many weeks. I feel that a Clause making provision for an appeal should be inserted in the Bill so that in case of a deadlock the position can be dealt with.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to add a few remarks to those which have already been made. As I

see the position, the Bill is a very necessary one reflecting as it does the organizing ability, the genius and the humane consideration of the Chief Medical Officer whose recommendations have been set out in the Bill which deals with the health of the people. What is worrying me about this Bill is this: when we will have put the Director in charge of our Medical services what is going to be our position? The principle on which this Bill is chiefly based is that the responsibility finally rests with the Director when he is appointed. If we have a Director possessed of the same fine qualities as those possessed by the Chief Medical Officer whose loss to the island we deplore although we do not begrudge him his promotion, it might be all right; but what worries me, is that if we have a lethargic Director who is not so much interested in the health of the people (A MEMBER: We can fire him) who is only interested in drawing his salary, it will not be so easy to get rid of him or get him promotion as some honourable members may think, and in the final analysis the public will say: "You fools in the House are responsible for this state of affairs," and the responsibility will be that of nobody's shoulders. I do not know who is the Minister for Health in this House and if we have such a Minister, if he has any responsibilitty in this matter other than that of a mere adviser, I think that the public who elect representatives to this House expect more than seeing the passing of all the power in relation to health matters over to a single individual and then for every member of the House to be in the position to say: "It is not my fault; it is not my responsibility, it is the responsibility of the Director." It should be that either the Minister when so appointed should be responsible to the people for the running of the particular service, or we should definitely have some form of control over this Director. I do not see why he should not be in a position to give his advice.

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

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (B)

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not know if honourable members will permit me but I am asking leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (b) in order to continue Government Business.

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

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (b) be now suspended merely for the purpose of dealing with this Bill.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: When Government Business was last being considered, the House was debating a motion for the second reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts of this Island relating to Public Health. The honourable junior member for St. George was speaking.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I do not propose to take up very much of the time of the House but I feel that this Bill affects the health and therefore the lives of the very poor people in this community who increasingly look to the House to give them that representation for which they elected honourable members. I view the principle underlying this Bill seriously and I say that somebody should be responsible for public health in this colony, someone who is answerable to the electors, and not as I see the position here, a Government paid official who will be only responsible to the Governor who is directly responsible to the King of England, but not to the electors of this colony. It would be all right if every Director of Medical Services will be possessed of the very fine qualities of the present Chief Medical Officer, but regrettably at times some Government Officials are content just to draw their salaries and then we will have no voice in the matter. Unless under our present ministerial set-up some power is given to the Minister so that he should be responsible to the other members of this House for the running of this Department, we will be throwing away all our authority. After having passed this Bill as it is now set out, after having thrown away all the responsibility which we now have, we will just be butting our heads against a wall; nobody will be responsible for public health. Very many excellent suggestions have been embodied in the recommendations as set out in this Bill and every honourable member would do well to support them, but there are other things like the proposal to have a dual control over the sanitary inspectors. Here you have the Director with the final word in so far as dismissals are concerned and you have the Sanitary Authority in charge; well, that is a very excellent compromise and it shows very great sense on the part of those who are responsible for the provision in this particular part of the Bill . I should like to say, however, that Barbados is a very small island and if we are seriously interested in the public health of the island, perhaps it might be well if some of us give up, even if it comes to sacrificing some of our present political offices as Sanitary Commissioners and otherwise and support the idea of the establishment now of a central organisation (Cheers) with proper safeguards for the representation of the people. I feel that if we get down to the business of a united sanitary service we will then get better results in this island of ours. Most of the parishes are definitely too poor — many of them receive revenue from the land only—to provide the sanitary conveniences required by this Bill and they will have to be assisted in putting into effect the proposals which are set out in the Bill. It will be necessary to make some effort to do away with the great many open pits which can be found scattered about the country, and there is no latrine or any kind of closet accommodation because the people are too poor to provide themselves with these things. Therefore it is going to cost the Government a considerable sum if this blot against the healthy parishes and this threat to public health in this island is to be removed. It is common knowledge that during any rainy season thousands of these open pits which are very shallow overflow and excreta very often manures the nearby beds of seasoning and other vegetables, and if this Government is alive to the danger which exists to the health of this community they will have to shoulder the burden of supplying these many thousands of poor people with the necessary closet convenience. I do not see why that should not be done; if we are at the moment accepting the principle of erecting public baths and latrines in this colony, then it is also incumbent upon us to supply these many thousands of poor people with these public health amenities. I am moving that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: That cannot be done until the House pass the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. SYMMONDS: At the proper time I want to move or support the motion for referring this Bill to a Select Committee in the hope that the mem-

bers of the Committee will deal with it expeditiously and enable this very necessary measure to be put on the Statute Book.

Mr. GARNER: Everybody knows that all the members around this Table are eager to see the sanitary services of this island put on a higher plane and the present Chief Medical Officer has made a very good study in his effort to bring these services up to a better standard. Nobody will deny that and I think the Chief Medical Officer's effort is very laudable and praiseworthy; but what seems to be the snag around this honourable Table is that certain people feel anti-Vestry, they feel that the Vestry system should perhaps be abolished. Be that as it may, perhaps the time will come for the abolition of the Vestry system but until then the Vestrymen will have to carry on. In the first instance, I think that the snag in the whole set-up is contained in Sections 21 to 23 of the Bill as to the appointment of the Chief Sanitary Inspectors. the Sub-sanitary Inspectors, etc., and who should control them and what not. Personally, I have been a Health Commissioner for many years and I know the set-up and the working of that Department. It is true that we employ a Medical Officer who claims to know nothing about sanitation. It is true that in some of the parishes we have sanitary inspectors who have no qualifications; some of them have only practical experience and of course, that is an asset because some people can only theorise but they know nothing about things in practice. I feel that where the appointment of sanitary inspectors is concerned, that is nothing hard to be solved in this Bill; all we need to do is to get a special grant from the Central Government so as to enable us to pay at least minimum wages or salary to the sanitary inspectors provided that the minimum salary is a salary commensurate with the job. I must qualify that by saying that the inspectors in the small parishes should not expect the same salaries as those in the bigger parishes, because after all, one gets paid for the work which he does. A minimum salary should be paid but when you come to a parish which has so many houses more to be inspectd than another parish, that entails more work; so that if you fix a minimum salary and not allow the Sanitary Authority to do something more for those people who have more houses to inspect, that will work at a disadvantage. That is my way of seeing it although I may be wrong. I repeat that all we need is a special grant as is done in the case of the Highway Commissioners. These Commissioners are financed by the Central Government to the extent of what they receive from local highway taxes so that there is no problem that we cannot solve.

Mr. SPEAKER: I pointed out just now that details can be more easily dealt with in Committee. the principle of the Bill is not in dispute at the present moment.

Mr. GARNER: Another point in this Bill, and it seems to go to the real heart of the scheme, is the question of the appointment of District Nurses. That is something which is badly needed and it is long overdue, as an honourable member says. That is the quintessence of this Bill, the District Nurses are the people who come in personal contact with the inhabitants of the colony and teach them hygiene and render social services. It is not so much a question of the sanitary inspector inspecting the backyard but of the District Nurses having personal contact with the people. These Nurses will be well paid and it is a laudable thing that the island will be divided into three wards or zones over which there will be three Health Officers trained in public health work and these District Nurses will be appointed. That is the keynote of the whole scheme and if we get that working, then the whole scheme will be a success. I repeat that it is not so much a question as to who pays the sanitary inspectors, which is only a political issue by the way: the secret of the scheme and the benefit to be derived by the inhaitants of this island lie in seeing that you get the health services functioning properly and well. We cannot play ball with the health of the community; we want to see the inspectors get better salaries and so forth and we also want to see this organization which is going to take care of the health of the community established and controlled to the extent that the thousands of people who are unable to pay a doctor at times will get free medical services. We want people to be taught higher standards of social living I am not saying that people will not be ill, but they want to be taught how to prevent certain diseases by taking certain preventative measures. There are certain social diseases which are very rampant in this island because of the lack of certain knowledge and we hope to bring this organization into full play. We do not want to encourage the hiding of certain diseases and allow them to spread and that is where the District Nurses will be very useful to the community. Not so long ago I was talking with a prominent doctor and he told me that we are voting more money for the enlargement of the Lunatic Asylum but in another four or five years if we go on as we are going on, we will have to build another institution because there are many social diseases which, if not remedied, will spread throughout the island.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is nothing to do with this Bill; that is more in connection with medical services.

Mr. GARNER: I am speaking about the necessity for having these District Nurses.

Mr. SPEAKER: Section 21 of the Bill provides for that.

Mr. GARNER: I am not speaking against that provision; I am showing how useful it will be because of what has happened in the past and this Bill seeks to remedy a social evil that has been going on in the past. I am in agreement with the Bill and like some other honourable members I think it is long overdue that people should get free advice from the Government as to how they should care their bodies; but it is not enough to give advice and no help. I suppose the Government will have to do something to help the people. I am sure that it is not enough only to diagnose but you must also have the curative side of the matter. There is just one final word which I would like to say; it is not enough to expect the Vestries to have responsibility without some authority and if you are going to allow them to have some responsibility, they certainly must have some authority too. The Director is to have the last word in the appointment and dismissal of any employee and I agree with the honourable senior member for St. Lucy that there should be an appeal Board. I asked the Chief Medical Officer about this mattter some time ago and he assured me that it was all right. It might be all right now that we have an affable Chief Medical Officer who, in the meanwhile, is leaving us; but at some future date if we do not have an affable, generous and broadminded Dirctor he might come in conflict with persons who might be victimised. It is right that there should be an appeal Board established to deal with matters relating to appointments and dismissals. With that I wish the passing of this

Bill success, and as I have already said, it is long overdue. I again emphasize that unless the Government is prepared to give the poor parishes some money, as they do in the case of the Highways Board, so as to make the salaries of the inspectors commensurate with the present-day cost of living, it would be useless to pass this Bill as it is. Some of the parishes are very poor; they rely on land taxes, very little is obtained from trade and properties and it would be unfair to some of the people to tax them any higher on the land. I say that the Government should subsidise these poor parishes to some extent and let them have suitable sanitary staffs. That does not make out any case for centralisation any further than there is now, because I know that there are many routine jobs which no Central Department can take care of without having people to work in each parish. We cannot do away with the sanitary inspectors; as long as we have eleven parishes we must have people to carry on the work in them. I think, therefore, that a case has been made out for the Government to pay something to the Sanitary Authorities in these poor parishes to help them to pay proper wages to their employees.

Mr. SMITH: I do not want to be very long in speaking on this Bill. It seeks that Government paid men should work harmoniously with Parochially paid men and I do not know whether that will work so easily. Sub-section (1) of Section 22 of the Bill says:—

"The various Sanitary Authorities shall, between the twenty-fifth day of January and the twenty-fifth day of March in each year, make a return to the Vestries of their respective Parishes of the sums of money which shall appear to them to be required for ordinary sanitary purposes for the ensuing year....."

Knowing the personnel of some of these Commissioners by heart, I am wondering if the Director of Medical Services called on these Authorities to call on the Vestry for a certain amount of money and the Authorities did not approve of that, whether there is any way in which he can make them do it. I am wondering that because all you hear asked is: "Where is the money to come from? I would like to know if the Director has the authority to make these Authorities budget for more than they feel like budgeting for. It is a known fact that the rural parishes are not in a position to pay their servants adequate salaries. Like the honourable member on my right I have looked up and down this Bill for certain recommendations which were made in the Chief Medical Officer's Memorandum in 1945 relative to making the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the first Assistant, Government servants. I do not know if that is operating in the minds of the Commissioners of Health in the parish which I have the honour to represent, because they have increased the salaries of the Sub-inspectors and have forgotten all about the Chief Inspector. I do not know if they are waiting for this Bill to consider the Chief Inspector. (Laughter). If that was not operating in the minds of these Commissioners then it is only a question of spite that they have tried to do such an unjust act to the Chief Sanitary Inspector. That is one of the points which I am making; I am saying that I do not know if the Sanitary Authority and the Director will work in harmony when it comes to a question of spending money in the parish.

Mr. SPEAKER: Having drawn attention to that matter, the honourable member can deal with it in Committee. What I am trying to point out is that it is of no use debating this or any particular Section when it is going to be debated in Committee.

Mr. SMITH: I quite agree with Your Honour but I only mention it now because I want the House to know that I am in favour of centralising the whole service. (Cheers). We can see that it is the trend of thought with some honourable members of this House that they would like the Government to give grants to these parishes but they do not want to release the reins of authority at all. Imagine the Government paying the piper and then other people calling the tune! (Hear, hear). I feel that if the Government is paying or has to pay the piper, the Government must call the tune. Your Honour will pardon me for mentioning this, but I do not know if it is a question of a political issue but there are members who resign from all the Boards in certain parishes except the Sanitary Board. (Laughter). They are holding on to the Sanitary Board because there are poor men who have to go cap in hand to them and try and do some good otherwise they will be victimised. That is why I am highly in favour of the entire services being centralised. I feel that justice and fairplay should be extended to these employees. If we are putting our sanitary services on a proper footing I think that the Director should have the control of the parishes. What is the good of the Director of Medical Services telling a particular Sanitary Authority that there are so many standposts which want fixing up and the Sanitary Authority saying that all of the money has been expended? I feel that if the Director is in charge of these services he should be the person to call for this money for the purpose of having things done. The payment of the sanitary inspectors will not kill the poor parishes but it is not only a question of paying the inspectors; it is a question of carrying out the sanitary requirements of the parishes and the commitments might be too great for them. That is why I say that the services should be centralized so as to get everything working in harmony. The honourable junior member for St. Philip has said that he is in favour of the Bill but has expressed the view that the Government should give these parishes money to pay these inspectors; I say that if the Government is going to pay the piper the Government must call the tune. (Cheers).

Mr. FOSTER: I heartily agree with the remarks of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph. Speaking as a Sanitary Commissioner for the Parish of St. Andrew I say that sanitation has outgrown the bounds of the Sanitary Commissioners. I feel that centralisation as has been advanced by the Government is one of the best things that have ever been advanced. I shall support the motion for referring this Bill to a Select Committee.

Dr. CUMMINS: I do not propose to make any further remarks in connection with this Bill because it seems as if I am forced to accept the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee. I am not in favour of that because I have not heard any arguments which would lead me to agree with those honourable members who wish the Bill referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the honourable member will not proceed along that line because the motion for the second reading of the Bill has not yet been put.

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.

Mr. GALE: I beg to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second that.

Dr. CUMMINS: I accept that motion.

Mr. LEWIS: If this Bill is being referred to a Select Committee, I may not be a member of the Committee and I would like some attention to be paid to the fact that in the Factories Act of 1947 sanitation in factories is provided for, and I notice that it is also provided for in this Bill. I have heard recently that sanitation in the Factories Act is something unworkable although it was thought very necessary by the Committee. I hope that there will not be any overlapping and I am asking the honourable member in charge of the Bill to note what I have said and any member of the Select Committee can help in straightening out the matter.

Mr. TALMA: I suggest that now we have lighting facilities and in view of the importance and nature of this Bill, it would be fitting if the Select Committee met at night so as to make sure that this Bill will see the light of day before the session ends. (Cheers). I think it is very fitting that important Bills be got through on evenings because I can quite envisage this Bill remaining on the Order Paper, especially a lengthly Bill like this one, until the session ends and then the Labour Government will be told that it has not accomplished anything whatever.

The question that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House, I appoint the following members to serve on the Committee:—The honourable senior member for St. Thomas (Dr. CUMMINS), the honourable senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox), the the honourable senior member for St. Peter (Mr. F. L. WALCOTT), the honourable junior member for St. Thomas (Mr. MAPP), the honourable junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. SMITH), the honourable junior member for St. Michael (Mr. GALE), the honourable senior member for St. Andrew (Mr. HAYNES), the honourable senior member for the City Mr. (MOTTLEY), the honourable junior member for St. George (Mr. SYMMONDS), and the honourable junior member for St. Philip (Mr. GARNER).

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO VESTRIES (COST OF LIVING BONUS TO EMPLOYEES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the amendments of the Other Place to the Bill to amend the Vestries (Cost of Living Bonus to Employees) Act, 1947 (1947-6) be considered forthwith under Rule 262.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Dr. CUMMINS: This Bill was introduced in the House in February this year but it was not dealt with until after the 25th of March. It sought to extend the Cost of Living Bonus to two employees of the Vestry of St. Michael, namely, the Parochial Treasurer and the Churchwarden's Clerk and Clerk to the Board of Guardians whose salaries are fixed by law, by deleting the word "eight" in line 6 of the Act and inserting the word "nine". As I have already said, the Bill was not passed until after the 25th of March and it is therefore necessary to insert an entirely new Bill. I beg to move that the amendments be now read a first time.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

On motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded in each case by Mr. BLACKMAN, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT TO FLORENCE WILLIAMS GRATUITY BILL

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the amendment of the Other Place to the Bill to authorise the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of Christ Church to pay a gratuity to Florence Williams, the widow of Walter Williams, deceased, be considered forthwith under Rule 262.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Dr. CUMMINS: The amendment to this Bill is just a verbal amendment, namely, the insertion of the words "by, from and" after the word "claiming" in Clause 4. The purpose of this Bill is to pay a gratuity to the widow of Walter Williams who was an employee of the Commissioners of Highways for the parish of Christ Church. I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 20th day of April, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER accordingly adjourned the House to Tuesday next, the 20th day of April, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.